Water Management (Safety of Dams) Regulations 2015

I, the Governor in and over the State of Tasmania and its Dependancies in the Commonwealth of Australia, acting with the advice of the Executive Council, make the following regulations under the Water Management Act 1999.

15 December 2015

C. WARNER
Governor

By His Excellency's Command,

JEREMY ROCKLIFF
Minister for Primary Industries and Water

PART 1 - Preliminary

1. Short title

These regulations may be cited as the Water Management (Safety of Dams) Regulations 2015.

2. Commencement

These regulations take effect on the day on which the Water Management Amendment (Dam Works) Act 2015 commences.

3. Interpretation

(1) In these regulations –

Act means the Water Management Act 1999;

ANCOLD means the Australian National Committee on Large Dams (ANCOLD) Inc.(ABN: 52 627 050 014);

ANCOLD guidelines means guidelines issued by ANCOLD;

authorised safety reviewer means a person declared under regulation 8 to be an authorised safety reviewer for the purposes of these regulations;

Class 1 competence see regulation 4;

Class 2 competence see regulation 5;

Class 3 competence see regulation 6;

Engineers Australia means The Institution of Engineers Australia - National Office (ABN 63 020 415 510);

expert team, in respect of an activity, means a team of persons which meets the requirements referred to in regulation 7 for that activity;
**relevant overseas engineering qualification**, in relation to a person, means a qualification held by the person that is –

(a) awarded by an overseas tertiary-level institution at the successful completion of a course, or program, requiring the equivalent of at least 4 years of full-time study; and

(b) recognised by Engineers Australia as equivalent to a Bachelor of Engineering awarded by an Australian university;

**relevant overseas engineering or science qualification**, in relation to a person, means a qualification held by the person that is –

(a) awarded by an overseas tertiary-level institution at the successful completion of a course, or program, requiring the equivalent of at least 4 years of full-time study; and

(b) recognised by Engineers Australia as equivalent to a Bachelor of Engineering, or a Bachelor of Science, awarded by an Australian university;

**specialist aspect of technology** means –

(a) electrical engineering; or

(b) environmental engineering; or

(e) geotechnical engineering; or

(d) hydrological engineering; or

(e) mechanical engineering; or

(f) another field of engineering;

**tailings dam** means a structure or embankment that is built to manage water associated with tailings storage, or to retain tailings, and includes the contents of the structure or embankment;

**top of the dam** means the uppermost part of the dam excluding any settlement camber, or structures such as parapets and guard-rails, that are not part of the main water-retaining structure;

**WAE report** means a report containing details of –

(a) actual site conditions and features encountered during construction of the dam and the works associated with the construction of the dam; and

(b) construction procedures used in the construction of the dam and the construction of the works associated with the construction of the dam; and

(c) details, including drawings, of the dam as constructed and the works, associated with the construction of the dam, as constructed.
(2) Unless the contrary intention appears, an expression used in these regulations has the same meaning as it has in Part 8A of the Act.

(3) For the purposes of these regulations, a dam, or tailings dam, is of a consequence category specified in a table to these regulations if the dam is, under the ANCOLD guidelines entitled *Guidelines on the Consequence Categories for Dams* (October 2012), as amended or substituted from time to time, within the consequence category of the same name.

(4) For the purposes of these regulations, the height of a dam is the greater of the following:

(a) the height from the natural bed of the stream at the downstream edge of the dam wall to the top of the dam;

(b) the height from the lowest elevation of the outside limit of the dam to the top of the dam.

**PART 2 - Categories of Competence and Authorisation**

4. **Class 1 competence**

A person has Class 1 competence in respect of an activity, specified in Column 1 of a table to any subregulation in regulations 13 and 14, that is carried out in relation to a dam to which the subregulation applies, if he or she –

(a) holds –

(i) a Bachelor of Engineering awarded by an Australian university at the successful completion of a course, or program, requiring the equivalent of at least 4 years of full-time study; or

(ii) a relevant overseas engineering qualification; and

(b) is eligible to become a member of Engineers Australia in the occupational category of Professional Engineer; and

(c) has at least 5 years' experience undertaking investigation, design, construction and day-to-day safety management of dams, where the experience is appropriate for the height and type of a dam to which the relevant subregulation applies.

5. **Class 2 competence**

(1) A person has Class 2 competence in respect of an activity, specified in Column 1 of a table to any subregulation in regulations 13 and 14, that is carried out in relation to a dam to which the subregulation applies, if he or she –

(a) holds –

(i) a Bachelor degree, the core subjects of which are concerned with science or natural resource management; or

(ii) an Advanced Diploma of Civil Engineering; or
(iii) an Advanced Diploma, the core subjects of which are concerned with science or natural resource management; or

(iv) an equivalent degree or Advanced Diploma – awarded by an Australian university; or

(b) holds a relevant overseas engineering or science qualification –

and has at least 5 years' experience undertaking investigation, design, construction and day-to-day safety management of dams, where the experience is appropriate for the height and type of a dam to which the relevant subregulation applies.

(2) A person also has Class 2 competence in respect of an activity, specified in Column 1 of a table to any subregulation in regulations 13 and 14, that is carried out in relation to a dam to which the subregulation applies, if he or she –

(a) holds –

(i) a Bachelor of Engineering awarded by an Australian university at the successful completion of a course, or program, requiring the equivalent of at least 4 years of full-time study; or

(ii) a relevant overseas engineering qualification; and

(b) is eligible to become a graduate member of Engineers Australia in its Civil College; and

(c) has at least 2 years' experience undertaking investigation, design, construction and day-to-day safety management of dams, where the experience is appropriate for the height and type of a dam to which the relevant subregulation applies.

6. Class 3 competence

A person has Class 3 competence in respect of an activity, specified in Column 1 of a table to any subregulation in regulations 13 and 14, that is carried out in relation to a dam to which the subregulation applies, if he or she –

(a) holds –

(i) a Bachelor of Engineering, or a Bachelor of Science, awarded by an Australian university at the successful completion of a course, or program, requiring the equivalent of at least 4 years of full-time study; or

(ii) a relevant overseas engineering or science qualification; and

(b) has at least 5 years' experience in a specialist aspect of technology appropriate to the height and type of a dam to which the relevant subregulation applies.

7. Expert team
A team of persons is an expert team in respect of an activity, specified in Column 1 of a table to any subregulation in regulations 13 and 14, that is carried out in relation to a dam to which that subregulation applies, if –

(a) the team consists of at least 3 persons, of whom at least one has Class 1 competence in respect of the activity; and

(b) the team contains persons with professional expertise such that for each of the following areas, in so far as they relate to that dam and activity, there is at least one person in the team with professional expertise in the area:

(i) construction practices;

(ii) dam design;

(iii) engineering geology;

(iv) engineering surveying;

(v) evaluation of properties of materials;

(vi) hydraulics;

(vii) hydrology;

(viii) instrumentation;

(ix) mechanical design;

(x) soil and rock mechanics;

(xi) structural design.

8. Authorised safety reviewers

For the purposes of undertaking an internal review of existing dams, the Minister may, by instrument in writing, declare an authorised officer to be an authorised safety reviewer for the purposes of these regulations.

9. Prescribed competencies

For the purposes of section 165H(1A) of the Act, Class 1 competence, Class 2 competence, Class 3 competence, expert team and authorised safety reviewer are prescribed competencies.

PART 3 - Design, Construction, Maintenance, &c., of Dams

10. Guidelines and information to be followed by persons constructing, &c., dams

(1) A person undertaking an activity for the purposes of, or in connection with, the design, construction, surveillance or decommissioning of a dam must carry out that activity in
accordance with the guidelines, as amended or substituted from time to time, specified in Schedule 1, for that activity.

Penalty:

In the case of –

(a) a body corporate, a fine not exceeding 500 penalty units and, in the case of a continuing offence, a further fine not exceeding 20 penalty units for each day during which the offence continues; or

(b) a natural person, a fine not exceeding 200 penalty units and, in the case of a continuing offence, a further fine not exceeding 20 penalty units for each day during which the offence continues.

(2) The Department is to ensure that a copy of each of the guidelines that is required under subregulation (1) to be complied with is available for inspection by members of the public, without charge and during normal office hours, at offices of the responsible Department in relation to the administration of the Act in the following locations:

(a) Hobart;

(b) Launceston;

(e) Devonport.

11. Activities to be performed in relation to certain dams

(1) An activity specified in Column 1 of the following table, in relation to a dam that –

(a) is less than 10 metres high; and

(b) is of a consequence category specified in Column 2 of the table –

must be performed as indicated opposite the activity and below the consequence category.

Penalty:

In the case of –

(a) a body corporate, a fine not exceeding 500 penalty units; or

(b) a natural person, a fine not exceeding 200 penalty units.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Column 1</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Activity</td>
<td>Consequence category</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Design plans and specifications</td>
<td>Not required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Pre-construction investigation, design and report</td>
<td>Not required</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>2. Pre-construction investigation, design and report</td>
<td>Required</td>
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<td>3. Supervision of construction and decommissioning</td>
<td>Required</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. WAE report</td>
<td>Required</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Dam safety emergency plans where there is the potential for loss of life in the event of dam failure</td>
<td>Not required</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. Comprehensive surveillance inspections and reports</td>
<td>Not required</td>
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<td>7. Safety reviews (consequence category assessment)</td>
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<td>8. Dam incident investigation and report</td>
<td>Required</td>
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(2) An activity specified in Column 1 of the following table, in relation to a dam that

(a) is 10 metres or more high but not more than 25 metres high; and

(b) is of a consequence category specified in Column 2 of the table –

must be performed as indicated opposite the activity and below the consequence category.

Penalty:

In the case of –

(a) a body corporate, a fine not exceeding 500 penalty units; or

(b) a natural person, a fine not exceeding 200 penalty units.

(3) An activity specified in Column 1 of the following table, in relation to a dam that

(a) is more than 25 metres high; and

(b) is of a consequence category specified in Column 2 of the table –

must be performed as indicated opposite the activity and below the consequence category.

Penalty:

In the case of –

(a) a body corporate, a fine not exceeding 500 penalty units; or

(b) a natural person, a fine not exceeding 200 penalty units.
12. Activities to be performed in relation to tailings dams

(1) In this regulation – raise in relation to a tailings dam, means to raise the wall of the dam to increase the available volume of both water and tailings storage.

(2) An activity specified in Column 1 of the following table, in relation to a tailings dam that –

(a) is constructed by means of an ongoing operation (known as continual lift); and
(b) uses tailings as the primary embankment material; and

(c) is of a consequence category specified in Column 2 of the following table –

must be performed as indicated opposite the activity and below the consequence category.

Penalty:

In the case of –

(a) a body corporate, a fine not exceeding 500 penalty units; or
(b) a natural person, a fine not exceeding 200 penalty units.

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13. Required competence for certain dams

(1) A person must not carry out, in relation to a dam that –

(a) is less than 10 metres high; and

(b) is of a consequence category specified in Column 2 of the following table – an activity specified in Column 1 of the table, unless the person has one of the classes of competence specified, in Column 2 of the table, opposite the activity and below the consequence category.

Penalty:

In the case of –

(a) a body corporate, a fine not exceeding 500 penalty units; or

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(2) A person must not carry out, in relation to a dam that –

(a) is 10 metres or more high but not more than 25 metres high; and
is of a consequence category specified in Column 2 of the following table –

an activity specified in Column 1 of the table, unless the person has one of the classes of competence specified, in Column 2 of the table, opposite the activity and below the consequence category.

Penalty:

In the case of –

(a) a body corporate, a fine not exceeding 500 penalty units; or

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(3) A person must not carry out, in relation to a dam that –

(a) is more than 25 metres high; and

(b) is of a consequence category specified in Column 2 of the following table –

an activity specified in Column 1 of the table, unless the person has one of the classes of competence specified, in Column 2 of the table, opposite the activity and below the consequence category.

Penalty:

In the case of –

(a) a body corporate, a fine not exceeding 500 penalty units; or

(b) a natural person, a fine not exceeding 200 penalty units.
14. Required competence for tailings dams

A person must not carry out, in relation to a tailings dam that –

(a) is constructed by means of an ongoing operation (known as continual lift); and

(b) uses tailings as the primary embankment material; and

(e) is of a consequence category specified in Column 2 of the following table –

an activity specified in Column 1 of the table, unless the person has one of the classes of competence specified, in Column 2 of the table, opposite the activity and below the consequence category.

Penalty:

In the case of –

(a) a body corporate, a fine not exceeding 500 penalty units; or

(b) a natural person, a fine not exceeding 200 penalty units.
## 15. Persons who may perform certain activities

(1) In this regulation –

**requirement** means a requirement or condition specified in a permit, notice, direction or authorisation given under or in accordance with section 164, 164A, 165F, 165H, 165J, 165L, 165M, 165N or 165P of the Act.

(2) Subject to subregulation (3), if an activity in relation to a dam is –

(a) required to be undertaken –

(i) as a condition of a permit under section 164 or 164A of the Act; or

(ii) as a term or condition imposed under section 165F(2) of the Act; or

(iii) by a notice under section 165H, 165N or 165P of the Act; or

(iv) by a direction under section 165L of the Act; or

(b) authorised under section 165J or 165M of the Act –

a person must not undertake the activity in relation to the dam unless the person is a member of a class of persons who may carry out the activity in relation to the dam under **regulation 13** or **14**.

Penalty:

In the case of –

(a) a body corporate, a fine not exceeding 500 penalty units; or

(b) a natural person, a fine not exceeding 200 penalty units

(3) A requirement may specify that an activity in relation to a dam is to be carried out by a person, or persons, who are members of a class of persons who have a higher class of
competence than the class of persons who may carry out the activity under **regulation 13** or **14**.

(4) A person who –

(a) is a member of a class of persons that is specified under **subregulation (3)** in a requirement in relation to a dam; and

(b) carries out an activity to which the requirement relates –

is taken to comply with **regulation 13** or **14** in respect of the carrying out of the activity in relation to the dam.

**PART 4 - Miscellaneous**

16. **Operation and maintenance manuals**

For the purposes of section 165K(2)(b) of the Act, an operation and maintenance manual is to comply substantially with section 4.4 of the *Guidelines on Dam Safety Management* published in 2003 by ANCOLD, as amended from time to time.

17. **Fees, allowances and compensation**

(1) The fee payable to the Crown, by the owner of a dam or proposed dam, for the assessment of –

(a) the following reports:

(i) a design report;

(ii) a construction report;

(iii) a maintenance report;

(iv) a surveillance report;

(v) a decommissioning report;

(vi) a WAE report;

(vii) a safety review report;

(viii) an incident report; or

(b) a dam safety emergency plan –

is 60 fee units for each half hour spent assessing the report or plan.

(2) The following amounts are payable to persons attending or giving evidence at an inquiry or examination referred to in Part 8A of the Act:
1. For meals, travelling and accommodation: The same rate and on the same terms as prescribed from time to time for the equivalent allowance in the General Conditions of Service Award made under the Industrial Relations Act 1984 in respect of persons who are State Service officers or State Service employees.

2. For loss of salary, wages or income resulting from a person’s attendance at the inquiry or examination, if the person is not an employee in Tasmania as published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics for the December quarter for the previous year:
   - The actual loss incurred, up to a maximum of 2.5% of the seasonally adjusted average weekly earnings of a full-time adult employee.

3. For loss of salary, wages or income resulting from a person’s attendance at the inquiry or examination, if the person is an expert witness:
   - The amount that the inquirer considers just and reasonable in the circumstances.

(3) Compensation is not payable to a person who does not incur an actual loss of salary, wages or income as a result of attending an inquiry or examination.

18. Infringement notice offences

The following penalties are prescribed as the penalties for an offence, committed under regulation 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 or 15, in respect of which an infringement notice is served under section 252 of the Act:

(a) in the case of a body corporate –
   (i) for a first offence, 25 penalty units; and
   (ii) for a subsequent offence within 5 years after the first offence, 50 penalty units; or

(b) in the case of a natural person –
   (i) for a first offence, 10 penalty units; and
   (ii) for a subsequent offence within 5 years after the first offence, 20 penalty units.
1. For the activity of preparing design plans and specifications, the following guidelines are specified:

(a) the ANCOLD guidelines entitled *Guidelines on Selection of Acceptable Flood Capacity for Dams* (2000);

(b) the ANCOLD guidelines entitled *Guidelines on Tailings Dams – Planning, Design, Construction, Operation and Closure* (May 2012);

(c) the ANCOLD guidelines entitled *Guidelines on Design of Dams for Earthquake* (1998);

(d) *Guidelines for the Construction of Earth-fill Dams* (2008) published by the Department of Primary Industries and Water;

(e) the ANCOLD guidelines entitled *Guidelines on Design Criteria for Concrete Gravity Dams* (September 2013).

2. For the activity of preconstruction investigation, design and reporting, the following guidelines are specified:

(a) *Guidelines for pre-construction reports (dam works) – Assessment Committee for Dam Construction, May 2009* published by the Assessment Committee;

(b) the ANCOLD guidelines entitled *Guidelines on Selection of Acceptable Flood Capacity for Dams* (2000);

(c) the ANCOLD guidelines entitled *Guidelines on Tailings Dams – Planning, Design, Construction, Operation and Closure* (May 2012);

(d) the ANOCOLD guidelines entitled *Guidelines on Design of Dams for Earthquake* (1998);

(e) *Guidelines for the Construction of Earth-fill Dams* (2008) published by the Department of Primary Industries and Water;

(f) the ANCOLD guidelines entitled *Guidelines for Dam Instrumentation and Monitoring Systems* (1983);

(g) the ANCOLD guidelines entitled *Guidelines on Risk Assessment* (2003).

3. For the activity of supervising construction and decommissioning, the *Guidelines for the Construction of Earth-fill Dams* (2008), published by the Department of Primary Industries and Water, are specified.

4. For the activity of preparing a WAE report, the *DPIPWE Guidelines for Work-As-Executed Reports for Completed Dam Works* (December 2009), published by the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment, are specified.
5. For the activity of preparing dam safety emergency plans and operation and maintenance manuals, the following guidelines are specified:

(a) the ANCOLD guidelines entitled *Guidelines on Dam Safety Management* (2003);

(b) *Guidelines for Dam Safety Emergency Management Plan DPIPWE July 2013* published by the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment;

(c) the ANCOLD guidelines entitled *Guidelines for Dam Instrumentation and Monitoring Systems* (1983).

6. For the activity of undertaking intermediate surveillance inspections and reports, the following guidelines are specified:

(a) the ANCOLD guidelines entitled *Guidelines on Dam Safety Management* (2003);


7. For the activity of undertaking comprehensive surveillance inspections and reports, the following guidelines are specified:

(a) the ANCOLD guidelines entitled *Guidelines on the Consequence Categories for Dams* (October 2012);

(b) *Guidelines for 5 Year Dam Safety Surveillance Report DPIPWE May 2013*, published by the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment;

(c) the ANCOLD guidelines entitled *Guidelines on Tailings Dams – Planning, Design, Construction, Operation and Closure* (May 2012);

(d) the ANCOLD guidelines entitled *Guidelines for Dam Instrumentation and Monitoring Systems* (1983);


8. For the activity of undertaking safety reviews which are consequence category assessments, the following guidelines are specified:

(a) the ANCOLD guidelines entitled *Guidelines on the Consequence Categories for Dams* (October 2012);

(b) the ANCOLD guidelines entitled *Guidelines on Dam Safety Management* (2003);

(c) *Guidelines on Undertaking Consequence Category Assessments for Dams DPIPWE December 2015*, published by the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment.
9. For the activity of undertaking dam incident investigations and reports, *Guidelines for Undertaking a Dam Incident Investigation DPIPWE December 2015*, published by the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment, is specified.

10. For the activity of undertaking geotechnical and earthquake engineering investigations, in relation to tailings dams, the ANCOLD guidelines entitled *Guidelines on Tailings Dams – Planning, Design, Construction, Operation and Closure (May 2012)* are specified.

11. For the activity of undertaking spillway and decant design, in relation to tailings dams, the following guidelines are specified:

   (a) the ANCOLD guidelines entitled *Guidelines on Tailings Dams – Planning, Design, Construction, Operation and Closure (May 2012)*;

   (b) the ANCOLD guidelines entitled *Guidelines on Selection of Acceptable Flood Capacity for Dams (2000)*.


Displayed and numbered in accordance with the *Rules Publication Act 1953*.

Notified in the *Gazette* on 23 December 2015.

These regulations are administered in the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment.

**Table Of Amendments**

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**CURRENT VIEW: 1 Jan 2016 – 23 Dec 2025**

**VIEW THE AS MADE VERSION**