

**Issue:** Requirement for the installation of drainage on “other than stable ground” (filled ground etc.)

**To:** Licensees / Contractors / the Plumbing and Drainage Industry

**From:** PIAS Strategy, Building and Construction Service, Parramatta

**Date:** September 2017

**Scope:** Applies to all of NSW.

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**Purpose:**

To clarify, what is the acceptable practice when drainage pipework has been installed internal or external to a building, on ground considered as “other than stable ground”.

**Detail:**

**AS/NZ.3500 Part 2 - Sanitary plumbing and drainage**

**5.6 Drains In Other Than Stable Ground**

Where drains are to be laid in filled, unstable or water-charged ground, methods of support and bedding shall be designed to withstand and suit the ground conditions.

**4.3.1(d)** Drains below ground shall;

(d) be continuously supported under the barrel, other than for cast iron and ductile iron pipes and fittings.

**Solution:**

There are 2 options available when installing drains that are considered in “other than stable grounds”:

**Option 1:**

If the soil has been compacted and can suitably support the pipework without additional support, as required by AS/NZ 3500.2 – 4.3.1, the installation would then meet minimum requirements.

This would require the submission of a letter to the regulator from a “qualified expert”, structural engineer or similar outlining their qualifications and including a statement verifying that:-

“The ground in the immediate area of / under the drainage pipework will adequately support the pipes with the maximum load imposed by the backfill or any other superimposed load without additional support.”

### Option 2:

If the ground does not prove stable or suitable to continuously support the pipework, a method to support the pipework is required to be determined by a suitably qualified expert.

This would require a Performance Solution to be submitted on how the pipework will be supported.

NOTE: A Performance Solution shall be submitted a minimum of 21 days prior to the supposed works being carried out.

For more information regarding the submission of a Performance Solution, click [here](#).

### Contact:

For more information, please email: [PIASstrategy@finance.nsw.gov.au](mailto:PIASstrategy@finance.nsw.gov.au)

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