

Determination 2015/056: Code-compliance of asphalt roof shingles to roofs where rainwater is harvested and used as potable water

The determination discusses the approach used in two different test methodologies for water from asphalt roofing shingles, where the rainwater is being harvested for potable use. The determination considered whether there is evidence currently available that would indicate whether asphalt from shingles used as part of a rainwater harvesting system will leach contaminants or particulates to an extent that would make the collected water unsuitable for human consumption.

Asphalt roof shingle products have been imported into New Zealand for over 30 years mainly from the USA. There are a number of reputable parties and organisations that warn of the use of Asphalt roof shingles and do not recommend its use for collecting rain water for human consumption and, on the other hand there are some that say that they are perfectly safe.

The council in December last year applied for a determination for the code compliance of asphalt roof shingles to roofs where the rain water is harvested and used for human consumption.

The concern was mainly about the possibility of chemicals and particulates that could leach from asphalt roof shingles in situations where rain water harvested from the roof could contaminate the water supply.

The final determination issued 7/9/15 concluded, following expert's research, that at present there is no evidence to suggest that rain water collected from roofs clad in asphalt tiles is unsuitable for human consumption and that it is up to the individual supplier to demonstrate their product compliance with G12 by testing it to AS/NZS 4020 or testing it by an approved laboratory to and in line with DWSNZ 2005 (revised 2008) requirement for MAV's as an alternative solution

MAV's "max acceptable values" are those levels beyond which water becomes non-potable.

DWSNZ -Drinking-water standards for New Zealand