Keeping water safe in premises

September 2013
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Agenda

• WRAS
• WRAS material and product approvals
• Approved Contractor Schemes
• Enforcement
WRAS
Purpose

• To contribute to the protection of public health by preventing contamination of the public water supply and

• to encourage the efficient use of water,

• by promoting compliance with the Water Fitting Regulations and Byelaws,

• on behalf of UK water undertakers.
What we do

- Raise awareness and understanding
- Approval schemes, processes and guidance
- Support and represent water undertakers
Requirements for water fittings - materials

Schedule 2 Paragraph 2

• No material or substance which causes or is likely to cause contamination of water shall be used,

• in any water fitting which conveys water supplied for domestic or food production purposes.

Guidance 2.2

• Compliance with BS 6920: Suitability of non-metallic products for use in contact with water intended for human consumption with regard to their effect on the quality of water.
WRAS materials approvals

• Materials tested by suitably accredited laboratory against BS6920
  1. Odour and flavour BS6920 2.2
  2. Appearance of water BS6920 2.3
  3. Growth of aquatic microorganisms BS6020 2.4
  4. Substances of concern (cytotoxicity) testing BS6920 2.5
  5. Extraction of metals BS6920 2.6

• Application form and test results assessed by WRAS

• Approval awarded for five years and entered into on-line directory
Biomass (biofilm flakes) on a silicone rubber valve diaphragm downstream of a natural rubber “O” seal.

Biofilm formation on the inside of a silicone rubber hose immediately downstream of a natural rubber “O” seal.
Requirements for water fittings/products

Regulation 4 (1) Every water fitting shall-

a) be of an **appropriate quality and standard**; and

b) be suitable for the circumstances in which it is used
Requirements for water fittings/products

Regulation 4 (2) For the purposes of this regulation, a water fitting is of an appropriate quality or standard if –

(a) It bears an appropriate CE marking in accordance with the Directive;

(b) It conforms to an appropriate harmonized standard or European technical approval;

(c) It conforms to an appropriate British Standard or some other national specification of an EEA State which provides an equivalent level of protection and performance; or

(d) It conforms to a specification approved by the regulator.
WRAS Product Approvals

1. Production samples must meet requirements of the scheme
   a. Materials testing by suitably accredited laboratory against BS6920
   b. Mechanical testing by suitably accredited laboratory against regulator specification or achieve appropriate kite mark
   c. Appropriate marking

2. Application form, test reports, list of materials and schematic showing the water pathway are assessed by WRAS

3. Production sample inspected by Product Assessment Group

4. Appropriate installation and requirement notes added

5. Approval awarded for five years and entered into the on-line directory
WRAS Approvals - the percentage satisfied or very satisfied with...

- **Overall Process**: 94.7%
- **Service Provided by Test Laboratories**: 94.7%
- **Service Provided by WRAS Ltd**: 96.8%

**Materials**
- Overall Process: 65.5%
- Service Provided by Test Laboratories: 70.0%
- Service Provided by WRAS Ltd: 78.2%
Improvements 2012/13

• New performance measures, including regular surveys
• PAG meetings increased from 8 to 11
• New materials guidance
• More options for approval
  • New mechanical test laboratory gained accreditation
  • Comparisons for two standards
  • Confirmed that a suitably accredited laboratory for mechanical testing could be a manufacture’s facility
Improvements 2013/14

- New website
  - Directory – option for pictures
  - Directory – better search
  - Applications – upload of applications and supporting information by pdf
  - Approvals – issue of approval documentation electronically
  - Renewals – reminders electronic and time periods can be adjusted from 1 year before expiry
- New branding
- Respond to manufacturer’s requests for standards comparisons
Approved Contractor Schemes
Approved contractors schemes

- Appointed by a water undertaker or the Secretary of State
- Seven operating in UK - WRAS operates WIAPS
- Plumbers are screened
  - NVQ2 MES (plumbing) 6089
  - Water Fittings Regulations qualification endorsed by WRAS
  - Appropriate insurance
- Benefits for plumber
  - Reduced notification requirements
  - “self-certification”
- Benefits for developers
  - Assurance on qualifications and time
WIAPS Membership Numbers

- March 2010: Fully Approved Contractors: 3485, Ground workers: 4036
- March 2011: Fully Approved Contractors: 3760, Ground workers: 4214
- March 2012: Fully Approved Contractors: 4063, Ground workers: 4463
- March 2013: Fully Approved Contractors: 4372, Ground workers: 4790
- 01-Jul-13: Fully Approved Contractors: 4355, Ground workers: 4756

Legend:
- Fully Approved Contractors
- Ground workers
- POU Installer
- Catering Equipment installers
WaterSafe

- Umbrella scheme for the seven Approved Contractor Schemes in the UK
  - Recognition for plumbing businesses
  - Reassurance for consumers
- WaterSafe’s dedicated online search facility brings together thousands of qualified contractors employed by plumbing businesses
- Backed by all water companies and key plumbing associations in the UK
- Supported by all UK Water Quality Regulators
- Launched on 8-10 October
WaterSafe Members

- SNIPEF
  Scottish and Northern Ireland Plumbing Employers’ Federation
- iphe
  Chartered Institute of Plumbing and Heating Engineering
- Thames Water
- APHC
  Association of Plumbing & Heating Contractors
- The Worshipful Company of Plumbers
- WRAS
  Water Regulations Advisory Scheme
- Severn Trent Water
- Anglian Water
- Water UK
- WaterSafe
  Quality Assured
Enforcement
Enforcement

• Continue to facilitate
  • consistent enforcement across the UK
  • interpretations of the regulations
  • learning
• ‘Keeping Water Safe in Premises’
• Trial for framework to assess evidence of regulation 4 compliance
Illegal cross connection to rain water harvesting system!

Double check valve!

Rain water harvesting pipework

Correctly installed mains water top up feed for rain water harvesting system!