

To whom it may concern

RE: Demonstrating compliance with the Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations 1999

Keeping consumers safe by upholding regulatory compliance is one of the highest priorities of the Bathroom Manufacturers Association (BMA) and our member companies. The Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations are designed to protect water quality by ensuring fittings are of an appropriate quality and standard, and suitable for the circumstances that they're used. Manufacturers must demonstrate that their products comply with these regulations, for fittings to be legally installed.

There is no legal requirement for any approval or certification to prove a product complies with the regulation. Water Regs UK has published [guidance](#) on the acceptance principles and information they'd require if inspecting an installation. Despite the option to provide information outside of any approval or certification scheme, the BMA recommends approvals/certification as a more straightforward way to provide assurance of compliance to consumers, installers, and water inspectors alike.

There are currently three relevant approvals/certification schemes operating in the UK [for water fittings](#): WRAS approvals, NSF Reg 4 and KiwaUK Reg 4. There has been some confusion in the marketplace in recent years with some stakeholders believing that one of these schemes, WRAS approvals, is a de facto mandatory requirement. To seek clarity that this is not the case, and that any of the three approval/certification schemes are acceptable, the BMA wrote to all water companies with an enforcement responsibility. We received replies from the following:

Affinity Water	South East Water
Anglian Water Services Ltd	Southern Water Services
Dwr Cymru	South West Water
Hafren Dyfrdwy	Thames Water
Northumbrian Water	United Utilities Water
Portsmouth Water plc	Wessex Water
Bournemouth Water Ltd	Yorkshire Water Services
Severn Trent Water	

While the replies vary in their wording, the above water companies are consistent in confirming that inspectors will consider approvals/certification from any of the three current schemes as evidence, or indeed, the alternative evidence outlined in the Water Reg UK guidance may also be considered. While a few water companies are missing from the list above, we have no reason to believe they take a different stance.

The BMA welcomes the constructive responses we have had received from the water industry. We look forward to future collaboration, along with the three approval/certification schemes and other stakeholders to continue to improve the visibility of product compliance in the marketplace.

Regards

Tom Reynolds	Andy Mclean
Chief Executive	Technical Director
Bathroom Manufacturers Association	