

Form F1
Issue number 3
Date of Issue 16th May 2005

THE WATER REGULATIONS ADVISORY SCHEME

Dear Sir/Madam

1. Thank you for your recent enquiry. Enclosed is an application form and schedule of materials - Form F2.
2. **GENERAL INFORMATION**
 - 2.1 Water Suppliers in the UK, having a statutory duty to provide a supply of wholesome water sufficient for the domestic purposes of all owners and occupiers of premises within their limits of supply, are responsible for the enforcement of UK Government Regulations (Byelaws in Scotland) for preventing waste, undue consumption, misuse or contamination of water supplied by them.
 - 2.2 The Technical Committee of the Water Regulations Advisory Scheme (WRAS) is responsible for the obtaining of reports on the examination and testing of fittings and advises Water Suppliers of those products, which it considers, will comply with the requirements of Water Regulations/ Byelaws. WRc-NSF Ltd provides the administration for the Scheme - is a UKAS accredited Laboratory listed under registration number 0626.
 - 2.3 The Scheme relies on the voluntary co-operation of manufacturers in order to provide advice to the Water Suppliers and to manufacturers and users of water fittings. The Water Suppliers are the bodies responsible for enforcing Regulations/Byelaws, but if a product has passed the tests and complies with the requirements of the Regulations/Byelaws, a Water Supplier can be expected to allow its use in its area. If a product does not pass the tests, a Supplier may not accept the use of such a product, the final decision rests with the Supplier.
 - 2.4 The law does not at present prohibit the sale of fittings which have not been submitted for test. Water Suppliers may only act to prevent the installation and use of a particular fitting.
 - 2.5 The service provided by the Scheme for testing fittings is designed to ensure that a manufacturer will avoid the need to negotiate with each of the Water Companies in England and Wales, Water Authorities in Scotland and the DoE, Northern Ireland.
3. **SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION**
 - 3.1 An applicant wishing to submit a water fitting for testing must complete Form F2 and return it to the Scheme at the address below. It is imperative that each column on the reverse side (Schedule of Materials) of the form is completed for fittings of 'production' status.
WRAS, Fittings Admin, Fern Close, Pen-Y-Fan Industrial Estate, Oakdale, Gwent, NP11 3EH.
 - 3.2 Reference to pre-production and prototype fittings that pass the necessary tests will not be considered for inclusion in the Water Fittings and Materials Directory until a production sample has been submitted for final examination and test.

4. TEST REQUIREMENTS

4.1 Fittings may be subjected to all or any of the tests as follows: -

- a) Tests of effect on water quality of those products that are in contact with potable water.
- b) Mechanical tests (these tests will not commence until tests of effect on water quality have been satisfactorily completed.)

4.2 With regard to Paragraph 4.1(a) above, if the products declared on Form F2 have been tested within the previous five years no further such tests will be required.

4.3 If the products have not previously been tested in the U.K. for effect on water quality, samples must be submitted to one of the five accredited laboratories listed below, for tests to be carried out in accordance 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 the water'.

4.3.1 The Laboratories are: -

WRc-NSF Ltd
Unit 30, Fern Close
Pen-y-Fan Industrial Estate
Oakdale
Gwent
NP11 3EH
Tel: 01495 236260
Fax: 01495 249234
Email: mark.norris@wrcnsf.com

The Water Quality Centre
Spencer House
Manor Farm Road
Reading
RG2 0JN
Tel: 0118 923 6214 or 6219
Fax: 0118 923 6373
Email: WQC.materials.testing@materialstesting.co.uk

Law Laboratories Ltd
Shady Lane
Great Barr
Birmingham
B44 9ET
Tel: 0121 251 4213
Fax: 0121 251 4040
Email: richard.barron@lawlabs.com

Intertek Testing & Certification Ltd
Intertek House
Cleeve Road
Leatherhead
Surrey
KT22 7SB
Tel: +44 (0) 1372 370900
Fax: +44 (0) 1372 370999
Email: gill.middleton@intertek.com

LGC (Teddington) Ltd
Queens Road
Teddington
Middlesex
TW11 0LY
Tel: 020 8943 7000
Fax: 020 8943 2767
Email: steve.kippin@lgc.co.uk

4.4 It should be noted that a product subjected to the tests under hot water conditions and found to be satisfactory will be required to be submitted to only one additional cold water test (the microbial growth test) for it to be deemed suitable for both hot and cold water use.

4.5 Negotiations with an accredited laboratory and the payment of the laboratory's testing fees are the responsibility of the applicant, who shall arrange for the Scheme to be provided with a copy of the test report. If the report is adverse, the Scheme reserves the right to make use of that information in relation to other submissions as it sees fit.

4.6 Applicants claiming that brass fittings are resistant to meringue dezincification and dezincification is a requirement for that product or installation must provide documentary evidence in the form of a test report. Mechanical tests will not commence until a satisfactory test report is obtained.

5. PROCEDURES

5.1 The Scheme offers an advisory service in connection with the examination and testing of water fittings. Consultations with any of the technical staff will be by appointment only.

5.2 When the completed application form(s) have been received the application will be allocated a sample number. When the Scheme is satisfied that all the information is acceptable then test samples will be requested, at this time an invoice for the testing fee will also be sent to the applicant. When the sample is received and the invoice has been paid the test sample and test file will be forwarded to the test house to undertake the mechanical testing.

5.3 Applications will be cancelled which have been on the Scheme's files for more than twelve months where the delay is due either to the lack of information from an applicant, the absence of a sample or the lack of certification that the materials of construction are acceptable.

5.4 Where it is impracticable for reasons of size or weight to send a fitting to the testing laboratory, the fitting may be evaluated by an inspector at the applicant's premises or at a site where the product is in use. The expenses of such visits will be invoiced after the visit has been completed. These tests do not fall within the scope of the accreditation by UKAS.

5.5 A request for testing or listing a modified fitting or an addition to the range of a previously listed fitting must be made on Form F3. Technical data and supporting test data where appropriate should also be submitted with the application form.

5.6 If the fitting passes the necessary tests a formal letter indicating the decision of the Scheme will be sent to the applicant, and a description of the product will be entered in the Water Fittings and Materials Directory, copies of which are available from WRc-NSF Ltd

5.7 **Manufacturers or applicants may only quote in their sales literature terms used in the letter referred to in para 5.6 above, namely that the use of the fitting when correctly installed will not contravene the requirements of the Water Regulations/Byelaws and that a reference to the fittings will be included in the Water Fittings and Materials Directory; this may be abbreviated to 'Water Regulations Advisory Scheme approved product or WRAS approved product'.**

5.8 All arrangements for, and costs of transport of fittings, are the responsibility of the applicant.

5.9 A fitting will not be accepted for examination and test if it has been damaged in transit to the extent that such damage may influence the results of the tests.

5.10 Applicants are warned that it may be necessary to destroy or mutilate a fitting for the purpose of examination and test.

5.11 Fittings must be removed from the testing laboratory within four weeks of the applicant receiving notification that the product will be listed, otherwise they will be subject to disposal.

5.12 The right is reserved to retain a fitting at the testing laboratory for comparison with future production samples.

5.13 When examination and testing of sample fittings has been started and then delayed for more than six months by the failure of the applicant to provide the relevant information on design parameters, satisfactory test certificates of the materials of construction or a modified sample fitting (as agreed), the right is reserved to cancel the application without refund of the test fee charged.

6. APPEALS PANEL

Under the terms of the Scheme there exists machinery for the determination of complaints by any person aggrieved by a decision on a submitted fitting. A copy of the Appeals Procedure may be obtained on request.

7. TESTING FEE

7.1 The testing fee will be invoiced in accordance with "The Schedule of Charges for the Mechanical Testing and Examination of Water Fittings" current at the time the fitting is called in for testing. A complete 'Schedule of Charges' is available on request.

7.2 **PLEASE NOTE THAT TESTING WILL NOT COMMENCE UNTIL THE TESTING FEE HAS BEEN PAID.**

7.3 Modifications to Listed Fittings

These will be charged at the actual cost of the examination and testing of the modification.

7.4 Production Samples of Prototypes previously accepted in principle

These will be charged at the actual cost of verifying the production unit.

7.5 Listing Charge

A charge will be made for each additional or amendment to an entry in the Water Fittings and Materials Directory relating to marketing or trading arrangements, additional fittings to a range achieved by minor production modifications to listed fittings and for listing separately those items or sequence of items in a range of fittings which have not been individually tested.

7.6 Other fittings or assemblies of fittings not shown in the Schedule of Charges.

The charge will be determined on the basis of the work involved in testing.

7.7 Registration Fee

A registration fee of £65 must accompany each completed application form for the testing/audit testing of a fitting + VAT, (a total of £76.38). This fee is non-returnable, but will be deducted from the scheduled charge when the fitting is called forward for testing.

7.8 Re-testing Charges

In addition to the basic charge a supplementary charge of one-half the basic charge will be made for re-testing every fitting that fails one or more of the relevant tests.

Yours faithfully

Paul Taylor
Approvals Manager
Water Regulations Advisory Scheme