



GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

1. Scope

The Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations 1999 confer exemption from the requirement to notify the water undertaker of the installation of water fittings under Regulation 5, where such installation is done by an approved contractor. It enables an approved contractor to furnish a signed certificate that his or her work complies with the Regulations, to the person who commissioned the work (with a copy to the water undertaker). Such a certificate is a defence in any proceedings for offences of contamination, waste, misuse or contamination of the water or of contravention of the technical requirements of the Regulations. This document sets out the terms and conditions for a plumber to obtain membership of the Water Industry Approved Plumbers Scheme.

2. Warranty

All work must conform to Water Regulations. To ensure that compliance with Water Regulations is maintained a proportion of completed jobs will be subject to random inspections.

3. Administration

You will be required to keep precise records of the work you have undertaken. In particular, at least two years records concerning all Water Regulation related work must be retained.

Where work has been carried out under Regulation 6(2), the 'Certificate of Work Completed' should be sent to the local Water Supplier, where work has been completed, within ten days.

4. Notification

At the time when a job requires a new water connection to be laid on, 'Approved Plumbers' are required to complete the Water Supplier's or Scheme's notification form 'Approval of Underground Supply Pipes' prior to carrying out any work.

5. Auditing of the Scheme Members

The local Water Supplier or Scheme will carry out inspections of each member's work; the frequency of the inspections to be determined by the local Water Supplier or Scheme. The local Water Supplier or Scheme will contact the customer and the 'Approved Plumber' informing them of its intention to carry out the inspections. The 'Approved Plumber' need not attend the inspection unless specifically requested to do so, or requests to attend. Any Water Regulation contraventions found will be discussed between the local Water Supplier or Scheme and the 'Approved Plumber'. The contravention will not be discussed on site with the customer unless the contravention constitutes a contamination risk to the customer and/or the public water supply. Failure by the 'Approved Plumber' to rectify at his/her own expense any contravention found during, or subsequent to the inspection, may make the member liable for removal from the Scheme and possible legal action by the Water Supplier.

6. Public Liability Insurance

All 'Approved Plumbers' are required to maintain public liability insurance cover to the value of at least £2 million. Where appropriate, employers' liability insurance cover to the value of £5 million must also be obtained. The Scheme will require proof of cover to be submitted annually, in the form of a copy of the policy or a letter from the insurance company confirming cover and limits. 'Approved Plumbers' will immediately be removed from the Scheme if these minimum insurance requirements are not maintained.

7. Cost of Membership

At present the Scheme is offering membership free of charge to members who meet the necessary standards. It is the intention of the Scheme to maintain free membership but the Scheme reserves the right to introduce a charge in the future if costs exceed the financial support provided by the UK Water Supply Industry.

8. Termination

If the member is found to be carrying out work which is not in accordance with Water Regulations, the Scheme reserves the right to terminate the membership and remove that contractor from the approved list. The member that has been removed from the approved list shall remove all membership reference from the advertising material and stationery. Certificate, identity card and vehicle stickers must be returned to the Scheme immediately. The Scheme will inform known customers of a plumber expelled from the Scheme in writing to the customers and removing the plumber's name from the Scheme's databases and the Water Regulations Advisory Scheme website (www.wras.co.uk).

9. Equal Opportunities

The Scheme operates an equal opportunities policy.

10. Members change of employer or address

Members are required to inform the Water Supplier of the above.

11. Identity

Members are required to supply two passport style photos, these will be used to produce ID cards which will be issued to you annually.

12. Scheme liability

Scheme members understand and accept that all liabilities and disputes relating to workmanship, products installed, charges and anything else connected to work as a result of being introduced to customers through the Water Industry Approved Plumbers' Scheme, are solely the Members responsibility and the Scheme has and will have no liability whatever in any of those respects.