

Regulation 4(1)(a)

Compliance
guidance

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INTRODUCTION

The Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations 1999, the Water Supply (Water Fittings) (Scotland) Byelaws 2014 and the Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009 (collectively referred to as 'the regulations' in this document), impose a legal duty not to install water fittings unless they satisfy the requirements specified in regulation 4. That is to say are they are of an appropriate quality and standard; suitable for the circumstances in which they are used; and compliant with any applicable requirements of schedule 2.

Water undertakers have the statutory duty to enforce the regulations. The purpose of this document is to describes the acceptance principles adopted by water undertakers when enforcing the requirements of regulation 4(1)(a).

It also identifies the information water undertakers may consider as evidence of compliance with those aspects of the regulations relating to the quality and standard of water fittings; that is to say regulation 4 (1)(a).

Please note the scope of this document is limited to requirements of the regulations in respect of the appropriate quality and standard of water fittings. Conformity with regulation 4(1)(a) does not, of itself, guarantee conformity with the regulations. This is because a water fitting must comply with all parts of the regulations. Please contact your water undertaker for further information.

Failure to comply with the regulations is a criminal offence.

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COMPLIANCE WITH REQUIREMENTS FOR WATER FITTINGS

Overview of regulations 4 (1), 4(2) & 4 (3)

The regulations play an important role in protecting public health and safeguarding water supplies. Their purpose is to prevent the contamination and waste of water supplied by a water undertaker once it has entered a customer's plumbing system.

Ensuring that water fittings are of an appropriate quality and standard for installation is an integral aspect of the regulations.

The requirements for water fittings are set out in regulation 4, these include being of an appropriate quality and standard, suitable for the circumstances in which a water fitting will be used and compliance with any applicable requirements given in schedule 2.

The requirements relating to the quality and standard of water fittings are set out in regulations 4 (1)(a) and 4(2).

- Regulation 4(1)(a): states every water fitting shall be of an appropriate quality and standard.
- Regulation 4(2): identifies the routes by which to demonstrate a water fitting is of an appropriate quality or standard.

Being of an appropriate quality and standard, that is to say conforming with regulation 4(1)(a) does not, of itself, guarantee compliance with the regulations. This is because a water fitting must comply with all part of the regulations. Please contact your water undertaker for further information.

Regulation 4(3) requires water fittings to comply with all the applicable requirements of Schedule 2 of the regulations.

In addition to installation and product specific requirements Schedule 2 includes: -

- Paragraph 2(1) 'Materials and substances in contact with water':
....'no material or substance, either alone or in combination with any other material or substance or with the contents of any water fitting of which it forms a part, which causes or is likely to cause contamination of water shall be used in the construction, installation, renewal, repair or replacement of any water fitting which conveys or receives, or may convey or receive, water supplied for domestic or food production purposes.'
- Paragraph 15 provision for the prevention of backflow prevention.

Advice regarding the suitability of non-metallic materials for use in contact with water required to be wholesome is given in the guidance document 'BS 6920 Compliance Overview'.

Although currently there are no water quality testing requirements for metals in contact with drinking water, this position may change as a result of the work being undertaken by the Four Member States Initiative (4MSi). Germany, France, the Netherlands, Denmark and the United Kingdom have agreed on collaboration in the harmonisation of tests for the suitability of all materials in contact with drinking water.

REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS

England & Wales: the Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations 1999

Requirements of regulation 4 (1)(a), 4(2) & 4(3)¹

- (1) Every water fitting shall-
 - (a) be of an appropriate quality and standard
- (2) For the purposes of this regulation, a water fitting is of an appropriate quality or standard only if—
 - (a) it bears an appropriate CE marking in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 305/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down harmonised conditions for the marketing of construction products and repealing Council Directive 89/106/EEC
 - (b) Sub paragraph (b) omitted due to revisions
 - (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 it conforms to a specification approved by the regulator.
- (3) Every water fitting shall comply with the requirements of Schedule 2 to these Regulations as it applies to that fitting.

Scotland: the Water Supply (Water Fittings) (Scotland) Byelaws 2014

Requirements of Byelaw 4(1)(a), 4(2) & 4(3)

- (1) Every water fitting shall-
 - (a) be of an appropriate quality and standard
- (2) A water fitting is of an appropriate quality or standard only if it—
 - (a) bears an appropriate CE marking in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 305/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down harmonised conditions for the marketing of construction products and repealing Council Directive 89/106/EEC(a);
 - (b) 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
 - (c) conforms to an appropriate specification approved pursuant to regulation 4(2)(d) of the Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations 1999.
- (3) Without prejudice to paragraph (2), every water fitting must comply with the requirements of Schedule 2 as it applies to that fitting.

Northern Ireland: the Water Supply (Water Fittings Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009

Requirements of regulation 4(1)(a), 4(2) & 4(3)

- (1) Every water fitting shall-
 - (a) be of an appropriate quality and standard
- (2) For the purposes of this regulation, a water fitting is of an appropriate quality or standard only if—
 - (a) it bears an appropriate CE marking in accordance with the Directive;
 - (b) it conforms to an appropriate harmonised 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 with the terms of a specification approved by the Secretary of State or the National Assembly of Wales under The Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations 1999.
- (3) Every water fitting shall comply with the requirements of Schedule 2 as it applies to that fitting.

¹ Please note a number of revisions have been made since 1999 and further revisions will be made post Brexit.

**REGULATION (4)(1)(a) COMPLIANCE:
ACCEPTANCE PRINCIPLES**

Consultation document

ACCEPTANCE PRINCIPLES

Water undertaker acceptance:

Water undertakers shall consider evidence of regulation 4(1)(a) compliance provided on a case and site specific basis.

Water undertakers retain absolute discretion in assessing whether a water fitting is compliant with regulation 4(1)(a).

A water undertaker's decision to accept evidence of compliance is both time limited and location specific. Acceptance by a water undertaker should not be considered as a form of approval to be accepted across the UK water supply industry, or as compliance with all parts of the Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations/ Scottish Water Byelaws

Evidence of regulation 4(1)(a) conformity:

To be considered as acceptable by the water undertaker, satisfactory evidence that a water fitting is of an appropriate quality and standard for installation shall be provided.

Regulation 4(2) identifies the routes by which to demonstrate compliance with this requirement. There are currently three routes which can be used to demonstrate a water fitting complies with the requirement to be of an appropriate quality or standard.

Traceability

All water fittings shall be marked in accordance with the requirements set out in the performance specification they conform to. A permanent marking enables water undertakers to readily identify a water fitting. This is a necessary practical measure because without such identification it will be impossible to confirm compliance when installed.

**REGULATION (4)(1)(a) GUIDANCE:
EVIDENCE OF COMPLIANCE**

Consultation document

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS: APPROPRIATE QUALITY & STANDARD

Regulation 4 (1)(a) requires all water fittings supplied, or to be supplied, with water by a water undertaker to be of an appropriate quality and standard.

Regulation 4(2) identifies the routes by which to demonstrate compliance with this requirement. There are currently three routes which can be used to demonstrate a water fitting complies with the requirement to be of an appropriate quality or standard.

For the purposes of regulation 4(1)(a), a water fitting is of an appropriate quality or standard only if–

(a) it bears an appropriate CE marking in accordance with the Directive Regulation (EU) No 305/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down harmonised conditions for the marketing of construction products and repealing Council Directive 89/106/EEC;

(b) Sub paragraph (b) omitted due to revisions;

(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.

Please note:

The scope of this guidance is limited to requirements of the regulations in respect of the appropriate quality and standard of water fittings. It does not address other requirements of the regulations, such as suitability for use, product specific requirements or installation requirements, all of which must be met in order to comply with the regulations.

To be considered as acceptable by a water undertaker, evidence of conformity with an appropriate performance specification must demonstrate all applicable tests required to claim conformity have been undertaken and satisfied. That is to say a water fitting conforms in all, as opposed to in most or some, respects with the performance specification.

The focus of this document is mechanical performance testing of water fittings to demonstrate compliance with regulation 4(1)(a). Where water is required to be wholesome a water fitting which is, or is to be, installed as part of a system must comply with the requirements of Schedule 2 paragraph 2(1). Any non-metallic materials or components in contact with water must conform to the current version of BS 6920, or an equivalent standard, to meet this requirement. For further information please refer to the guidance document 'BS 6920 Compliance Overview'.

APPROPRIATE QUALITY & STANDARD: MECHANICAL PERFORMANCE

Water undertakers have the statutory duty to enforce the regulations. This includes responsibility, for assessing evidence submitted to verify a water fitting complies with the requirement to be of an appropriate quality and standard.

Regulation 4(2) identifies the routes by which compliance with this requirement can be demonstrated: conformity with an appropriate mechanical performance specification.

To be considered as being appropriate a mechanical performance specification must: -

- Be current and satisfy the requirements of Regulation 4(2) plus where applicable product specific requirements set out in schedule 2;
- Demonstrate water fittings conforming with it are capable of complying with the requirements of the regulations subject to the circumstances in which it is to be used; and
- Be applicable to the design of the water fitting, including the materials used in its manufacture, that is to say all these must be covered by the scope of the specification.

Please note:

In the case of backflow prevention, to be considered as being appropriate, a performance specification must satisfy the definitions and terms set out in a specification approved by the regulator for the purposes of schedule 2 paragraph 15(1). Currently not all British Standards and equivalent satisfy the terms and definitions set out in the Regulators' Specification for backflow.

Regulation 4(2)(c) includes provision for accepting a national specification of a European Economic Area (EEA) state as long as it provides an equivalent level of protection and performance to an appropriate British Standard. National specifications of an EEA state which include the same tests and acceptance criteria as appropriate British Standards may be considered to be equivalent.

Water undertakers retain absolute discretion in assessing whether a national specification provides an equivalent level of protection and performance to that specified in an appropriate British Standard. For information regarding the equivalence of a performance specification please contact your water undertaker.

Please be aware this is likely to change following Brexit.

ACCEPTABLE EVIDENCE OF COMPLIANCE

There are currently three routes by which to demonstrate a water fitting complies with the requirement to be of an appropriate quality or standard i.e. regulation 4 (1)(a). These are specified in regulation 4(2):

For the purposes of regulation 4(1)(a), a water fitting is of an appropriate quality or standard only if–

(a) it bears an appropriate CE marking in accordance with the Directive Regulation (EU) No 305/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down harmonised conditions for the marketing of construction products and repealing Council Directive 89/106/EEC;

(b) Sub paragraph (b) omitted due to revisions;

(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.

FORMS OF EVIDENCE: MECHANICAL PERFORMANCE

There are typically three forms of evidence to demonstrate a water fitting complies with the mechanical performance requirements of Regulation 4 (1)(a), these are:

1. CE marking in accordance with the Construction Products Regulation
2. Water fitting certification
3. Performance testing reports

1. CE MARKING

CE Marking against the Construction Products Regulation 2013 is one of the routes identified in regulation 4(2) which can be used to demonstrate a water fitting is of an appropriate quality and standard.

The Construction Products Regulation (CPR) sets out conditions for placing construction products on the market within the EU. Supporting the CPR are a number of harmonised standards which provide rules on how to demonstrate, by means of essential characteristics and CE marking, that a product complies with this EU requirement. Whilst there are a number of harmonised standards in existence, regulation 4(2) only identifies those falling under the scope of the CPR as satisfying regulation 4(1)(a).

There is a legal duty on countries to withdraw any national standards/specifications which are in conflict with the essential characteristics stated in a harmonised standard. There are no obligations in respect of other requirements. Requirements of the regulations which do not relate to the essential characteristics identified in a harmonised standard continue to apply and will be enforced by water undertakers.

Where the essential characteristics identified in a harmonised standard satisfying the requirements of regulation 4(2)(a) specify performance testing requirements, these will satisfy the requirements of regulation 4(1)(a) but not necessarily other parts of the regulations.

If an essential characteristics is stated in general rather than specific terms, such as 'shall be constructed to prevent ...' or 'shall incorporate...' if conformity is required to demonstrate compliance with the regulations further evidence of compliance may be requested to confirm this element of the regulations has been complied with. For example, evidence of conformity with an appropriate British Standard or the Regulators' Specification.

To be accepted as evidence of compliance with regulation 4(1)(a) a declaration of performance (DoP) for the CE marked water fitting will be required and where appropriate an attachment to the DoP. Each EU state sets performance reporting requirements based on their regulatory requirements. To place a product on the market in an EU state the DoP must state performance for all the reporting requirements set by that country.

If no performance is declared in the DoP for an essential characteristic required to demonstrate compliance with a specific element of regulation 4(1)(a), a water undertaker can request further information.

To complete the assessment process water undertakers will also require:

- A general assembly and/or technical drawing of the water fitting plus any sub-assemblies.
- An itemised list of all components and any sub-assemblies likely to come into contact with water. This must identify the material of construction of each component and any sub-assembly and detail the evidence of regulation 4(1)(a) conformity to be submitted.
- Installation instructions and any other relevant technical information.
- A means of confirming the identity of the water fitting.

Water undertakers are not responsible for resolving any incompatibility between the requirements of the regulations and obligations under EU regulations.

Please note:

Other regulations enacted under EU directives may also apply to water fittings and assemblies of water fittings. Whilst manufacturers must ensure conformity with the essential characteristics of

all the applicable harmonised standards, where there are differences the stricter requirements apply.

Where water is required to be wholesome BS 6920 conformity (or equivalent) for all non-metallic components in contact with water is required. If there is an essential characteristic for non-metallic materials within the harmonised standard how it is described – whether in specific or general terms - is important.

If a specific requirement and no performance is declared in the DoP the water undertaker will request further information to confirm this requirement of the regulations has been met.

If BS 6920 conformity is described in general terms, or not covered at all, in the harmonised standard separate evidence of BS 6920 conformity will be required. Please refer to the guidance document 'BS 6920 Compliance Overview' for further information.

To be suitable for use the evidence provided must demonstrate the non-metallic materials conform to BS 6920 at the maximum operating temperature they are intended to be exposed to.

Please refer to CE marking checklist on page 17.

Consultation document

2. WATER FITTING CERTIFICATION

Confirmation that a water fittings is currently certified as conforming to either a current appropriate British Standard (or its equivalent) or a specification approved by the regulator, may be accepted as evidence of compliance with the requirements of regulation 4(1)(a).

In discharging their duty to enforce the regulations water undertakers can request further information about such certification to verify compliance with regulation 4(1)(a).

To be considered as demonstrating compliance with regulation 4(1)(a) the certification must be:

- Granted on the basis of conformity with a one of the routes to compliance specified in regulation 4(2). That is to say conformity with all applicable tests from an appropriate specification.

Water undertakers will have to be satisfied all the performance testing required to obtain the certification has been carried out by a test facility which is competent to test in an accurate and reproducible manner.

For example, has been carried out by a test facility with ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation awarded by an accreditation body which recognises and is a signatory to the International Laboratory Accreditation Co-operation (ILAC) for that testing.

- Issued by a certification scheme which can satisfactorily demonstrate to the water undertakers it is competent and operates in a consistent and impartial manner. That is to say has adequate procedures in place to give confidence in its certification.

For example, a certification scheme which has ISO/IEC 17065 accreditation awarded by an accreditation body which recognises and is a signatory to the International Laboratory Accreditation Co-operation (ILAC) and undertakes regular audits to provide confidence in on-going conformity.

Water undertakers will consider certification issued by non-accredited schemes, providing they are able to demonstrate an acceptable level of competency and operate in a consistent and impartial manner.

- Publicly available: a listing providing full details of products currently certified and the scope of that certification.

For example, what performance specification the water fitting(s) conform to, what products are certified, any operational or installation limitations such as pressure rating, whether suitable for use in a wholesome water system and only suitable for installation in a specific orientation.

If the required level of information is not publicly available water undertakers will require further details to confirm compliance.

To complete the assessment process water undertakers will also require:

- A general assembly and/or technical drawing of the water fitting plus any sub-assemblies.
- An itemised list of all components and any sub-assemblies likely to come into contact with water. This must identify the material of construction of each component and any sub-assembly and detail the evidence of regulation 4(1)(a) conformity to be submitted.
- Installation instructions and any other relevant technical information.
- A means of confirming the identity of the water fitting.

Please note:

Water undertakers retain absolute discretion in assessing whether a certified water fitting is compliant with regulation 4(1)(a), as other requirements as may apply. Water undertakers reserve the right to request supplementary information to confirm compliance. For further information contact your water undertaker.

Water undertakers may consider certification issued by non-accredited schemes, providing they are able to demonstrate an acceptable level of competency, consistent operation and impartiality.

Where water is required to be wholesome acceptable evidence of conformity with the current version of BS 6920 (or equivalent) for all non-metallic components in contact with water is required. If the scope of the certification does not include conformity with the current version of BS 6920 (or equivalent) separate evidence of conformity will be required. To be suitable for use non-metallic materials must be BS 6920 compliant at the maximum operating temperature it is intended to be exposed to.

Where certification is issued for ranges of water fittings water undertakers may seek clarification the sample of water fittings tested was drawn from a production batch and sufficiently representative to demonstrate all products in the range conform to the performance specification. All backflow prevention devices and arrangements must be tested.

Markings must be sufficient to verify identity. If not supplementary acceptable evidence to confirm the identity of the fitting will be required.

To be suitable for use the scope of the certification must demonstrate the water fitting is capable of withstanding an internal water pressure of at least 1½ times the maximum operating pressure of the system it will form part of.

Water undertakers are aware some certification schemes, as a condition of certification, set installation requirements. Such conditions are a scheme requirement imposed as part of the certification process; installing water fittings in accordance with such requirements does not guarantee compliance with the regulations.

Please refer to water fitting certification checklist on page 19.

3. PERFORMANCE TESTING REPORTS

Where a water fitting has been tested against the current version of an appropriate British Standard (or equivalent) or a specification approved by the regulator a test report may be considered as evidence of compliance with the requirements of regulation 4(1)(a).

Water undertakers retain absolute discretion in assessing whether a water fitting is compliant with regulation 4(1)(a). Water undertakers reserve the right to request supplementary information to confirm compliance. For further information contact your water undertaker.

To be considered as demonstrating compliance with regulation 4(1)(a):

- The test report must be written in English. Only the original test report or a certified pdf of it will be considered; a précis or summary is not acceptable.
- A water undertaker must be satisfied the facility testing the water fitting(s) is competent to test in an accurate and reproducible manner.

For example, the testing has been completed at a test facility which has ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation, awarded by an accreditation body which recognises and is a signatory to the International Laboratory Accreditation Co-operation (ILAC), for all the mechanical testing undertaken.

- The test report must verify conformity with an appropriate performance specification (please refer to 'Appropriate quality & standard: mechanical performance' page 9 for further information). That is to say must confirm all applicable tests (as opposed to most or some) specified in the performance specification, required to be satisfied in order to claim conformity, have been successfully completed.

Individual water fittings must demonstrate compliance with regulation 4(1)(a) by conformity with one, not a combination, of the routes specified in regulation 4(2). There can be no 'mixing and matching' of performance specifications except in the case of an assembly of water fittings. It may be acceptable for individual water fittings making up an assembly to demonstrate conformity in their own right. That is to say different routes to demonstrate compliance may be used for the water fittings which are constituent parts of an assembly.

Please note in such cases, where applicable, evidence of compliance with product specific performance requirements applicable to the assembly, for example flow and consumption rates, must also be provided.

- The test report must include details the pressure testing a water fitting has been subjected to.

Please note: all water fittings must be capable of withstanding an internal water pressure of at least 1½ times the maximum operating pressure of the system they form part of.

- Details of both the samples tested and the range they are representative of should be included in the test report.

All design and size of backflow prevention devices and arrangements, including those in an appliance, must be tested.

For all other types of water fittings/assemblies, if not part of a range, the water fitting in question must be tested. In the case of a range of water fittings the sample(s) tested should be sufficiently representative to demonstrate all the water fittings in the range should be considered as satisfying the requirements of regulation 4(1)(a).

- A detailed description of the markings must be included in the test report. If the markings are insufficient to verify identity supplementary evidence to confirm the identity of the fitting will be required.
- All test reports irrespective of the test date must be supported by a manufacturer's declaration.

For example, a declaration there has been no modification or alteration to the product since the testing was carried out and the sample tested was representative of a production model of the water fitting.

Please note:

To complete the assessment process water undertakers will also require:

- A general assembly and/or technical drawing of the water fitting plus any sub-assemblies.
- An itemised list of all components and any sub-assemblies likely to come into contact with water. This must identify the material of construction of each component and any sub-assembly and detail the evidence of regulation 4(1)(a) conformity to be submitted.
- Installation instructions and any other relevant technical information.
- A means of confirming the identity of the water fitting.

Where water is required to be wholesome acceptable evidence of BS 6920 conformity (or equivalent) for all non-metallic components in contact with water will be required. Water undertakers reserve the right to request supplementary information to confirm compliance.

Please refer to the guidance document 'BS 6920 Compliance Overview' for further information.

If the scope of an appropriate British Standard requires conformity with BS 6920 as a specific rather than general requirement a water undertaker can request further information to confirm conformity with the current version of BS 6920. If described in general terms or not covered at all separate evidence of conformity with the current version of BS 6920 will be required.

To be suitable for use the evidence provided must demonstrate the non-metallic materials conform to BS 6920 at the maximum operating temperature they are intended to be exposed to.

Please refer to performance testing reports checklists on page 21 & 23.

Checklist: CE Marking

Please note:

The following information is non-statutory guidance drawing attention to the types of information water undertakers will consider when determining compliance with regulation 4(1)(a).

Providing this information does not guarantee acceptance.

CE marking against the Construction Products Regulations (CPR) is one of the routes specified in regulation 4(2).

Whilst specific testing requirements set out in an essential requirement of a harmonised standard (falling under the scope of the CPR) will demonstrate compliance with regulation 4(1)(a) those specified in general terms may not.

In the case of essential characteristics described in general terms, where conformity is required to demonstrate compliance with the regulations further evidence of compliance can be requested to confirm this element of the regulations has been complied with. For example, conformity with other appropriate performance specifications.

Please note:

Requirements of the regulations which do not relate to the essential characteristics identified in a harmonised standard continue to apply and will be enforced by water undertakers.

As an enforcement issue installation compliance is a matter for water undertakers alone, including confirmation of installation requirements.

To complete the assessment process water undertakers will also require:

- A general assembly and/or technical drawing of the water fitting plus any sub-assemblies.
- An itemised list of all components and any sub-assemblies likely to come into contact with water. This must identify the material of construction of each component and any sub-assembly and detail the evidence of regulation 4(1)(a) conformity to be submitted.
- Installation instructions and any other relevant technical information.
- A means of confirming the identity of the water fitting.

- Is the CE marking against a current harmonised standard falling under the scope of the Construction Products Regulations?
- Does the scope of the harmonised standard cover the water fitting in question?
- Does the scope of the harmonised standard cover the maximum operating temperature and pressure of the system the water fitting will form part of?
- Are the essential characteristics described in specific or general terms?
Where they are general, if conformity is required to demonstrate compliance with a specific element of the regulations, evidence of compliance can be requested to confirm this element of the regulations has been complied with. For example, conformity with an

appropriate British Standard or the regulators' specification. Refer to water fitting certification and performance testing for further information.

- Has a declaration of performance (DoP) including any applicable attachments been provided?

If conformity with a specific essential characteristic is relied upon to confirm compliance with the regulations, where no performance has been declared in the DoP additional information will be requested.

- Does the fitting incorporate any non-metallic components in contact with water required to be wholesome? If so, is there an essential characteristic for BS 6920 conformity and how is it described?

If it is a specific requirement has a declaration of performance for this characteristic been provided and does this demonstrate the material is suitable for use at the maximum operating temperature it is intended to be exposed to?

If described in general terms, or not covered at all, evidence of conformity with the current version of BS 6920 will be required. Please refer to 'BS 6920 Compliance Overview' publication for further information.

- The marking must be sufficient to verify identity, if not supplementary evidence to confirm identity will be required.

Consultation document

Checklist: water fitting certification

Please note:

The following information is non-statutory guidance drawing attention to the types of information water undertakers will consider when determining compliance with regulation 4(1)(a).

Providing this information does not guarantee acceptance.

Only evidence that a water fitting is currently certified on the basis of conformity with one of the routes to compliance specified in regulation 4(2) will be considered. That is to say evidence of conformity with all applicable tests from an appropriate specification.

Please note:

As an enforcement issue installation compliance is a matter for water undertakers alone, including confirmation of installation requirements.

Water undertakers note some certification schemes, as a condition of certification, set installation requirements. Such conditions are a scheme requirement imposed as part of the certification process; installing water fittings in accordance with such requirements do not guarantee compliance with the regulations.

To complete the assessment process water undertakers will also require:

- A general assembly and/or technical drawing of the water fitting plus any sub-assemblies.
- An itemised list of all components and any sub-assemblies likely to come into contact with water. This must identify the material of construction of each component and any sub-assembly and detail the evidence of regulation 4(1)(a) conformity to be submitted.
- Installation instructions and any other relevant technical information.
- A means of confirming the identity of the water fitting.

Water undertakers reserve the right to request supplementary information to confirm compliance.

- Is the certification current and publicly available? The water fitting in question must be listed in the certification information/documentation.
- Has the certification been granted on the basis of conformity with a current appropriate specification as defined in regulation 4(2)?
- Have all applicable tests required to claim conformity been satisfactorily completed i.e. the testing required to claim conformity with either a current, appropriate BS (or equivalent) or a specification approved by the Regulator?
- Can the certification scheme demonstrate it has adequate procedures in place to demonstrate an acceptable level of competency, consistent operation and impartiality? For example, ISO/IEC 17065 accreditation awarded by an accreditation body which recognises and is a signatory to the International Laboratory Accreditation Co-operation (ILAC) and undertakes regular audits to provide confidence in on-going conformity.

- Has all the testing required to obtain the certification has been carried out by a test facility which is competent to test in an accurate and reproducible manner?
For example, has been carried out by a test facility with ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation awarded by an accreditation body which recognises and is a signatory to the International Laboratory Accreditation Co-operation (ILAC) for that testing.
- Was the sample tested to obtain the certification drawn from a production batch and sufficiently representative?
All design and size of backflow prevention devices and arrangements, including those in an appliance, must be tested.
For all other types of water fittings/assemblies if not part of a range the water fitting in question should have been tested. In the case of a range of water fittings the sample(s) tested should be sufficiently representative to demonstrate all the water fittings in the range should be considered as satisfying the requirements of regulation 4(1)(a).
- Does the scope of certification cover the maximum operating temperature and pressure of the system it is to form part of?
- If the water fitting is to be used as part of a wholesome water system BS 6920 conformity (or equivalent) for all non-metallic components in contact with water is required.
Does the scope of the certification include conformity with the current version of BS 6920 (or equivalent)? If not separate evidence of conformity will be required.
Evidence of BS 6920 (or equivalent) conformity must demonstrate the material is suitable for use at the maximum operating temperature it is intended to be exposed to.
- Is the marking sufficient to verify identity? If not supplementary evidence to confirm identity will be required.
- If required by the water undertaker has the manufacturers provided a declaration?

Checklist: performance testing: test report verifying conformity with an appropriate British Standard or equivalent

Please note:

The following information is non-statutory guidance drawing attention to the types of information water undertakers will consider when determining compliance with regulation 4(1)(a).

Providing this information does not guarantee acceptance.

Only evidence that a water fitting is currently certified on the basis of conformity with one of the routes to compliance specified in regulation 4(2) will be considered. That is to say evidence of conformity with all applicable tests from an appropriate specification.

Please note:

As an enforcement issue installation compliance is a matter for water undertakers alone, including confirmation of installation requirements.

To complete the assessment process water undertakers will also require:

- A general assembly and/or technical drawing of the water fitting plus any sub-assemblies.
- An itemised list of all components and any sub-assemblies likely to come into contact with water. This must identify the material of construction of each component and any sub-assembly and detail the evidence of regulation 4(1)(a) conformity to be submitted.
- Installation instructions and any other relevant technical information.
- A means of confirming the identity of the water fitting.

Where water is required to be wholesome BS 6920 conformity (or equivalent) for all non-metallic components in contact with water is required.

Even if the scope of a BS requires conformity with BS 6920 as a specific rather than general requirement a water undertaker can request further information to confirm conformity with the current version of BS 6920.

Evidence of BS 6920 (or equivalent) conformity must demonstrate the material is suitable for use at the maximum operating temperature of the system it is intended to be exposed to.

Water undertakers reserve the right to request supplementary information to confirm compliance.

To be considered as acceptable evidence of conformity with an appropriate British Standard (or equivalent) a test report must:

- Be provided in English.
- Be either the original test report or a certified pdf of it: a précis or summary will not be acceptable.
- Be for a current and appropriate British Standard (BS) (or equivalent).

- Confirm all the applicable testing required to claim conformity with the current, appropriate BS (or equivalent) have been satisfactorily completed. That is to say all applicable tests (as opposed to most or some) specified in the performance specification have been completed successfully.

Individual water fittings must demonstrate compliance with regulation 4(1)(a) by conformity with one, not a combination, of the routes specified in regulation 4(2). There can be no 'mixing and matching' of performance specifications except in the case of an assembly of water fittings. It may be acceptable for individual water fittings making up an assembly to demonstrate conformity in their own right. That is to say different routes to demonstrate compliance may be used for the water fittings which are constituent parts of an assembly.

Please note in such cases, if applicable, evidence of compliance with product specific performance requirements applicable to the assembly, for example flow and consumption rates, must also be provided.

- Confirm testing must have been undertaken at a facility competent to carry it out.

If the test facility does not have ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation, awarded by a body that recognises and is a signatory to the International Laboratory Accreditation Co-operation (ILAC), for all the performance testing carried out alternative evidence to demonstrate competency must be provided. This evidence must demonstrate to the water undertaker's satisfaction the facility is competent to undertake the testing carried out in an accurate and reproducible manner. Contact the test facility for further information.

- Identify the test sample. If the water fitting in question is not listed in the test report was the sample(s) tested sufficiently representative to demonstrate that water fitting satisfies the requirements of regulation 4(1)(a)?

A test report is required for all design and size of backflow prevention devices and arrangements, including those in an appliance, must be tested.

For all other types of water fittings/assemblies if not part of a range the water fitting in question must have been tested. In the case of a range of water fittings the sample(s) tested should be sufficiently representative to demonstrate all the water fittings in the range should be considered as satisfying the requirements of regulation 4(1)(a).

- Confirm the scope of the performance testing covers the maximum operating temperature and pressure of the system it is to form part of.
- Identify markings. If the marking is insufficient to verify identity? If not supplementary evidence to confirm identity will be required.
- All test reports must be supported by an acceptable manufacturer's declaration. This must include confirmation there has been no modification or alteration to the product since it was tested, and the sample tested was drawn from a representative production batch.

Checklist: performance testing: test report verifying conformity with specification approved by the Regulator

Please note:

The following information is non-statutory guidance drawing attention to the types of information water undertakers will consider when determining compliance with regulation 4(1)(a).

Providing this information does not guarantee acceptance.

In the case of some water fittings there are no applicable appropriate British Standards.

In the absence of an appropriate mechanical performance specification the only way to demonstrate compliance with the requirements of Regulation 4(2) is conformity with the Regulators' Specification for water fittings or the Regulators' Specification for WCs.

The Regulators' Specification for fittings is made up of a number of individual test code sheets (TCS). To claim conformity all applicable TCS must be successfully completed.

Please note: this checklist only provides advice in respect of the Regulators' Specification for fittings.

Please note:

As an enforcement issue installation compliance is a matter for water undertakers alone, including confirmation of installation requirements.

To complete the assessment process water undertakers will also require:

- A general assembly and/or technical drawing of the water fitting plus any sub-assemblies.
- An itemised list of all components and any sub-assemblies likely to come into contact with water. This must identify the material of construction of each component and any sub-assembly and detail the evidence of regulation 4(1)(a) conformity to be submitted.
- Installation instructions and any other relevant technical information.
- A means of confirming the identity of the water fitting.

Unless otherwise agreed with the water undertaker the maximum operating pressure of water fitting will be determined by the lowest test pressure parameter applied.

Where water is required to be wholesome BS 6920 conformity (or equivalent) for all non-metallic components in contact with water is required.

Evidence of BS 6920 (or equivalent) conformity must demonstrate the material is suitable for use at the maximum operating temperature of the system it is intended to be exposed to.

Water undertakers reserve the right to request supplementary information to confirm compliance.

To be considered as acceptable evidence of conformity with the Regulators' Specification test report must:

- Be provided in English.
- Be either the original test report or a certified pdf of it: a précis or summary will not be acceptable.
- Confirm all the applicable test code sheets (TCS), required to claim conformity with the Regulators' Specification for fittings, have been successfully completed.
Individual water fittings must demonstrate compliance with regulation 4(1)(a) by conformity with one, not a combination, of the routes specified in regulation 4(2). There can be no 'mixing and matching' of performance specifications except in the case of an assembly of water fittings. It may be acceptable for individual water fittings making up an assembly to demonstrate conformity in their own right. That is to say different routes to demonstrate compliance may be used for the water fittings which are constituent parts of an assembly.
Please note in such cases, if applicable, evidence of compliance with product specific performance requirements applicable to the assembly, for example flow and consumption rates, must also be provided.
- Confirm testing must have been undertaken at a facility competent to carry it out.
If the test facility does not have ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation, awarded by a body that recognises and is a signatory to the International Laboratory Accreditation Co-operation (ILAC), for all the performance testing carried out alternative evidence to demonstrate competency must be provided. This evidence must demonstrate to the water undertaker's satisfaction the facility is competent to undertake the testing carried out in an accurate and reproducible manner. Contact the test facility for further information.
- Identify the test sample. If the water fitting in question is not listed in the test report was the sample(s) tested sufficiently representative to demonstrate that water fitting satisfies the requirements of regulation 4(1)(a)?
A test report is required for all design and size of backflow prevention devices and arrangements, including those in an appliance, must be tested.
For all other types of water fittings/assemblies if not part of a range the water fitting in question should have been tested. In the case a ranges of water fittings the sample tested should be sufficiently representative to demonstrate all the water fittings in the range satisfy the requirements of regulation 4(1)(a).
- Confirm the scope of the performance testing covers the maximum operating temperature and pressure of the system it is to form part.
- Identify markings. If the marking is insufficient to verify identity? If not supplementary evidence to confirm identity will be required.
- All test reports must be supported by an acceptable manufacturer's declaration. This must include confirmation there has been no modification or alteration to the product since it was tested, and the sample tested was drawn from a representative production batch.