



Water Supply (Water Fittings)  
Regulations 1999 and the approved  
plumber/contractor scheme (Aplus)  
explained to you by **anglianwater**

- 01 **Section One**  
The Water Supply (Water Fittings)  
Regulations 1999
- 02 Part 1 – preliminaries
  - Regulation 1
  - Regulation 2
- 02 Part 2 – principal requirements
  - Regulations 3 and 4
  - Regulation 5
  - Regulation 6
- 03 Part 3 – enforcement
  - Regulations 7 and 8
  - Regulations 9 to 14
- 03 Schedules
  - Schedule 1 – fluid categories
  - Schedule 2 – requirements  
for water fittings
  - Schedule 3 – byelaws revoked
- 04 **Section Two**  
Application for a water supply  
Regulation 5 (notification) and the  
reasons why we require  
information from you
- 08 **Section Three**  
Aplus – Anglian Water's approved  
plumber/contractor scheme
- 12 **Section Four**  
How to contact us

## Section One The Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations 1999



## The Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations 1999 consist of three parts and three schedules as follows:

### Part 1 of the Regulations deals with preliminaries

**Regulation 1** states the title of the Regulations and interpretations of terms used within the Regulations, including a definition of the Regulator.

**Regulation 2** defines the application of the Regulations whereby they do not apply to certain water fittings in connection with water supplied for non-domestic purposes, or to water fittings lawfully installed before 1 July 1999.

### Part 2 of the Regulations deals with the principal requirements

**Regulations 3 and 4** impose general requirements in relation to water fittings. Water fittings must not be installed, connected, arranged or used in such a manner that they are likely to cause waste, misuse, undue consumption or contamination, or erroneous measurement, of the water supplied. They must be of an appropriate quality or standard, and be suitable for the circumstances in which they are used; and they must be installed, connected or disconnected in a workmanlike manner.

**Water fittings must not be installed, connected, arranged or used in such a manner that they are likely to cause waste, misuse, undue consumption or contamination...**

**Regulation 5** requires a person who proposes to install certain water fittings to notify Anglian Water, and not to commence installation without Anglian Water's consent. Anglian Water may withhold consent or grant it on certain conditions. This requirement does not apply to some fittings which are installed by a plumber/contractor who is approved by Anglian Water or certified by an organisation specified by the Regulator. [See page 04: Application for water supply Regulation 5 \(notification\) and the reasons why Anglian Water require information from you.](#)

**Regulation 6** where an approved plumber/contractor installs, alters, connects or disconnects a water fitting, they will provide a Water Regulation Compliance Certificate stating that the work carried out and the fittings used complies with these Regulations. [See page 08: Aplus – Anglian Water's approved plumber/contractor scheme.](#)

### Part 3 of the Regulations deals with enforcement etc

**Regulations 7 and 8** provide for a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale for contravening the Regulations. It is a defence to show that work on a water fitting was done by or under the direction of an approved plumber/contractor, and that the plumber/contractor certified that it complied with the Regulations. This defence is extended to the offences of contaminating, wasting and misusing water under section 73 of the Water Industry Act 1991 (Regulation 8).

**Regulation 9** enables Anglian Water and local authorities who enter premises to carry out inspections, measurements and tests for the purposes of the Regulations.

**Regulation 10** requires Anglian Water to enforce the requirements of the Regulations; this duty is enforceable by the Regulator or the Director General of Water Services.

**Regulation 11** enables the Regulator to relax the requirements of these Regulations on the application of Anglian Water.

**Regulation 12** requires the Regulator to consult Anglian Water and organisations representing water users before giving an approval for the purpose of the Regulations, and to publicise approvals.

**Regulation 13** provides for disputes arising under the Regulations between Anglian Water and a person who has installed or proposes to install a water fitting to be referred to arbitration.

**Regulation 14** revokes the existing Water Byelaws made by Anglian Water under section 17 of the Water Act 1945.

**Schedule 1 – fluid categories** defines categories of fluids which may exist, both within and downstream, of water supply pipework.

**Schedule 2 – requirements for water fittings** consists of 31 'Paragraphs' which are part of the Regulations.

**Schedule 3 – byelaws revoked** consists of a list of Water Companies whose Byelaws have been revoked.

## Section Two

### Application for a water supply Regulation 5 (notification) and the reasons why Anglian Water require information from you



It is not against the law to purchase water fittings that do not meet National or European standards but it is against the law to fit them.

**Important:** these notes should be used in conjunction with the application for a water supply (new or replacement) guidance notes.

#### Water fitting schedules

Why does Anglian Water need to know what water fittings I intend to install?

1. This is because the Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations 1999 **are law in England and Wales** and they clearly state that under Regulation 5 the water supplier must receive a schedule/list of the water fittings that you intend to install.
2. We also need to know that the water fittings you intend to install are to an approved National/ European standard under Regulation 4.
3. We have a statutory duty to inspect 25 per cent of all new installations which means there are another 75 per cent of installations that don't get inspected. We therefore need to know that **all** water fittings connected to our network are of the required standard and will not contaminate our supply.
4. It is not against the law to purchase water fittings that do not meet National or European standards **but it is against the law to fit them.**

What do we mean when we ask you to produce a schedule of water fittings?

- All we need to know are the **brand names and the British Standards,**

**WRAS or KIWA approval numbers** of the water fittings that you are proposing to install, so that we know that they meet the required standards.

- We **do not** need to know how much pipework or how many sockets, elbows, or tee pieces you intend to fit.

**Please note:** Anglian Water do not require information on the waste system as that falls under the Building Regulations.

Examples of water fittings that could contaminate our water supply:

- **Unapproved taps** that carry no recognised markings and do not have the correct air gap at the point of discharge. Taps that carry no recognised markings could give taste and odour problems and tap malfunction.
- **Unapproved tap connectors (flexible hoses)** that carry no recognised markings. Flexible hoses that carry no recognised markings can harbour bacterial growth as well as give taste and odour problems.
- **Unapproved shower mixers** that carry no recognised markings.
- **Copper tube and fittings** that do not meet either National/European standards.
- **Plastic pipe and fittings** that do not meet either National/European standards.

## Drawings/plans

Why do I have to supply Anglian Water with a drawing of my intended pipework routes?

This is so that we know that you are not installing pipework in a manner that contravenes the Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations 1999.

Please see the following examples:

1. The Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations 1999 clearly state that water is classified in five fluid categories, so we need to know that you are installing the correct backflow devices in the areas of the system that require them.
2. Does the hot and cold supply pipework pass through a solid floor and if so is it in a suitable duct so that in the event of a future leak can it be withdrawn for maintenance or replacement?
3. We must be assured that there is no risk to our water supply of any possible back siphonage. Supplying a drawing of the sanitary ware fitting locations will enable us to check that any flexible shower hose on the bath mixer tap or shower mixing valve hose cannot enter the zone of a WC or bidet bowl.

4. You may be intending to install a **rain water harvesting system**, which if not installed to satisfy the Water Regulations could contaminate our supply.

**We need to know:** is the intended system a direct or indirect system? Is the system pipework being correctly colour coded/labelled to prevent any possible cross connection? Will the points of use be clearly identified as **not drinking water**?

5. You may be intending to install a **domestic fire sprinkler system**, which if not installed to satisfy the Water Regulations could not only contaminate our supply but also fail to operate in the event of a fire.
6. You may be intending to install a **commercial plumbing installation** which may require either zonal or even whole site backflow protection depending on the risk of backflow to our supply.

**We need to know:** what type of commercial plumbing installation it is going to be? We will then be able to tell you what fluid category of risk it poses to our network and advise you on the correct backflow protection required to satisfy the Water Regulations.

Anglian Water have a system whereby housing developers can get their standard house type plumbing plans approved for Water Regulation Compliance by submitting them to us for house type approval.

Examples of commercial properties:

health centres	hospitals	schools	hotels
factories	factory units	offices	flats/apartments
garages	supermarkets	department stores	colleges
dental surgeries	banks	marinas	car wash

## House type approval for Water Regulation Compliance

Why not get all your house types approved for Water Regulation Compliance?

It is very simple and it will save you time and money.

When you apply to Anglian Water for water connections for your housing developments the procedure is that your application must satisfy Regulation 5 of the Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations 1999.

The Water Regulation section of the application form requests that you submit schedules of the water fittings that you intend to install and a drawing of the proposed plumbing pipework layout, for every different house type that you build. This can be a time consuming task every time that you submit a new application.

Anglian Water have a system whereby housing developers can get their standard house type plumbing plans approved for Water Regulation Compliance by submitting them to us for house type approval.

Each of your house types will be given a code number. Once approved, the code number can then be quoted on future applications and eliminate the need to supply further copies of plumbing plans and schedules of water fittings with each new application that is made. This will enable us to fast track your connections.

All that will be required from you will be a completed application form, accompanied by a list of the approved house type code numbers that water supplies are required for.

## Plumbing design changes

By having all of your house types fully approved by us, the only time that you will still have a need to send in a full application to Anglian Water will be when there is a change in the plumbing design or changes to the water fittings to be installed in any of your already approved house types.

## Section Three

### Aplus – Anglian Water's approved plumber/contractor scheme



#### What is Aplus?

Aplus stands for the Anglian Water approved plumber/contractor scheme. It is an Anglian Water accredited scheme which ensures that the plumbers/contractors you use comply with the mandatory Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations 1999.

There are between one and two thousand approved plumbers/contractors spread across the whole of the Anglian Water region, which represents one of the largest approved plumber/contractor schemes in England and Wales. This coverage helps us to provide you with a network of locally approved plumbers/contractors whose work is compliant with the Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations 1999.

There are between one and two thousand approved plumbers/contractors spread across the whole of the Anglian Water region, which represents one of the largest approved plumber/contractor schemes in England and Wales.

#### What is an approved plumber/contractor?

As a result of the introduction of the Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations 1999, the Water Supply Byelaws were replaced with new mandatory Regulations. This brought recognition of the approved plumber/contractor and self certification (Regulation 6) to the water and plumbing industry for the first time.

These schemes are primarily administered by the Water Undertakers and WRAS.

Under Regulation 5 if someone proposes to carry out work on anything other than a house they have a choice, to either (i) notify Anglian Water or (ii) use an approved plumber/contractor.

- i) To notify Anglian Water with work proposals, you will need to send in a schedule of the water fittings to be used plus drawings/plans of the proposed work to our Water Regulations team.
- ii) An approved plumber/contractor does not have to notify Anglian Water every time that they propose to carry out work, and will always issue you with a Water Regulation Compliance Certificate on completion of work. This Certificate is very important as it says the work has been carried out to meet legal standards. It is similar to the CORGI Gas Safety Certificate.

### The benefits to the Developer on new domestic, commercial and industrial developments:

- By using an Anglian Water approved plumber/contractor your new plumbing system will not require inspection by us on completion. This could considerably improve your planning schedule by cutting out site inspections.
- An approved plumber/contractor will issue you with a Water Regulation Compliance Certificate (Regulation 6) on completion of the work. This Certificate is important as it is your defence in a court of law that the work and the fittings meet legal requirements.
- It is the approved plumber/contractor who takes the **legal responsibility**, not you as the developer for compliance with the Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations 1999, for the design, fittings and even the solder used.
- Using an Anglian Water approved plumber/contractor is proof that you are using the services of someone who is conversant with these mandatory Water Regulations, as each member has had to pass a written assessment test in order to achieve their approved status.

- You can give your customer extra assurance that the newly commissioned water system meets the legal standards, by handing over a Water Regulation Compliance Certificate.
- All Anglian Water approved plumbers/contractors are audited by a dedicated team of Anglian Water's Plumbing/Water Regulation Specialists.

### Approved sectored contractor

The Aplus scheme also includes the approved sectored contractors. To be a member, contractors do not need to hold a formal plumbing qualification, but they will be required to pass the Anglian Water assessment test based on the Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations 1999 to prove their competence of the Water Regulations in these particular areas.

The sectored contractor may specialise in any of the following areas:

- Site manager/agent.
- Underground installations.
- Catering equipment.
- Vending machines.

### Benefits to the Developer of using approved sectored contractors:

- By using an Anglian Water approved sectored contractor you will not be required to notify us under Regulation 5 of the Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations 1999, every time you propose to carry out work in one of the sectored areas.
- All approved sectored contractors will issue a self-certificate on completion of their work, which satisfies Regulation 6 of the Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations 1999.
- Using an Anglian Water approved sectored contractor is proof that you are using the services of someone who is conversant with a particular area of these mandatory Water Regulations, as each member has to pass an assessment test in order to achieve their approved status.
- All Anglian Water approved sectored contractors are audited by a dedicated team of Anglian Water's Water Regulation Specialists.

### How to become an Aplus member

#### Fully approved plumber/contractor status:

You need to submit the following information to become an Aplus plumber:

- Written evidence of formal plumbing qualification such as served an apprenticeship, City and Guilds Craft or NVQ Level 2.
- Copy of public liability insurance, minimum cover £2 million if sole trader, £5 million if company.
- Successfully pass an assessment based on Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations 1999.
- Two passport photos.

#### Approved sectored contractor status:

To become an approved sectored contractor, please forward all information as per Aplus membership above. Evidence of formal plumbing qualification is not necessary.



## Section Five

### How to contact us



If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations team by:

- Phone on 0845 60 66 087
- Fax on 01223 201261
- Email [aplus@anglianwater.co.uk](mailto:aplus@anglianwater.co.uk)
- Write to Anglian Water Services Ltd, PO Box 495, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire PE29 6YY

Information is also available from the Water Regulations Advisory Scheme by:

- Visiting their website [www.wras.co.uk](http://www.wras.co.uk)
- Phone on 01495 248454
- Fax on 01495 249234
- Email [info@wras.co.uk](mailto:info@wras.co.uk)



Want to know more about Anglian Water?  
Visit [www.anglianwater.co.uk](http://www.anglianwater.co.uk) to see the full range of services.

Registered Office  
**Anglian Water Services Limited**  
Anglian House, Ambury Road  
Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire PE29 3NZ  
Tel 01480 323000 Fax 01480 323115

Registered in England No. 2366656