

Introducing the Water Industry Approved Plumbers' Scheme

WIAPS – What is it?

WIAPS is the Water Industry Approved Plumbers' Scheme, it:

- Is managed by WRAS on behalf of 16 water companies
- Provides accreditation to qualified plumbers (and a number of sector workers)
- Allows Approved Plumbers to certify certain work
- Gives peace-of-mind to customers with an online directory of qualified professionals
- Allows plumber members to join WaterSafe – the UK hub for Approved Plumbing businesses

The Background

With effect from the 1 July 1999 the Government issued the Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations 1999, and revoked the Water Supplier's Byelaws for England and Wales. In Scotland from 12 July 2014 the Byelaws was updated to become the Water Supply (Water Fittings) (Scotland) Byelaws 2014. In Northern Ireland, the Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009.

For many years Water Supply Byelaws had been used in England and Wales to protect the public water supply on both domestic and commercial plumbing installations from waste, misuse, undue consumption and contamination of water.

Under the legislation, owners and occupiers of premises which have public water supply connections and anyone who installs or alters such plumbing systems have a legal duty to comply with the Regulations/Byelaws and they can face prosecution for a criminal offence if they fail to do so.

Regulation 5 refers to notification of intended work, and requires that anyone who proposes to install new water systems (or, in non-domestic premises, to alter or extend systems) in connection with any of the operations listed in the Regulations to give notice of the planned work to the water supplier.

For more information on WIAPS, the benefits of the Scheme or how to join, please contact the WIAPS team on wiaps@wras.co.uk, call 0333 207 9030 (option 1) or visit the website at www.wras.co.uk.