



## DEFINITIONS

**Abstract:** The purpose of this document is to define the terms and phrases as used throughout the Water Regulations Approvals Schemes documents and written procedures.

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There is a comprehensive [glossary](#) of Water Regulations related terms on the [Water Regs UK](#) Web site. The following terms are specifically used in the WRAS product and materials certification schemes.

### **WRAS Product & Materials Approvals**

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**Accreditation** is the third-party assessment of certification, testing and calibration service providers to provide assurance of competence, impartiality and performance capability.

**Accreditation Body (AB)** is an organisation that provides accreditation services, offering formal third-party recognition of competence to perform specific tasks. The United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) is recognised by government as the sole national accreditation body for the UK, to assess organisations that provide certification, testing, inspection and calibration services against internationally agreed standards. Internationally, ABs, including UKAS, who are signatory members of the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperative (ILAC) Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MRA) commit to adhering to the common set of standards, thus creating an international framework of Accreditation that can be recognised throughout the world.

**Agent** means any third-party agent nominated by the Applicant for the purposes of the Application and whose details are set out in section 4 of the Application Form.

**Applicant** means any person, company or other organisation / entity that applies for WRAS Approval in respect of a Product.

**Application** means an application for WRAS Approval.

**Application Form** means the F2 application form to be used when applying for WRAS Approval and which can be found on the WRAS website [www.wrasapprovals.co.uk](http://www.wrasapprovals.co.uk);

**Approval / WRAS Approval** means an approval granted once WRAS is satisfied that the Product complies with Regulation 4(1)(a), as more particularly described in the Scheme Requirements;

**Approval Guides** see WRAS Guidance.

**Approval Holder** means the holder an existing WRAS Approval.

**Approval Period** has the meaning set out in clause 3.5.

**Approved Product** means any water fitting, plumbing product, material or component which is the subject of an existing WRAS Approval.

**Approved Test Method** means a test method that is defined in an applicable British or International Standard, has been defined as a Regulator's Specification, or has been approved by the WRAS Approvals Schemes.

**Approval Letter** means the letter from WRAS to the Applicant confirming the grant of WRAS Approval in respect of a product.

**Approval Scheme Installation Requirements and Notes (IRNs)** means any installation requirements and notes issued by WRAS as part of a WRAS Approval

**Approvals Scheme Requirements** means the requirements of the Scheme as detailed in the Standard Terms and Conditions of WRAS Approvals Schemes (WRAS.Cust-401), the Code of Practice (WRAS.Cust-402) and the WRAS Scheme guidance. This includes, but is not limited to, the following documents:

- i. WRAS Approval Scheme Brand Guidelines
- ii. WRAS Approvals Guides
- iii. Test Code Sheet Matrix
- iv. Guidance for non-metallic materials in fittings
- v. Sampling Matrix

vi. Installation Requirement and Notes (IRNs).

These are available for download from the WRAS website [www.wrasapprovals.co.uk](http://www.wrasapprovals.co.uk).

**Audit** systematic, independent and documented process for obtaining audit evidence and evaluating it objectively to determine the extent to which the audit criteria are fulfilled (ISO 19011, 3.1)

**Brand Guidelines** The “WRAS Approved Product” and WRAS Approved Material” logos are certification marks registered under the Trade Marks Acts 1994 (“Certification Marks”). Approval Holders shall be entitled to use the Certification Marks upon the licence terms set out in this clause (“Licence Terms”). The [Brand Guidelines](#) can be found on the WRAS Website.

**BS 6920** A British Standard entitled “Suitability of non-metallic materials and products for use in contact with water intended for human consumption with regard to their effect on the quality of the water”. This standard details the test methods and criteria for materials to assess potential adverse effects upon water quality, such as odour, flavour, microbial growth, extraction of metals and substances that may be of concern to public health and cytotoxicity.

**CE Marking** An EU mark indicating a product has been assessed, by the manufacturer, to the required method and complies with a specified harmonised European Standard: Regulation (EU) No305/2011 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<sup>(2)</sup>.

<sup>(2)</sup> OJ No L88, 4.4.2011,p5.

**Certification** Provision of written assurance (a certificate) by an independent third party that a product or material conforms to the requirements of the Water Supply (water fittings) Regulations 1999.

**Certification Scheme** see definition of WRAS Approval Scheme

**Certification Mark** see Brand Guidelines

**Code** means the Approvals Scheme Requirements & Code of Practice (WRAS.Cust-402) and any documents expressly referred to in it. The Code of Practice shall prevail in the event of any conflict unless WRAS expressly states otherwise in writing.

**Complaint** refers to an expression of dissatisfaction in writing with a product or service. Whenever a complaint is lodged, a response is either explicitly or implicitly required. A complaint made by an external party and received by WRAS will be addressed following the procedure detailed in WRAS.QMS-508 and outlined in the Terms and Conditions and Laboratory Agreement.

**Deferred applications:** An approval of an application for WRAS product approval may be deferred upon first presentation for approval pending further clarification or additional information. The issues which lead to the application being deferred are usually, but not always, resolved without the need to re-present the application. A deferred application remains valid for up to 6 months, after which if not resolved the application may be treated as a failure.

**Directory** means the WRAS Product & Material Directory,

**Event Outside Our Control** means any act or event beyond WRAS’s reasonable control, including without limitation, strikes, lock-outs or other industrial action by third parties, civil commotion, riot, invasion, terrorist attack, or threat of terrorist attack, war (whether declared or not) or threat or preparation for war, fire explosion, storm, flood earthquake, subsidence, epidemic or other natural disaster, or failure of public or private telecommunications networks [or impossibility of the use of railways, shipping, aircraft, motor transport or other means of public or private transport,

**Factor** is generally an organisation that did not manufacture the product, typically being a retailer, reseller or wholesaler;

**Factory Production Control** (fpc) is a formal requirement for the assessment & verification of performance for CE marking and has the definition set out in Regulation (EU) No 305/2011 on the marketing of construction products.

**First Party Test Laboratory** is an in-house testing laboratory facility (or facilities) that operates in compliance with the requirements of the Harmonised Technical Specifications applicable to their products. The laboratory shall be owned and/or controlled by the manufacturer of the products being tested by such facility.

**Harmonised Technical Standards (hENs):** Standards approved by the European standards organisation (CEN) and adopted for products throughout the EU Member States. Includes EN997 & EN14055 for WC Suites and flushing cisterns) and European Assessment Documents (EADs) for construction products developed either by CEN or EOTA (see also CE Marking).

**Independent Test Laboratory** means a testing laboratory facility (or facilities) that undertakes third-party, independent testing on water fittings for external customers in compliance with the WRAS Requirements and is accredited to ISO 17025 by UKAS or the appropriate National Signatory of the ILAC mutual recognition arrangement of Accreditation Bodies.

**Laboratory Category** means the type of Laboratory; i.e. First-Party Test Laboratory or Independent Testing Facility, as specified on the cover page of the WRAS Laboratory Agreement.

**Laboratory Requirements** means, collectively:

- Test Laboratories obligations, responsibilities and duties pursuant to the Agreement between Laboratories and WRAS Approvals (WRAS.Cust-404),
- the “Requirements & Code of Practice for WRAS Product Approvals Scheme” as defined in WRAS.Cust-402 and the “Requirements for the Acceptance and Recognition of Test Laboratories for WRAS Approvals”; WRAS.Cust-405 and
- the requirements, rules, policies and procedures generally applicable to Recognised Test Laboratories (whether referred to as “labs,” “WRAS Recognised Test Laboratories” or otherwise) within the Applicable Laboratory Category, as set forth in the Requirements Documents or otherwise established by WRAS from time to time, in each case, including but not limited to obligations, responsibilities, duties, requirements, rules, policies and procedures relating annual requalification, lab accreditation and facilities, disclosure and maintenance of Testing results and records, audit and assessment requirements, and Products and Materials Approval Scheme requirements, policies and procedures relating to quality assurance, remediation and Revocation).

**Laboratory Recognition** means written approval provided to the Test Laboratory by WRAS, indicating that WRAS formally recognises laboratory as a Recognised Test Laboratory, so long as such Recognition has not expired or been revoked, withdrawn, suspended, terminated or otherwise invalidated.

**Material-only Approval:** certification of a non-metallic material which has been assessed against BS6920. Used as a ‘raw’ material, items made from it may not require further testing if the production method does not alter the properties. However, in many cases some limited further testing is required to permit WRAS Approval of the component produced.

**Non-Conformity** A deviation from the specified requirements related to the product or to the certification scheme requirements. WRAS may categorise deviations and opportunities for improvement on the basis of risk to the operation of the scheme (eg Major/minor NCs and observations). However, all deviations which lead to any doubts about the conformity of the product to the specified requirements should be addressed and resolved prior to approval / certification to the scheme.

**On-site Assessments** see Site Visits

**Pre-production Sample** A sample produced in small quantities by the manufacturing site for customer approval, which includes all the components and design elements of the final version. This allows the manufacturing site to validate the manufacturing process for volume production. However, the pre-production sample may utilise different production methods to the final production run and, by the nature of the process, be given more care and attention than possible with the mass-

produced production samples. These so-called Golden Samples are used as the reference point for the production products. This type of sample may be presented to WRAS for Approval in Principle but additional tests may be required on the **Production Sample** to be granted full Approval.

**Primary Approval** means an Approval granted pursuant to the first application for a product and any subsequent renewals of that first Approval.

**Product** means any water fitting, plumbing product, material or component submitted to WRAS for WRAS Approval.

**Product Approvals Advisory Group (PAAG)** is a panel of experienced assessors. The panel do not represent any organisation in undertaking this role. The members are appointed by the WRAS Managing Director. This group review products for compliance with the requirements and objectives of the Scheme and make recommendations to the authorised Decision Maker. Decisions by the PAAG do not indicate endorsement by the Water Companies or any other organisation.

**Production Sample** The final, approved version of the water fitting manufactured and sampled from the production line designated in the application as being the manufacturing site. The sample must be identical to the tested samples, for example it must have the same, components, materials, design and dimensions, marking and conform to the relevant performance testing standards as demonstrated in the application. These are the products that will be offered to consumers.

**Production Quality Assurance Process** is a method of demonstrating a production process will produce products consistently, so that the sample tested is a true representation of the product being placed on the market. E.g. if a product was bought off the shelf, it would pass all the tests required for the approval.

**Quality System (QS)** is a structure or mechanism used by an organisation for managing the quality of their output.

**Quality Management System (QMS)** is a formalised system of documented processes, procedures, and responsibilities for achieving quality policies and objectives. A QMS helps coordinate and direct an organisation's activities to meet customer and regulatory requirements and improve its effectiveness and efficiency on a continuous basis.

**Recognised Test Laboratory** means either a First-Party Test Laboratory or Independent Testing Facility, who's test reports will be accepted by WRAS when submitted as part of a product or material approval. Recognition means written approval provided to the Test Laboratory by WRAS, indicating that WRAS formally recognises laboratory as a Recognised Test Laboratory, so long as such Recognition has not expired or been withdrawn, suspended, terminated or otherwise invalidated.

**Recognised Laboratory List** means the list of Recognised Test Laboratories appearing on the WRAS Website.

**Regulations** means the Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations 1999, the Water Supply (water fittings) (Scotland) Byelaws 2014, and the Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulation (Northern Ireland) 2009, as amended from time to time. References to a numbered 'Regulation' (for example, 'Regulation 4(1)(a)') indicate the relevant regulation in the Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations 1999, and should also be read as references to the equivalent provision in the Water Supply (water fittings) (Scotland) Byelaws 2014, and the Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulation (Northern Ireland) 2009.

**Regulator** means the 'regulator' referred to in the Regulations. In England: Secretary of State for the Environment. For Water Suppliers whose area of appointment is wholly or mainly in Wales: National Assembly of Wales.

**Regulator's Specification** means a specification approved by the Regulator for the performance of water fittings in accordance with the Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations 1999.

**Requirements Documents** means the Approvals Scheme Requirements and the Laboratory Requirements as defined above, in each case as amended and in effect from time to time and made available on the Website.

**Sample** Samples of the Product to be sent for evaluation as part of the Application.

**Sampling** The mechanism used to choose a representative sample of a product for testing.

**Scheme** means the Water Regulations **Approvals** Scheme.

**Scheme Requirements** means the Requirements & Code of Practice for WRAS Product Approvals Scheme as defined in WRAS.Cust-402.

**Secondary Approval** means an Approval granted pursuant to a second Application for a Product; A secondary approval relies on the existence of a Primary Approval and is typically used where the Product has been re-branded but maintains the same mechanical specifications as the Product submitted for Primary Approval and therefore does not require any further mechanical or materials testing.

**Site visit** Where it is impracticable to test a product in an recognised laboratory, WRAS may accept the results of testing by qualified personnel at another site (e.g. the manufacturer's factory or a building development site), where there are adequate quality assurance safeguards.

**Standard(s)**: the applicable National, European and International standard(s), regulations and guides which WRAS Approvals use to assess whether a material or product complies with the requirements of the Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations 1999 and equivalent legislation in Northern Ireland and Scotland.

**Standard Terms of Approval** these standard terms and conditions of WRAS Approvals as amended from time to time.

**Technical file**: the file submitted to WRAS Approvals or processing once mechanical testing has been completed. The file includes, but is not limited to:

- Completed Application Form
- Schedule of materials, any associated formal confirmations/declarations and BS 6920 reports
- Schematics
- Installation guides and manuals where applicable.
- A photograph of the product suitable for inclusion in the on-line Directory.
- Photograph(s) of the product markings suitable for inclusion in the on-line Directory.
- Confirmation of age of test sample (s)
- Test Report(s)
- A summary sheet which includes a draft directory entry, a complete product description and the test inspector's recommendation.

**Testing** Reveals the properties of a material or product under specified conditions, defined by appropriate testing standards or requirements. Tests are designed to ensure that materials or products are suitable for their intended applications

**Test Code Sheets**: Performance specifications which set out the requirements for complying with the Regulators' Specification for water fittings. (See Regulation 4 (2)(d))

**Test laboratory**: A suitably accredited and recognised laboratory which undertakes testing of fittings or materials. WRAS has a comprehensive laboratory recognition scheme and requires materials test laboratories to achieve satisfactory results in inter-laboratory test sample comparisons and recognises only those who achieve this. (see also First Party Laboratory, Independent Test Laboratory, Laboratory Recognition and Third Party Laboratory)

**Third Party Laboratory** – see Independent Test Laboratory



**Water Company** means a person appointed to be the water undertaker under section 6(1) of the Water Industry Act 1991 Act.

**Website** means WRAS's website at [www.wrasapprovals.co.uk](http://www.wrasapprovals.co.uk), or any replacement from time to time.

**WRAS: Water Regulations Approval Scheme Limited (Company number 13032384) is a wholly owned subsidiary of Water Regs UK Limited, (company number 06663930).**

**WRAS Guidance** means the WRAS guidance documentation published at [www.wrasapprovals.co.uk](http://www.wrasapprovals.co.uk) regarding the operation of the Approval Schemes, as amended from time to time.

**WRAS Guidance documentation:** series of guidance documents prepared by WRAS in consultation with others and published on the WRAS Approvals page of the WRAS website. The documents describe the rules governing the Approval Schemes, set out the acceptance criteria and provide a comprehensive guide to the WRAS approval process for manufacturers, suppliers and test laboratories. Guidance documents currently available include:

- Guidance on the application requirements for WRAS product approval.
- Guidance on the requirements for approval of non-metallic materials in fittings
- Sampling matrix

**WRAS Approvals:** the approval schemes operated by the Water Regulations Approval Scheme Limited, for the recognition of products and materials demonstrating compliance with the requirements of the Regulations.

**Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations 1999:** Statutory Instrument (SI) 1999 No. 1148 and amended by SI 1999 No. 1506. Legislation applying to England and Wales, approved by the UK Parliament, which sets out requirements for any plumbing fitting installed or used in premises to which water is supplied by a statutory water supplier. Similar requirements apply in Scotland and Northern Ireland.