



# Water Regulations – Equipment Approvals

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There is some confusion in respect of WRAS Approval of products with many people under the impression that this is mandatory, however, this is not the case.

The following is for clarification of the routes available to demonstrate that equipment meets the requirements of Part 2 Regulation 4(1)(a) of The Water Supply (Water Fittings Regulations 19901), The Water Supply (Water Fittings) (Scotland) Byelaws 2014; The Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009 all of which require that products that are connected to the water supply meet their requirements. A supplier can provide the assurance of this to the customer, installer or water company by their own endorsement and by providing access to the appropriate technical information on request.

**If a product is not WRAS approved, it does not mean that it does not meet the requirements of the regulation nor does it mean that it cannot be connected to the water supply; assuming that it meets the requirements of the previously referenced regulations, however, in this case it is the responsibility of the installer to ensure the supply of wholesome water.**

Meeting the requirement can be achieved as above or by testing and approval by one of the UK's approval schemes. The WRAS Approved Product Scheme has been around for many years, however more recently NSF ([nsf.org/certifiedproducts-systems](http://nsf.org/certifiedproducts-systems)) and Kiwa Watertec ([kiwa.co.uk/waterproducts](http://kiwa.co.uk/waterproducts)) have published approved lists, which could also be used to demonstrate compliance.



## Water Regulations – Equipment Approvals continued

An alternative can be that the product has been tested against the regulator's specification or that it meets an appropriate standard in regard to water fittings Regulation 4 requirements (rather than other aspects such as electrical safety etc). Other resources below:-

- WRAS Approvals website - [www.wrasapprovals.co.uk/](http://www.wrasapprovals.co.uk/)
- Regulation 4 guidance - [www.wras.co.uk/resources/publications/](http://www.wras.co.uk/resources/publications/)
- Designated standards - [www.gov.uk/guidance/designated-standards](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/designated-standards)
- CE/UKCA - [www.gov.uk/guidance/using-the-ukca-marking](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/using-the-ukca-marking)

With regard to expired approvals there is nothing within the regulations which states these have to be accepted, however, a water undertaker might accept them with additional evidence. As a minimum it is anticipated a manufacturer might be asked to demonstrate that nothing had changed since the original approval had been granted, whether this is in terms of function, mechanical performance, design, change to the materials or components, or the material/component manufacturer or supplier.

