
Regulation 4(1)(a)

Compliance
guidance

April 2025 v 2.0

DISCLAIMER AND LIMITATION OF LIABILITY

This document is non-statutory guidance and intended for general guidance purposes only.

No reliance should be placed on this document for the purposes of designing, producing, installing or otherwise dealing with any product. This guidance should not be taken as guaranteeing no enforcement action will be taken in respect of it by water undertakers.

Conformity with this guidance document does not guarantee compliance with 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). Please contact your water undertaker for further information.

The scope of this guidance document is limited to requirements of the regulations in respect of regulation 4(1)(a) of the regulations. Water undertakers retain absolute discretion in assessing whether a water fitting is compliant with regulation 4(1)(a) of the regulations.

The information in this guidance document is subject to change, and it should be noted that standards and regulatory requirements may change over time. Water fittings producers, distributors, installers and all other persons should seek their own legal advice.

For the reasons above, Water Regs UK accepts no liability for loss of goodwill, business, revenue or profits, anticipated savings or wasted expenditure (whether reasonably foreseeable or not) or indirect or consequential loss arising from or in connection with this guidance document.

INTRODUCTION

The regulations 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 provide guidance on the acceptance principles in connection with 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).

Those legally responsible for water fittings in a property are required to provide evidence of compliance. They may obtain this from a variety of sources including the water fitting manufacturer, suppliers, installers, specifiers, certification schemes and test laboratories.

Failure to comply with the regulations is a criminal offence.

For further information on the regulations please refer to the Water Regs UK website www.waterregsuk.co.uk.



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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 includes preventing the contamination and waste of water supplied by a water undertaker once it has entered a customer's plumbing system.

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.

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

The requirements relating to this 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 parts 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', unless paragraph 2(2) of Schedule 2 applies:
'...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 makes provision for the prevention of backflow, including ensuring every water system has adequate device or devices to prevent backflow of fluid from any appliance, fitting or process.

Guidance and information 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.

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

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, as compliance with all parts of the regulations, or as compliance for all uses of a particular fitting.

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 different routes by which to demonstrate compliance with this requirement.

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 difficult to confirm compliance when installed.

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

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 different routes by which compliance with this requirement can be demonstrated.

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

- *an appropriate British Standard or some other national specification which provides an equivalent level of protection and performance; or*
- *a specification approved by the regulator [as defined in the Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations 1999].*

Please note:

The scope of this guidance document 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 all of which must be met in order to comply with the regulations. For example, suitability for use under regulation 4(1)(b) and product specific or installation requirements under regulations 4(3) and 4(5).

To be considered as acceptable by a water undertaker, evidence of conformity with an appropriate performance specification should demonstrate all applicable tests required to claim conformity have been undertaken and satisfied. That is to say it can be demonstrated a water fitting conforms in all, as opposed to in some or most, 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 that system must also comply with the requirements of Schedule 2 paragraph 2(1) of the regulations. If Schedule 2 paragraph 2(1) is not considered to be addressed by conformity with a mechanical performance specification, then separate evidence of conformity with the current versions of BS 6920 (or equivalent) will be required for non-metallic materials or components in contact with water. 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. In the context of mechanical performance, those routes all require conformity with an appropriate mechanical performance specification.

For the purposes of regulation 4(2) or any applicable parts of Schedule 2 to be considered as appropriate a mechanical performance specification should: -

- Be current and fall within one of the routes set out in Regulation 4(2) and where applicable product specific requirements set out in schedule 2;
- Demonstrate a water fitting 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 should be covered by the specification scope

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 paragraph 15 of schedule 2. Paragraph 15(5) of Schedule 2 states a backflow prevention device is adequate for the purposes of paragraph 15(1) if it is in accordance with a specification approved by the regulator for the purposes of this Schedule.

More generally regulation 4(2)(c) includes provision for accepting a national specification as long as it provides an equivalent level of protection and performance to an appropriate British Standard. National specifications 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.

ACCEPTABLE EVIDENCE OF COMPLIANCE

There are different 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 it conforms to–

- *an appropriate British Standard or some other national specification which provides an equivalent level of protection and performance; or*
- *a specification approved by the regulator[as defined in the Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations 1999].*

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. Marking (as appropriate) in accordance with the Construction Products Regulations
2. Water fitting certification
3. Performance testing reports

1. CONSTRUCTION PRODUCTS REGULATIONS

Appropriate marking against the Construction Products Regulations (CPR) [as amended] is one way to demonstrate a water fitting is of an appropriate quality and standard.

The CPR set out conditions for placing construction products on the market within the UK. Supporting the CPR are a number of designated standards which provide rules on how to demonstrate, by means of essential characteristics and acceptable markings, that a product complies with this legislation.

There is a legal duty to withdraw any UK standards/specifications which are in conflict with the essential characteristics stated in a designated standard. Requirements of the regulations which do not relate to or conflict with the essential characteristics identified in a designated standard continue to apply and will be enforced by water undertakers.

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

If an essential characteristic is stated in general rather than specific terms (e.g. 'shall be constructed to prevent ...' or 'shall incorporate...') then evidence of compliance may be requested to confirm the regulations have been complied with (e.g. evidence of conformity with an appropriate British Standard or the Regulators' Specification may be requested).

To be accepted as evidence of compliance with regulation 4(1)(a) a declaration of performance (DoP) which includes all UK reporting requirements will be required and where appropriate an attachment to the DoP.

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 may request further information.

To complete the assessment process, and where necessary to confirm compliance with the regulations, water undertakers may 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 (identifying the materials used in the construction of each component and any sub-assembly and detail the evidence of regulation 4(1)(a) conformity).
- Installation instructions and any other relevant technical information.
- Sufficient means of confirming the identity of the water fitting.

Water undertakers are not responsible for withdrawing conflicting requirements of the regulations and obligations under UK law.

Please note:

Other regulations, and designated standards may also apply to water fittings and assemblies of water fittings.

Where water is required to be wholesome, conformity with BS 6920 (or equivalent) for all non-metallic components in contact with water is required. If there is an essential characteristic for non-metallic materials within a designated 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 is likely to request further information to confirm the requirements of the regulations have been met.

If a requirement for materials is described in general terms, or not covered at all, in the designated standard separate evidence of BS 6920 conformity (or equivalent) should be provided. Please refer to the guidance document 'BS 6920 Compliance Overview' for further information.

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

Please refer to Construction Products Regulations further information on page 16.

2. WATER FITTING CERTIFICATION

Confirmation that a water fitting 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 may request further information about such certification to verify compliance with regulation 4(1)(a).

To demonstrate compliance with regulation 4(1)(a) the certification should 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, that tests have 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 Accreditation Forum (IAF) 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.

- Made 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) conforms 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 an appropriate level of information is not publicly available water undertakers will require further details to confirm compliance.

To complete the assessment process, water undertakers may 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 (identifying the materials used in the construction of each component and any sub-assembly and detail the evidence of regulation 4(1)(a) conformity).
- Installation instructions and any other relevant technical information.
- Sufficient 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.

Where water is required to be wholesome, acceptable evidence of conformity with the current versions 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 this separate evidence of conformity will be required. To be suitable for use this will need to demonstrate the scope of the specification the non-metallic materials conform to covers the full temperature operating range these products are intended to be exposed to. Please refer to the guidance document 'BS 6920 Compliance Overview' for further information.

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

Markings should be sufficient to verify identity. If not supplementary acceptable evidence to confirm the identity of the fitting should be provided.

As required under Schedule 2 paragraph 5, to be suitable for use the scope of the certification should 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.

UKAS provides a search facility which enables users to confirm whether an organisation is accredited by them. All organisation accredited by UKAS will have a unique reference number for each standard against which they are accredited, for example ISO/IEC 17065, 17025 or 17020. The website will also list the accreditation scope, which details where and what activities are accredited under that unique accreditation number <https://www.ukas.com/search-accredited-organisations/>

Please refer to water fitting certification further information on page 18.

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 demonstrate compliance with regulation 4(1)(a) test reports should be:

- Provided in English. Either the original test report, a translation approved by the issuing organisation or a certified electronic copy should be provided; a précis or summary is not acceptable.
- A water undertaker should 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. Water undertakers may consider test reports issued by non-accredited test facilities provided they are able to demonstrate an acceptable level of competency and ability to produce accurate and reproducible tests.

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

As regulation 4(2) provides for alternative routes, individual water fittings should demonstrate compliance with regulation 4(1)(a) by conformity with a performance specification, not a mixing and matching of clauses from different specifications or routes specified in regulation 4(2). Evidence of compliance with different performance specifications may be acceptable as evidence of compliance for individual water fittings making up an assembly. That is to say different routes to demonstrate compliance may be used for constituent parts of an assembly where these are water fittings in their own right.

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

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

Please note: as required under Schedule 2 paragraph 5, all water fittings should 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, should be tested in accordance with the requirements of the relevant performance specification.

For all other types of water fittings/assemblies, if not part of a range, the water fitting in question should 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 should be included in the test report. If the markings are insufficient to verify identity, supplementary evidence to confirm the identity of the fitting should be provided
- All test reports irrespective of the test date should 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 may 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 (identifying the materials used in the construction of each component and any sub-assembly and detail the evidence of regulation 4(1)(a) conformity).
- Installation instructions and any other relevant technical information.
- Sufficient means of confirming the identity of the water fitting.

Where water is required to be wholesome, acceptable evidence of conformity with the current versions BS 6920 (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 is likely to request further information to confirm conformity with the current versions 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 should demonstrate the scope of the specification the non-metallic materials conform to covers the full temperature operating range they are intended to be exposed to.

UKAS provides a search facility which enables users to confirm whether an organisation is accredited by them. All organisation accredited by UKAS will have a unique reference number for each standard against which they are accredited, for example ISO/IEC 17065, 17025 or 17020. The website will also list the accreditation scope, which details where and what activities are accredited under that unique accreditation number <https://www.ukas.com/search-accredited-organisations/>

Please refer to performance testing reports further information on page 20 & 22.

Construction Products Regulations

Please note:

The following is non-statutory guidance drawing attention to information relating to questions which water undertakers may consider when determining compliance with regulation 4(1)(a) only.

Providing this information does not guarantee acceptance.

Whilst specific testing requirements set out in an essential requirement of a CPR designated standard 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 may 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 designated 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 may also request:

- 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 (identifying the materials used in the construction of each component and any sub-assembly and detail the evidence of regulation 4(1)(a) conformity).
- Installation instructions and any other relevant technical information.
- Sufficient means of confirming the identity of the water fitting.

Relevant questions to be considered:

- Is the marking against a current designated standard falling under the scope of the Construction Products Regulations?
- Does the scope of the designated standard cover the water fitting in question?
- Does the scope of the designated 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 is likely to be requested to confirm this element 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 should be sufficient to verify identity, if not supplementary evidence to confirm identity should be provided.

Water fitting certification

Please note:

The following is non-statutory guidance drawing attention to information relating to product certification / questions which water undertakers may consider when determining compliance with regulation 4(1)(a) only.

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 may 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 (identifying the materials used in the construction of each component and any sub-assembly and detail the evidence of regulation 4(1)(a) conformity).
- Installation instructions and any other relevant technical information.
- Sufficient means of confirming the identity of the water fitting.

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

Relevant questions to be considered

- Is the certification current and publicly available? The water fitting in question should 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 British Standard (or equivalent) or a specification approved by the Regulator?
- Can the certification scheme certifying the water fitting 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 Forum (IAF) 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, should 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 should 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 should be provided.

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

Please note:

The following is non-statutory guidance drawing attention to information relating to conformity with an appropriate British Standard or equivalent / questions which water undertakers may consider when determining compliance with regulation 4(1)(a) only.

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 may 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 (identifying the materials used in the construction of each component and any sub-assembly and detail the evidence of regulation 4(1)(a) conformity).
- Installation instructions and any other relevant technical information.
- Sufficient 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 British Standard requires conformity with BS 6920 as a specific rather than general requirement a water undertaker is likely request further information to confirm conformity with the current version of BS 6920.

Evidence of BS 6920 (or equivalent) conformity should 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.

Relevant questions to be considered:

To demonstrate conformity with an appropriate British Standard (or equivalent) a test report should:

- Be provided in English.

- Be either the original test report, a translation approved by the issuing organisation or a certified electronic copy: 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 should 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, should also be provided.

- Confirm testing has 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 should be provided. Water undertakers may consider test reports issued by non-accredited test facilities provided they are able to demonstrate an acceptable level of competency and ability to produce accurate and reproducible tests. 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 designs and sizes of backflow prevention devices and arrangements, including those in an appliance.
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).
- 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. Is the marking insufficient to verify identity? If not supplementary evidence to confirm identity should be provided.
- All test reports should be supported by an acceptable manufacturer's declaration. This should 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.

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

Please note:

The following is non-statutory guidance drawing attention to information relating to conformity with a specification approved by the Regulator / questions which water undertakers may consider when determining compliance with regulation 4(1)(a) only.

Providing this information does not guarantee acceptance.

The Regulators' Specification for fittings is made up of a number of individual test code sheets (TCS) which have been approved by the Secretary of State pursuant to the regulations. To claim conformity, compliance with all applicable TCS should be evidenced.

Please note: this guidance 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 may 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. (identifying the materials used in the construction of each component and any sub-assembly and detail the evidence of regulation 4(1)(a) conformity).
- Installation instructions and any other relevant technical information.
- Sufficient 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 will also be required.

Evidence of BS 6920 (or equivalent) conformity should 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.

Relevant questions to be considered:

To demonstrate evidence of conformity with the Regulators' Specification test report should:

- Be provided in English.

- Be either the original test report, a translation approved by the issuing organisation or a certified electronic copy: 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 should 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, should also be provided.

- Confirm testing has 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 should be provided. Water undertakers may consider test reports issued by non-accredited test facilities provided they are able to demonstrate an acceptable level of competency and ability to produce accurate and reproducible tests. 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.

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. Is the marking insufficient to verify identity? If not supplementary evidence to confirm identity should be provided.
- All test reports should be supported by an acceptable manufacturer's declaration. This should 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.