

## Approved Contractor Fact Sheet

### Purpose

To explain the roles and responsibilities of Approved Contractors, Approved Contractor Schemes and WaterSafe

### What is an Approved Contractor?

An individual approved by a water company or an organisation that has been authorised by the Regulator. This approval can be limited for specific types of work on private plumbing systems only. Approved Contractors are not approved to work on water company assets.



**Plumbers:** Approved to work on all parts of a plumbing system, from the external supply pipe right up to the kitchen and bathroom taps.



**Water Supply Pipe Installers or Groundworkers:** Approved to work on the supply pipe (the underground pipe) supplying your property, up to the internal stop valve.



**Catering Installers:** Approved to install commercial kitchen equipment.



**Point of Use Installers:** Are approved to install cold water chillers or coolers connected directly to the mains.



**RPZ Valve Testers:** Approved to commission and test RPZ backflow prevention valves.

### What can Approved Contractors do?

- ✓ They work on private plumbing not water company assets
- ✓ They do not need to notify some types of work in advance (subject to scope of membership)
- ✓ They are required to issue a work completed certificate stating whether the work complies with the requirements of the water fittings regulations or Scottish Byelaws.

### What are the joining requirements?

- ✓ Approved contractors must have an appropriate Water fittings regulations/Byelaws qualification. Approved plumbers must also have a recognised plumbing qualification
- ✓ Approved business must have appropriate insurance
- ✓ Approved Businesses and Approved Contractors must meet their scheme requirements

### Who are the Approved Contractors Schemes?

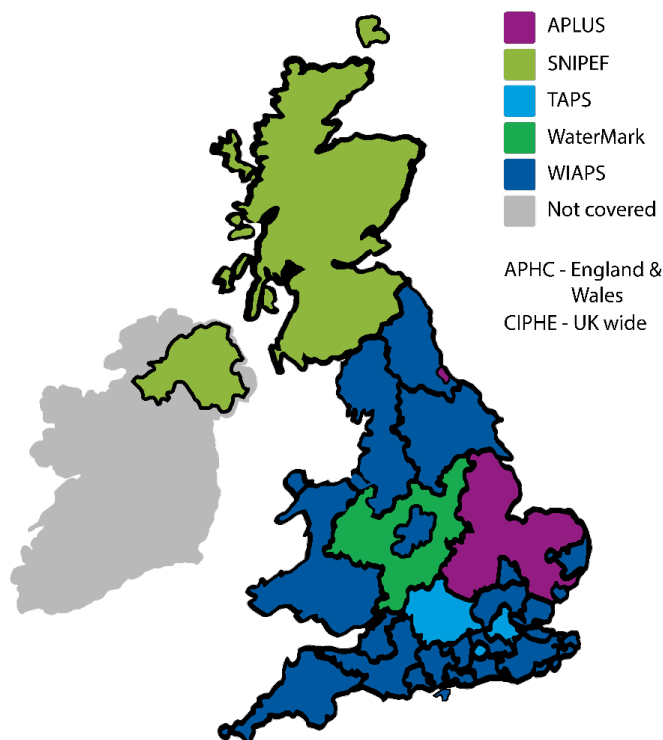
There are seven Approved Contractor Schemes:

- 1 APLUS – operated by Anglian Water
- 2 TAPS – operated by Thames Water
- 3 WaterMark - operated by Severn Trent Water
- 4 WIAPS – operated by Water Regs UK on behalf of fourteen water companies.
- 5 APHC operates in England and Wales
- 6 CIPHE operates across the UK
- 7 SNIPEF operates in Scotland and Northern Ireland

Each of the seven approved contractors' scheme are responsible for:

- Marketing and communication with their members,
- applications,
- renewals,
- audits,
- complaints,
- administering their own website and uploading membership details on to the WaterSafe website.

### Approved Contractor Scheme areas



## What is WaterSafe?



WaterSafe is an umbrella brand to allow members of the seven Approved Contractors schemes to be found on the WaterSafe website.

WaterSafe is responsible for the WaterSafe website and search function. It also provides communications to raise awareness with consumers and encourage installers to join WaterSafe through one of schemes.

It does not administer membership applications, membership renewals, audits or complaints.

### The benefit of WaterSafe

A single brand helps to promote all approved contractors. A central website makes it easier for consumers to find an approved contractor in one place rather than searching multiple separate schemes.

**"It's a great way  
to show that you  
are a professional  
plumber."**

WaterSafe member

### Benefits of joining

Top three reasons Approved Contractors join WaterSafe:

- 1 Free promotion – online listing /branding
- 2 Customer reassurance
- 3 Direct link to local water company