

Water Regulations Advisory Committee
22nd May 2003
Room 6ab, Ashdown House

Those Present:

Members

Professor Swaffield (Chair)	WRAC
Richard Clayton	WRAC
Geoff Marsh	WRAC
Terry Stephenson	WRAC
Andrew Hutchinson	WRAC
David Hodges	WRAC
David Gibson	WRAC

Observers

David Howarth	Environment Agency
Steve Tuckwell	WRAS
Keith Pratley	Dwr Cymru Welsh Water

Secretariat

Peter Jiggins	Rob Mynard	Nicola Clarke	Grant Gahagan
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Apologies

Mike Waite	DWI
Ray Cummings	Northern Ireland Water Service
Mike Johnson	ODPM/Building Regulations Division
Gareth Jones	WRAS/Wessex Water

1. Introductions & aim of meeting

- a. Professor Swaffield outlined the aim of this meeting; to review the output of the three working groups to enable the Committee to finalise its conclusions from this exercise. It was also reported that Roger Emmet had tendered his resignation from WRAC. Those present noted their appreciation for his input to the work of the Committee.

2. EWG conclusions

- a. The Chairman of the Enforcement Working Group, Professor Swaffield, invited the group to give comments on the draft conclusions paper. There was considerable discussion of how WRAC would like to see the notification requirement amended in light of the Notification Forum. The Secretariat would amend the paper to reflect the comments made.

Action: Secretariat

- b. Keith Pratley updated the group on progress with the Water Industry's Best Practice Manual for enforcement of the Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations 1999. The group were very pleased with the response to WRAC's recommendation and the good progress that had been made. Among other

comments, WRAC was keen to see the arrangements for its review formalised, in order to ensure the manual continued to reflect developments in best practice.

3. PWG conclusions

- a. Geoff Marsh, Chairman of the Plumbing Working Group, gave the group a brief overview of progress of the PWG. Working with the water industry and plumbing organisations, there had generally been a high quality of discussion with the aim of bringing the eight different Approved Contractor schemes into a common framework. This would require further work to achieve, but a sound start had been made.
- b. The members provided a number of comments on the draft PWG conclusions. These were recorded by the Secretariat and would be incorporated into the final paper.

Action: Secretariat

4. Recommendation 10

- a. The group briefly discussed the paper prepared by Professor Swaffield on the future of WRAC beyond July 2003. Views were put forward on the need for Defra to have access to impartial technical advice and the ways in which the objectives of the Regulations could continue to be met, as well as the possible need for an ongoing advisory group. The group were asked to send any additional comments to Professor Swaffield by 30 May 2003.

Action: WRAC

5. TWG conclusions

- a. As chair of the Technical Working Group, Professor Swaffield briefed the members on the progress of the TWG. The group then discussed the draft conclusions of the TWG, with a number of changes agreed for inclusion in the final paper.

Action: Secretariat

6. Relaxation requests

- a. It was reported that, following WRAC's endorsement at the TWG meeting on 31 March 2003, there was no progress to report on the relaxation request for the retrofitting of dual/interruptible flushing devices. The Secretariat undertook to inform the Committee once the Minister had made a decision.
- b. The relaxation request received from WRAS relating to an unvented hot water storage heater was discussed at the meeting of the TWG on 31 March 2003, when it was agreed that more information was needed before a decision could be reached. Following the submission of further information the consensus view of the Committee was to advise the Minister to accept a relaxation of the Regulations subject to the review of Part G of the Building Regulations which will be occurring next year.

Action: Secretariat

7. Next Steps

- a. The Secretariat agreed to revise the draft conclusion papers and circulate to the Committee for final approval, prior to its submission to Ministers. The final WRAC meeting of this term would be on 9 July, when it was decided to invite back previous WRAC Members and Observers.

Action: Secretariat

8. AOB

- a. No other business was reported.

WRAC Secretariat
May 2003