

**Water Regulations Advisory Committee  
Technical Working Group (TWG)  
22<sup>nd</sup> November 2002  
Room 4, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Ashdown House**

**Those Present:**

**Members**

Professor Swaffield (Chair)	WRAC
Richard Clayton	WRAC
Mike Rymill	WRAC
Andrew Hutchinson	WRAC
David Hodges	WRAC
Mike Johnson	ODPM/Building Regulations Division
Kevin English	Caroma UK

**Secretariat**

Peter Jiggins	Rob Mynard	Grant Gahagan
---------------	------------	---------------

**Apologies**

David Gibson	WRAC
Roger Emmet	WRAC
Steve Tuckwell	Water Regulations Advisory Scheme (WRAS)
Ed Smith	Anglian Water/Water UK

**1. Introductions**

- a. Professor Swaffield gave the Group an overview of the aims of this meeting.

**2. Matters arising from minutes of 2 September 2002**

- a. It was noted that paragraph 5 about the self-certification arrangements for water fittings should have referred to 'some' manufacturers.

**3. Relaxation requests**

- a. It was reported that WRAS had recently visited Heriot Watt University to carry out tests on the effectiveness of interruptible flushing devices. Only one device was used in the trial. The test method involved stopping the flush after predetermined lengths of time, so the actual design of the device should make little difference to the results. The tests examined the ability of the device to clear solids and paper from the WC pan and a 15m drainage pipe at full volume, 60% flush time and 40% flush time. A preliminary analysis of the results raised concerns over the ability of lower flush volumes to clear solids from the pipe. These results did not allay the Group's concerns about the likelihood of interruptible flushing devices causing blocked drains.
- b. The Group then discussed the relaxation request for retrofitted dual flush devices. It was felt that the lower flush volume of a dual flush device would give a similar performance to that at the lower flush volumes in the interruptible flushing test. This led to similar concerns that in certain situations retrofitted dual flush devices could also cause blockages on lower settings. It was agreed that the Group needed more specific evidence on the performance of retrofitted interruptible and dual flush devices before they could make a decision. It was agreed that this issue should be considered and discussed in more detail when the full report from the WRAS tests becomes available.

**4. Dye test clarification**

- a. The Group had previously agreed that guidance was needed to clarify the post-flush procedure in the liquid contaminant dye retention test in the Regulator's Specification for WC suites. The Secretariat proposed to write to interested parties outlining its intention to issue further guidance, after which a decision could be taken on the most suitable way to proceed. Members supported this course of action.

**Action: Secretariat**

**5. National Water Conservation Group work on product labelling**

- a. The Group was informed of the work to date on developing water efficiency ratings for product labels, as now proposed by the Market Transformation Programme (MTP).
- b. Mike Rymill reported on a recent meeting between the Bathroom Manufacturers Association (BMA) and MTP. With regards water conservation, he explained that manufacturers wanted to see showering promoted over bathing and a greater push from Government to promote water efficient products. Members of the BMA had also indicated that they were unlikely to support the development of water efficiency ratings for product labels. The BMA was, however, working to produce a leaflet to advise the public about water conservation.

**6. Draft conclusions of TWG**

- a. The Group worked through the draft conclusions paper and identified a number of points that required clarification or amendment. The Secretariat undertook to produce a revised version to form part of WRAC's response to the Minister once the other Working Groups had reached their conclusions.

**Action: Secretariat**

**7. Date of next meeting**

- a. No date was fixed for the next meeting of the TWG. The Secretariat would advise if and when this was necessary.

**WRAC Secretariat**

November 2002