



## ***Sector Worker Scheme - Terms and Conditions***

*(Operated By SNIPEF)*

*Type BA Backflow Device (RPZ valve) Tester*

## TERMS AND CONDITIONS

**This document has been prepared to provide a guide to members' obligations and responsibilities under the Sector Worker Schemes for Scotland & Northern Ireland for Type BA Backflow Device (RPZ Valve) Tester Scheme operated by SNIPEF.**

The scheme has been specifically designed to cover testing and commissioning work carried out on Type BA Backflow Devices (RPZ Valve). RPZ testers are recognised for their competency in undertaking a limited scope of work which complies with the Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations 1999 (England and Wales), The Water Supply (Water Fittings)(Scotland) Byelaws 2014 and The Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009. There are no formal plumbing qualifications to gain approval status other than to sit an assessment of the industry recognised RPZ tester assessment. Please note only Approved Plumbers can issue certificates of compliance for the installation of RPZ valves.

Principals, Partners, Directors or others responsible for membership to this scheme, should read this document carefully, to confirm that the business will meet the requirements of this scheme **before** signing the declaration on the application form.

Any person testing/commissioning Type BA Backflow Devices (RPZ Valve) should be fully aware of the industry recognised Water Undertakers' Approved Installation Method (AIM) [click here](#) to view

### **Type BA Backflow Device (RPZ Valve) Tester**

Type BA backflow protection devices are more commonly known as Reduced Pressure Zone valves or RPZ valves. It is a legal requirement to have these devices checked on an annual basis, to ensure they provide the backflow protection required.

To become an RPZ tester the individual needs to:

- Must hold an approved RPZ Valve Tester qualification which has been recognised by the scheme and endorsed by the UK water undertakers for the purpose of the AIM.
- Provide evidence of having a current UKAS calibration certificate for testing equipment which should be provided to the scheme on an annual basis as well as photographic evidence of the calibration kit. (***Calibration tests should be carried out by current UKAS accredited centres and their UKAS number provided to the scheme when submitting the UKAS Accredited test certificate.***)
- Submit commissioning certificates to the water undertaker within 10 days of the test being conducted together with photographic evidence.

### **Scope of work- (RPZ Valve) Tester**

RPZ testers can only perform operations and tasks associated with the commissioning and compliance testing of RPZ valves. The purpose is to verify conformity with the Approved installation Methods (AIM) and the Regulations through reporting observations, test results and failures when they occur.

Individual approved RPZ Valve Testers are **NOT** Approved Contractors as defined in the Regulations and are therefore not exempt from the notification requirements set out in Regulation 5 and are not permitted to issue certificates of compliance. The only exception to this is where an individual is also a current Approved Contractor.

In regards, to work associated with installing or replacing RPZ valves, these activities are outside the scope of the RPZ Valve Tester sector scheme. All installations of Type BA backflow protection devices (RPZ) must meet the requirements of the Water Undertakers' Approved Installation Method (AIM). RPZ valves installations are notifiable under the requirements of the Water Regulations/Byelaws.

**a) PUBLIC AND EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY INSURANCE**

Sector Worker Schemes are required to hold appropriate insurances and at a minimum Public Liability Insurance of at least £2m and appropriate Employers' Liability Insurance where necessary.

**b) CHANGES IN CIRCUMSTANCES**

Sector Worker Schemes should notify SNIPEF immediately of any "changes in circumstances" within the company that may affect the Sector Worker Scheme. Changes in staff who are members of the Scheme should be reported to SNIPEF within 7 working days.

**c) WATERSAFE**

WaterSafe is an online search facility partially funded by the Water Industry to help customers find competent and qualified contractors in Scotland, England, Northern Ireland and Wales. As the scheme is approved by WaterSafe your company details will appear under the WaterSafe website as well as the names of the RPZ (valve) testers. As of April 2024, an additional annual subscription is payable to WaterSafe at their current fees. The company and the RPZ testers must agree to the terms and conditions of WaterSafe [click here](#)

**d) INSPECTIONS/AUDIT OF WORK**

As Contractors, undertaking work in accordance with the Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations 1999 and The Water Supply (Water Fittings) (Scotland) Byelaws 2014 and/or Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009, work undertaken by the RPZ tester maybe subject to an onsite inspection and audit by Scottish Water or Northern Ireland Water. SNIPEF, as the scheme operator may carry out a desktop audit at any time during your membership.

**e) CONDITIONS OF MEMBERSHIP**

- SNIPEF reserves the right to terminate the scheme at any time for whatever reason without prior notification.
- SNIPEF reserves the right to alter and/or amend the terms and conditions of membership without prior notice.
- Membership of this scheme is on an annual basis and is renewable each year. Non-payment of these fees will result in the contractor being suspended or terminated from the Scheme. SNIPEF may increase the subscription on an annual basis.

- SNIPEF reserves the right to refuse any application for membership at its sole discretion.
- SNIPEF reserve the right to terminate a contractor's membership and remove the company from the relevant websites if the contractor is found to be carrying out work which is not in accordance with the regulations.
- The Sector Worker scheme is a separate scheme to the SNIPEF Approved Contractor Scheme and does not include the Guarantee of Work Scheme.
- Members who fail to comply with the terms and conditions of the scheme, will be removed from the scheme and their details shared with other WaterSafe approved contractor scheme operators. Scottish Water and Northern Ireland Water will also be notified.

f) **DISPUTES**

Any disputes between the customer and the Sector Worker Scheme should be referred to the Scheme Provider. It shall be the role of the Scheme Provider to mediate the dispute, between both sides. Scottish Water or Northern Ireland Water may carry out an inspection and notify SNIPEF of its findings. SNIPEF can only investigate a dispute around the technical competency of work carried out by a Sector Worker Scheme SNIPEF cannot mediate on contractual issues or on costings. The Sector Worker Scheme must respond to a complaint within 10 days of receiving it. For details of the dispute procedure please refer to *Appendix A*

g) **APPEALS**

In the event that either party disputes the decision of the Scheme Provider, they can refer the complaint to the Appeals Panel. The Appeals Panel will consist of a selection of suitably competent individuals selected by the Scheme Provider. Any such decision made by this Panel will be final and non-negotiable with all parties being bound by this decision.

h) **TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP**

A Sector Worker Scheme will cease being a member of the scheme if:

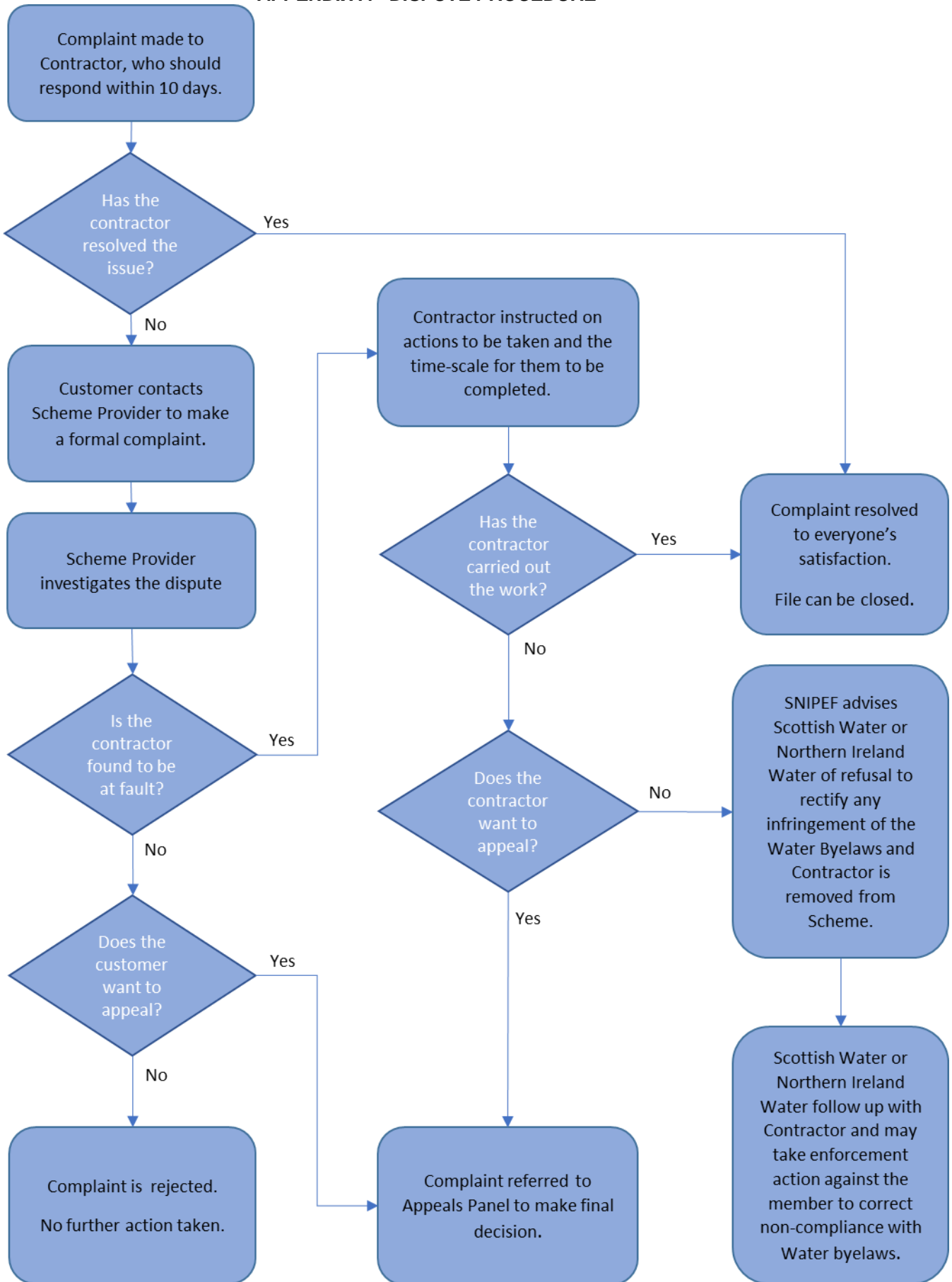
- The Sector Worker Scheme does not employ any individual and will need to re-apply to the scheme upon employing another Support worker.
- The Sector Worker Scheme breaches the Scheme's terms and conditions.
- The appropriate annual subscription is not received.

***In which case:***

- The Sector Worker Scheme should return their membership certificate and any other documents relating to the scheme.

- The Sector Worker Scheme must, with immediate effect, cease advertising that they are a member of the scheme by removing all promotional material from their stationery etc
- The Sector Worker Scheme will be removed from the relevant websites.

**APPENDIX A - DISPUTE PROCEDURE**



***What if things go wrong?***

- If there is a complaint regarding the work undertaken by a Sector Worker Scheme this should be raised in the first instance with the Contractor
- If the complaint cannot be resolved, then the customer should write to

The Scheme Provider at:

*Scheme Manager  
Sector Worker Schemes  
Bellevue House  
22 Hopetoun Street  
Edinburgh, EH7 4GH*