

➤ **HOW TO CALCULATE AN APPRENTICE WAGE RATE**

Your apprentice is eligible for an increase in wages at different times in the year. This can be triggered by:

1. **Industry wage** (*currently takes place each July*)
2. **National Minimum/Living Wage** (NMW or NLW) (*currently takes place each April*)
3. **Anniversary of their apprenticeship** (*a year from the commencement* of their apprenticeship when entering 2nd, 3rd or 4th year*)
4. **Apprentice’s birthday** (*becoming a year older may trigger the NMW or NLW rate*)

**the commencement date is as stated on the SNIJIB Training and Registration Agreement*

➤ **APPRENTICE WAGE READY RECKONER**

You can use this **current online** ready reckoner below when your apprentice triggers any of the 4 above. Your apprentice must receive the higher of either the NMW/NLW or the SNIJIB wage rate applicable for their year of apprenticeship.

PLUMBING APPRENTICE WAGE				
Incorporating the national minimum/ living wage <u>and</u> the SNIJIB rates**				
Age	1st Year	2nd Year	3rd Year	4th Year
16	£7.55**	n/a	n/a	n/a
17	£7.55**	£7.55**	n/a	n/a
18	£7.55**	£10.00**	£10.00**	n/a
19	£7.55**	£10.00**	£10.00**	£10.39
20	£7.55**	£10.00**	£10.00**	£10.39
21	£7.55**	£12.21**	£12.21**	£12.21**

** Effective from 1 April 2025 taking account of the National Minimum Wage increase.

➤ **Explaining the minimum wages for Apprentice plumbers**

The apprentice must receive the NMW / NLW or the SNIJIB wage rate applicable for their year of apprenticeship (**the higher of the two must be paid**- see ready reckoner above).

✓ 1st Step: Consider whether an apprentice is in their 1st Year **or** is 17 years or younger

Apprentices who are in their first 12 months of their apprenticeship: £6.40

If the SNIJIB wage rate is higher it should be paid.

✓ 2nd Step: **If not in 1st year, match the apprentice's age to the NMW / NLW rates**

The Apprentice NMW rate for apprentices who are 17 years and under: £7.55

If the SNIJIB wage rate is higher it should be paid.

The NMW rate for apprentice workers applies for those aged 18-20 years: £10.00

If the SNIJIB wage rate is higher it should be paid.

The NMW rate for apprentice workers applies for those aged 21 and over: £12.21

If the SNIJIB wage rate is higher it should be paid.

Be aware of your employer obligations:

- Failing to pay the NMW / NLW will result in HMRC issuing a notice of underpayment which encompasses:
 - A penalty to the Secretary of State set at **200%** of the total underpayment. Serious cases will be triable in the Sheriff Court.
 - Wage arrears. The calculation of arrears is carried out using current NMW / NLW rates. Where an employee worked in both age bands during their employment the calculation of arrears is calculated using the current rate for the bands the employee served.
- Employers who fail to produce records to a worker on request may be subject to a complaint sent from the worker to an Employment Tribunal which can impose a penalty for failure to produce the required records;
- Where a Tribunal or Civil Court is making a decision on a NMW / NLW case the burden will always be on the employer to prove that the NMW / NLW has been paid.
- It is a criminal offence to refuse to pay the NMW / NLW, obstruct compliance officers or not keep proper records.
- It is against the law to dismiss a worker because of NMW / NLW. To do so would incur a claim of unfair dismissal.