



# SNIPEF

## Local Authority Building Standards Scotland (LABSS)

### Partners in Compliance Certification Awareness Seminar

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# SNIPEF

- What is SNIPEF?
- The Approved Certifier of Construction Scheme – Drainage, Heating and Plumbing
- Benefits of the Scheme to all those involved in achieving compliance with standards in buildings in Scotland



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# What is SNIPeF?

- The Scottish and Northern Ireland Plumbing Employers' Federation
- The principal trade association representing the interests of plumbing and heating businesses based in Scotland and Northern Ireland
- Formed in 1923



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# What is SNIPPEF?

- Pension Scheme formed 1975, allowing all operatives at every level to contribute to a fund for their retirement
- 1980s SNIPPEF Training Services - manages the Modern Apprenticeship scheme in Scotland



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# What is SNIPeF?

- 2011 - World Plumbing Conference in Edinburgh:
  - promoting the global importance of the plumbing industry to public health and
  - the recognition that sustainable health is not possible without access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation facilities.



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# What is SNIPeF?

- Around 750 member firms, 3500 staff, 700 apprentices
- Manage the modern apprenticeship scheme in Scotland – 2014 intake 10% increase on last year.



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# SNIPEF

- Deliver training e.g. Water Byelaws, Legionella Risk Assessment and Disinfection
- Operate the Plumbing Industry Licensing Scheme: developed in 2002 to increase the professionalism of the plumbing industry





# SNIPEF and ACCS

## Approved Certifier of Construction Scheme – Drainage, Heating and Plumbing

- Approved by the Scottish Ministers as the Scheme provider on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2009
- Currently have 72 Approved Bodies and 94 Approved Certifiers



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65% certificates issued relate to above or below ground drainage





# SNIPEF and ACCS

We are responsible for:

- Administration of the Scheme
- Complaints and appeals
- Regular reports to BSD on Scheme membership, certificates issued and any issues arising



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# ACCS

- Administration: Head of Certification  
*Technical Officer*  
Membership Services  
*Assistant Head of*  
*Dept*  
  
Administrative Staff  
*Two staff members*





# ACCS

- Technical inspectors
  - selected for their experience, technical knowledge and impartiality
  - Many belong to more than one professional technical organisation.



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# ACCS

- Complaints and appeals
  - Complaints: from the applicant for a Building Warrant, a Verifier, a Local Authority, another Approved Certifier, another Scheme provider or the Building Standards Division
  - Appeals: from those not accepted into the Scheme





# ACCS

- Regular reports to BSD on Scheme membership, certificates issued and any issues arising



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# Disciplinary Panel

- Plumbing Industry Licensing Board (PILB) provides representatives for the :
  - ✓ Disciplinary Panel
  - ✓ Appeals Panel

The board members include independent individuals from Scottish Water, Northern Ireland Water, Trading Standards and a legal representative.





# Approved Bodies

- Must employ at least one Approved Certifier of Construction (Drainage, Heating and Plumbing)
- Must be insured



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# Approved Bodies

- Must abide by the Scheme Code of Conduct
- ✓ Code governs Scheme members, SNIPeF employees, and any Board or Panel member
- ✓ All involved must act with integrity and fairness



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# Approved Certifier

- Must be an Advanced or Technician Plumber or Heating Engineer or Heating Technician (as per Joint Industry Board grading scheme)
- Hold Water Byelaws qualification
- Have at least 2 years' supervisory experience in the industry



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# Approved Certifier

- Undertake the approved Building Standards course every 3 years:
  - Initial training one day
  - Subsequent refresher course to provide updates



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# Certification Co-ordinator

- Checks and countersigns certificates completed by Approved Certifier
- Maintains “log book” of certificates



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# Scope of the Scheme

- Above ground drainage – includes all pipe work for waste water and surface water installations up to the connection with below ground drainage.
- Includes greywater recycling and rainwater harvesting systems.





# Scope of the Scheme

- Below ground drainage – includes pipework in gravity operated and pumped systems to the connection point at the public drain, septic tank, soakaway or Sustainable Urban Drainage System.



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# Scope of the Scheme

- Fixed combustion appliances and/or heating or hot water systems. Gas installations **either** up to 70kW or **over** 70kW. Includes pipework, controls, hearths, flues, ventilation, and unvented hot water storage.
- *Must be Gas Safe registered*





# Scope of the Scheme

- Fixed combustion appliances and/or heating or hot water systems. Oil installations up to 45kW. Includes pipework, controls, hearths, flues, ventilation, and unvented hot water storage.

- *Must have relevant OFTEC*



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*qualifications*  
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# Scope of the Scheme

- Fixed combustion appliances and/or heating or hot water systems. Solid fuel installations up to 50kW. Includes pipework, controls, hearths, flues, ventilation, and unvented hot water storage.
- *Must hold relevant HETAS qualifications*



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# Scope of the Scheme

- Unvented hot water systems. Includes all pipework and safety controls.
- *Must hold relevant qualification.*



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# Scope of the Scheme

- Solar Thermal panels – includes pipework connections and safety controls
- *Must hold a competence based qualification*
- Biomass boilers – includes pipework, controls, ventilation and storage of fuel.
- *Must hold a competence based*  
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*qualification.*





# Scope of the Scheme

- Air Source Heat Pumps – includes controls, storage vessels and pipework.
- *Must hold a competence based qualification*
  
- Ground Source Heat Pumps – includes controls, storage vessels and pipework.
- *Must hold a competence based qualification*



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# Scope of the Scheme

- Electrical work – as required for the installation and commissioning of the appliances above. But NOT:
  - a) Any new electrical circuit to the building
  - b) Any extension or alteration to the building's electrical circuit (other than a single fused outlet connection)





# Partners in Compliance

Benefits of this Scheme to the other Scheme Providers:

- Design - Building Structures
  - ✓ *The work will comply with Water Byelaws*
  - ✓ *The Certifier is insured*
  - ✓ *The Certifier is properly trained and qualified*
  - ✓ *The Certifier is audited and inspected*



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# Partners in Compliance

Benefits of this Scheme to the other  
Scheme Providers:

- Design - Energy
- ✓ SNIPEF members are at the forefront of the drive towards improved energy efficiency and have knowledge and skills in heating, hot water, renewable energy and micro-generation.



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# Partners in Compliance

Benefits of this Scheme to the other  
Scheme Providers:

- Electrical installations
- ✓ Close working relationship in practice
- ✓ Immediate mutual recognition of skills and abilities enabling trust on-site.



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# Partners in Compliance

## Benefits of this Scheme to the Building Standards System in Scotland

- Promotion of compliance –
  - ✓ the more Certifiers there are working in the field, the more people there are with a working knowledge of the Building Standards system and the requirements for compliance.



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# Partners in Compliance

## Benefits of this Scheme to the Building Standards System in Scotland

- Less site disruption
- ✓ the fewer visits made to a working site, the less disruption of the work, which means that the project can move on more smoothly.



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# Partners in Compliance

## Benefits of this Scheme to the Building Standards System in Scotland

- Reduced burden of building warrants  
= less work for Verifiers



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# SNIPPEF

*Thank you!*



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