

Regulation 4 (1)(a) Kitemark

The Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations 1999

The Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009

The Water Supply (Water Fittings) (Scotland) Byelaws 2014

A guide for manufacturers

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Introduction

This guide has been prepared to provide an overview of the process to gain BSI Kitemark Certification against Regulation 4(1)(a) of The Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations 1999, The Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009, and The Water Supply (Water Fittings) (Scotland) Byelaws 2014.

These Regulations and Byelaws apply to any water fitting installed or used, or to be installed or used, in premises to which water is or is to be supplied by a water undertaker, for domestic purposes or food production.

The Regulations and Byelaws set out requirements for the design, materials, installation and maintenance of plumbing systems, water fittings and water-using appliances, with their purpose being to protect water quality, and ensure safety in use, ease of access, detection of leaks, protection against damage and prevention of contamination by pipes, fittings, and backflow.

A legal duty is placed on all users, owners, and occupiers, and anyone installing plumbing systems or water fittings to ensure their installation and use complies with these regulations.

Regulation 4(1)(a)/Byelaw 4(1)(a) of these Regulations and Byelaws provides that all water fittings must be of an appropriate standard and quality. Regulation 4(2)/Byelaw 4(2) states that this is achieved either through appropriate CE Marking, conformity with a British Standard or some other national specification of an EEC state which provides equivalent protection and performance, or conformity with a specification approved by the regulator. Therefore, it is in the interest of water fittings manufacturers to ensure their product is compliant with Regulation 4(1)(a)/Byelaw 4(1)(a).

Evidence of compliance with Regulation 4(1)(a)/Byelaw 4(1)(a) can be achieved through BSI's Kitemark certification scheme.

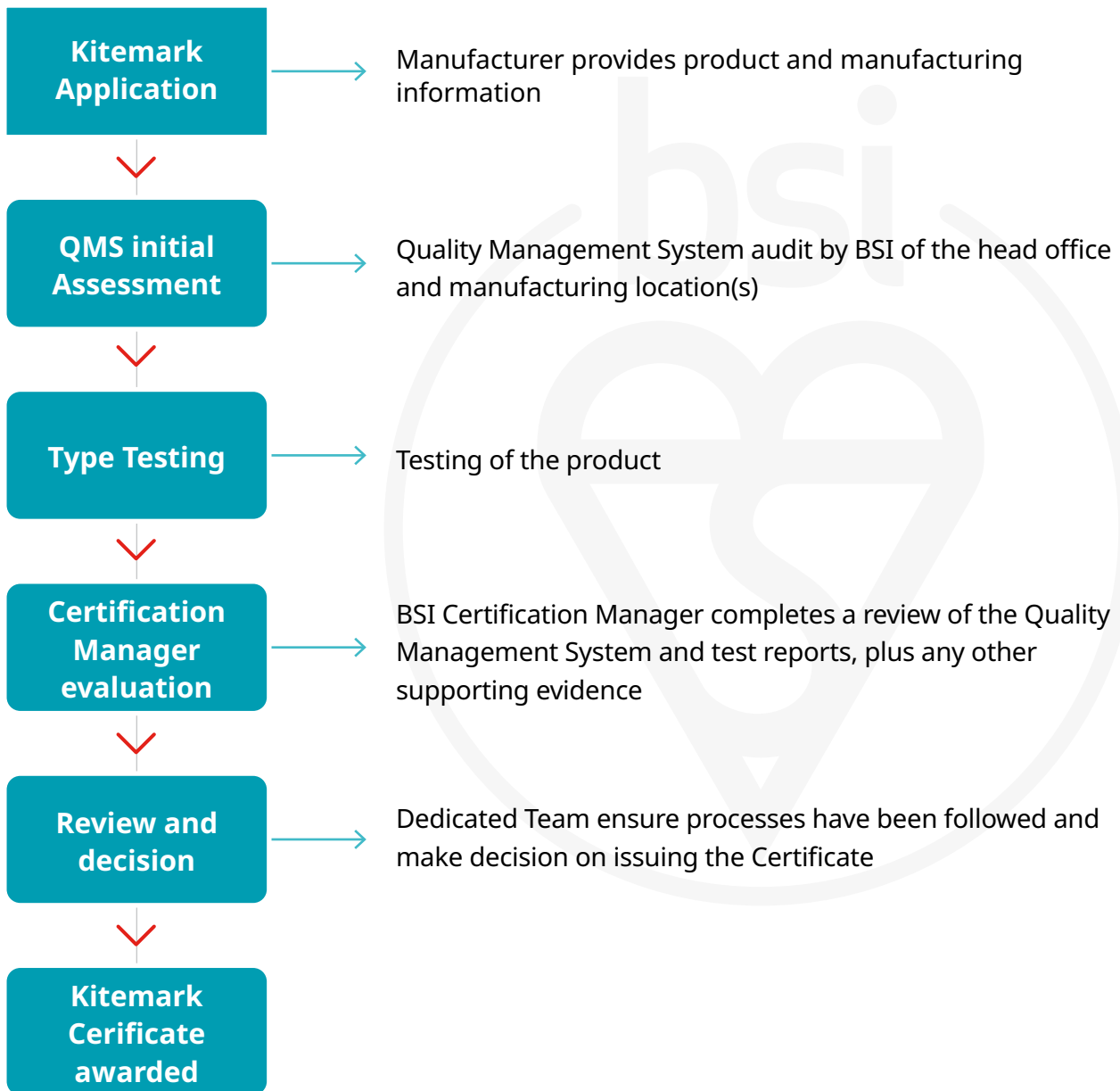
BSI Kitemark Certification

The BSI Kitemark™ is one of the world's first well-established trust marks. Recognized as a symbol of outstanding quality, safety, and trust, the Kitemark has been informing the decision-making of consumers and businesses for over one hundred years. BSI Kitemark certification confirms that a product or service's claim has been independently and repeatedly tested by experts, meaning that you can have trust and confidence in products and services that are Kitemark certified.

There are two key elements a manufacturer must achieve to be awarded Regulation 4 Kitemark certification:

- 1** Implementing and maintaining an effective Quality Management System (QMS) based upon the requirements of ISO 9001: 2015, with focus on the manufacture of consistently high quality, conforming product; and
- 2** Producing water fittings which can be shown to comply with the requirements of the Regulation via product testing

The route to gaining Kitemark certification consists of six stages.



BSI Kitemark application

As part of the BSI Kitemark certification application process we will request key information allowing us to determine the scope of certification and testing requirements and produce a quotation.

Information such as:

- Product type(s)
- Head office and manufacturing location(s)
- Nominal Diameter(s)
- Joint type(s)
- Material type(s)
- End use application(s)
- Compatibility with other products and materials
- Maximum working pressure
- Maximum operating temperature

To capture the product information, we will request completion and return of form PF1845 - *Regulation 4 Product and Material Declaration*.

We will also request drawings for some products which will be used during the testing process and for product identification.

Quality Management System initial assessment

Once a manufacturer has implemented their QMS our dedicated Client Managers will visit the head office and manufacturing location(s) and conduct an initial assessment of the system in accordance with ISO 9001: 2015, including focus upon how the system ensures consistent quality and conformity of the product. We can divide the initial assessment into two stages if needed; a Stage 1 assessment to evaluate the readiness of the system, and a Stage 2 assessment to evaluate the effectiveness of the system. If the manufacturer is confident in the effectiveness of their system, we can move straight to and deliver the Stage 2 assessment without a Stage 1.

Although Regulation 4 Kitemark certification requires a quality management system conforming with ISO 9001, a manufacturer does not need an independently certified ISO 9001 system to gain Regulation 4 Kitemark certification.

The assessment may raise non-conformities within the system, and we would ask the manufacturer to determine root cause and implement corrective action. Additionally, using their experience, our Client Managers may also highlight opportunities for improvement, the implementation of which could improve the performance of the QMS in key areas.

Our Client Managers will provide full assessment reports and, if the QMS is found to be operating effectively, our Client Manager will make a recommendation to continue the process toward Kitemark certification.

Type Testing

To demonstrate that a product is of appropriate quality and standard, Regulation 4 allows for testing either against the Regulator's Specification for fittings (Test Code Sheets (TCS)), or with an appropriate Standard (see Introduction), with the testing undertaken dependent upon the product type and its end-use application. Where a product fits the scope of an appropriate standard, testing will cover the full applicable requirements of that standard, with additional testing against the Regulators Specification conducted if necessary to fulfil the requirements of the Regulation. Our team at BSI are happy to discuss the product conformity requirements for the product to be compliant with the Regulation.

At BSI we have the capability to either conduct product testing in our Centre of Excellence Laboratory in Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, at the manufacturers premises if the appropriate facility is in place, or a combination of both. We can also use our approved third-party laboratories if required. It does not matter where a manufacturer is located as our Engineers operate globally.

As a guide Initial Type Testing could include some or all the following tests, dependent upon the product design, material and end-use:

- Resistance to hydrostatic pressure
- Accelerated ageing
- Effect upon water quality
- Opacity
- Geometric characteristics
- Joint effectiveness
- Resistance to pull-out of assembled joints
- Vacuum
- Compatibility with fittings of other materials
- Product marking

Our Laboratory Engineers will provide a full Test Report showing every test undertaken, the requirement for each test, the measured test result, as well as an overall assessment of conformity of your product against the test.

Effect upon water quality

All non-metallic products and materials which may be in contact with water intended for human consumption are required to meet the requirements of BS 6920.

There are exclusions to this in accordance with Schedule 2(2) of the Regulation:

(2) This requirement does not apply to a water fitting downstream of a terminal fitting supplying wholesome water where –

- a** *the use to which the water downstream is put does not require wholesome water*
- b** *a suitable arrangement or device to prevent backflow is installed*

It is the responsibility of the manufacturer to declare whether products are intended to convey or receive water for human consumption, including whether the product is designed for water temperatures up to and including, or above, 25°C

Full retesting against BS 6920 will be required every 5 years.

Sampling from a range of products

To ensure that testing is managed efficiently and economically, it is sometimes possible to sample and test a selection of products from a range, reducing the products to be tested and the time taken to conduct the tests. The products to be sampled and the testing to be conducted on each sampled product will be determined by the team at BSI during the application stage and will be so selected as to represent the entire range.

Acceptance of third-party test reports

BSI are happy to discuss acceptance of test reports provided by a manufacturer as a means to demonstrate the compliance of a product. Test reports must have been issued by an independent, BS EN ISO/IEC 17025 accredited third-party laboratory, where the accreditation body is a signatory of the ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA).

In addition, the manufacturing process will need to have been under surveillance by an independent third-party certification body for the period of validity of the test report.

Products already BSI Kitemark certified against an appropriate standard

Where a manufacturer already holds BSI Kitemark certification against an appropriate Standard and the product is within the scope of the certificate, BSI can accept the existing supporting test evidence as demonstration, or partial demonstration, of compliance with the Regulation. A review of the test data will be conducted to ensure the requirements of the Regulation are met, and where these requirements are not fully met, we can discuss and initiate any additional type testing that is needed.

Similarly, BSI can accept existing BSI assessment report(s) as demonstration of an effective QMS. A review of the existing assessment reports will be conducted to ensure the requirements of the Regulation are covered within the QMS, and where these requirements are not fully met, we will discuss any additional evidence or Initial Assessment required.



BSI Kitemark Certificate Awarded

With an effective QMS and a fully compliant product we will award a new Kitemark Certificate with its own unique Kitemark Certificate number.

The scope of the Kitemark certificate will detail the water fitting or range of water fittings covered, along with their relevant performance characteristics.

Certificate holders along with their certified scope of products will be detailed on the [BSI website](#)

Ongoing Surveillance

Kitemark certification shows commitment to producing quality and compliant product every time. During the lifetime of the certificate, we will continue to assess the effectiveness of your QMS as well the compliance of your product through:

- Periodic assessments of your QMS at both the head office and the manufacturing locations, referred to as Continuing Assessment Visits (CAV)
- Audit testing of a sample of your product range

Continuing Assessment Visits (CAV)

This is similar to an Initial Assessment however we will sample specific elements of the QMS at each visit to evaluate its continued effectiveness. The structure of the assessment will be in accordance with ISO 9001, and again will include a focus upon consistent quality and conformity of the product.

Our Client Managers will provide an assessment plan showing the elements to be assessed at each visit.

Over the course of a cycle (normally 3 years) we will plan to sample every element of your system, but we will always review key elements such as competency, production processes, in house testing processes and product inspection.

Regulation 4 Kitemark assessment visits can be combined with the assessment visits of other similar Kitemark certificates held by the manufacturer, which can reduce the assessment duration.

Audit Testing

At least once per year we will test a limited sample of your product range from each manufacturing location. The tests conducted will be relevant to the water fitting (refer to clause 4 Type Testing) and will be selected to ensure the performance of the water fitting has been maintained.

- In the same way as for clause 4 Type Testing, the testing can be conducted either at BSI, at the manufacturer's location if possible, or by a BSI approved third-party laboratory, or a combination
- Non-metallic products and materials must be re-assessed against the requirements of BS 6920 every 5 years

Surveillance frequency

Surveillance Activity	Frequency (minimum)
Conformity of non-metallic products and materials with BS 6920 through testing	Every 5 years Based upon zero changes to the product or material, the manufacturing process or location, or material supplier
Audit Testing – Mechanical performance requirements (Regulators Specification / appropriate Standard), including marking	Annually
Quality Management System	Biannually

Product modification or addition

Where changes are to be made to the scope of certified products, for instance new products are to be added, there is a change in design to an existing product, changes are made in the manufacturing process which could affect the product, the manufacturing location changes, or the material or the material supplier changes, limited or full Type Testing maybe required to ensure compliance with the Regulation. BSI will request information on the change and detail the route to compliance which may, if necessary, include type testing, QMS assessment, or both.

What happens next?

Our dedicated team at BSI will discuss the technical requirements of this BSI Kitemark™ scheme with you, along with guiding you through the process of gaining BSI Kitemark™ Certification.



For more information, please call us on **+44 (0)345 080 9000** or visit: **bsigroup.com/kitemark**

Why BSI?

For over a century BSI has championed what good looks like and driven best practice in organizations around the world. As one of the founding members of ISO, we help make sure international standards developed address today and tomorrow's business and social needs, while delivering real benefits to an organization and all its stakeholders.



We work closely with leading manufacturers to ensure their products meet the latest Regulations to gain market access. We focus on delivering a testing and certification partnership underpinned by quality, safety, reliability and accuracy aligned to your product development requirements. That's why we're best placed to help you understand standards and to meet the requirements.

From shaping collective best practice with our knowledge solutions to product testing, certification, and environmental health and safety professional services, we are committed to innovating and collaborating with our clients to build a safer more resilient tomorrow – one that protects buildings, assets, the environment and most importantly people.

Find out more:

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Visit: **bsigroup.com/kitemark**

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