

# SNIFE

Scottish & Northern Ireland Plumbing Employers' Federation  
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Building Standards  
Approved Certifier



04 2010

## **APPROVED CERTIFIER OF CONSTRUCTION SCHEME (DRAINAGE, PLUMBING AND HEATING)**

The Building (Scotland) Act 2003 introduced a new Building Standards system for Scotland that raises standards and simplifies the approval of many construction activities for the public, Verifiers (local authorities) and the industry.

The new Building Standards legislation also provided for the appointment of Approved certifiers of Design and **Approved Certifiers of Construction**. Properly qualified professionals can become Certifiers and have the authority to certify work for building warrant purposes.

SNIFE has recently been approved by the Scottish Ministers to run the above scheme which will allow individuals (Approved Certifiers of Construction) to “self-certify” drainage, plumbing and heating work which is subject to a Building Warrant. The Approved Certifier must be employed by a business (Approved Body) who is either a member of the plumbing industry licensing scheme (which is operated by SNIFE) or who meets the Licensing scheme criteria.

There are many benefits in operating the scheme:

***1 Your client will pay a reduced building warrant fee if they advise the Local Authority that they are using an Approved Certifier of Construction;***

***2 You will be able to “Self Certify” (as long as you have demonstrated your technical competency) above or below ground drainage, heating installations (gas, oil, solid fuel boilers), unvented systems, micro-renewables (biomass, solar and heat pumps) and electrical work associated with any of these installations, which is subject to a building warrant;***

***3 Local Authority Building Control Departments (now known as Verifiers) cannot refuse to accept an Approved Certifiers certificate and nor can they ask to inspect work which has been certified by an Approved Certifier;***

***4 You will be able to use a logo which will contain the Scottish Government logo and which will indicate that you are a Scottish Government “Approved” contractor;***

***5 You will appear in the Scottish Government Approved Certifier website***

To apply, you will need to complete and the appropriate scheme application forms. Please note that you will need to submit documentary evidence of your qualifications for each scope of the scheme you wish to certify.

# SNIEPF

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If your business wishes to operate the scheme you should complete and return the relevant AB and ACC application forms together with all supporting information and fees.

The fees for the scheme are as follows:

Approved Body fee - SNIEPF member **£0** non-member £350

Approved Certifier of Construction fee - £50 pp plus vat per year.

On receipt, we will advise you of the details and dates of the Approved Certifier of Construction courses we will be running in your area. Your business will only become an Approved Body and you/your operative an Approved Certifier on successful completion of the course and submission of all relevant technical qualifications and fees.

For more information please contact:

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Alan Wilson – Head of Certification 0131 225 2255