

News History 2010

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December

SNIFE Issues Advice To Consumers About Adverse Weather

Following the recent spell of adverse weather in Scotland and Northern Ireland, SNIFE issued advise to consumers to avoid frozen and burst pipes.

New SNIFE Offices Officially Opened by Mark Lazarowicz, MP

The new SNIFE and Plumbing Pensions offices were officially opened by the local MP, Mark Lazarowicz. Mr Lazarowicz paid tribute to the work which the plumbing industry carries out to protect our health. The event was attended by a number of related trade and professional bodies. The Chairman of Plumbing Pensions, Alan Pickering and SNIFE President Tom Galloway also spoke at the event.



Pictured L to R, Alan Pickering, Mark Lazarowicz and Tom Galloway

SNIEPF Teams Up With Business Stream

SNIEPF has teamed up with Business Stream (a company owned by Scottish Water which supplies water and waste water services to over 96 000 businesses in Scotland) which will see them recommend the use of SNIEPF members to their customers.

November 2010

Scottish Government Announces New Boiler Scrappage Scheme for Landlords

The Scottish Government has recently announced funding for a boiler scrappage scheme for private sector landlords in Scotland. The Energy Saving Scotland Private Sector Landlords Boiler Scrappage Scheme will offer landlords £400 towards the cost of upgrading inefficient boilers to a Energy Saving Trust Recommended boiler in each of their rented properties. Like the scheme which operated for domestic customers, the Scottish Government has advised that the installer must be Gas Safe registered (for gas installation) and should be a member of a recognised industry body such as CLE or **SNIEPF**.

October 2010

Water Regulations Approved Contractor Scheme Launched in Northern Ireland

The introduction of new Water Regulations into Northern Ireland has resulted in the creation of an Approved Contractor scheme whereby properly qualified and competent plumbers who are members of the Plumbing Industry Licensing scheme, operated by SNIEPF (Scottish & Northern Ireland Plumbing Employers' Federation), can issue Compliance Certificates which will confirm to their customers that the plumbing work they undertake meets the requirements of the new Regulations.

Water Regulations apply to work carried out to all plumbing systems, water fittings and appliances connected to the public water supply. They help to ensure that any plumbing systems in homes or businesses are installed and maintained correctly. Compliance with the Regulations helps prevent any potential contamination of the public water supply, misuse and undue consumption of water.

President of the Northern Ireland branch of SNIEPF, David Taylor said "The role which the plumbing industry plays in protecting the health and welfare of the public is often overlooked. Safe supply of water is taken for granted but it is important for a whole host of reasons that customers use a properly qualified plumber when having any work undertaken".

David added "The launch of the Approved Contractor scheme means that customers in Northern Ireland now have a real choice to use businesses who have invested in training and who employ properly qualified plumbers who understand the new Regulations".

A spokesman from Northern Ireland Water said "The introduction of the new Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations brings Northern Ireland into line with England, Scotland and Wales for the first time in over a decade. The Regulations as well as seeking to prevent the contamination, waste, misuse and undue consumption of water supplied by the company introduce for the first time the concept of "Approved Contractors" in the plumbing industry here in Northern Ireland".

"Northern Ireland Water welcomes the introduction of the Approved Contractor scheme operated by SNIEPF and recommends that customers use approved contractors whenever they are installing or altering plumbing installations in their homes or businesses".

Changes to Scottish Building Regulations Go Live on 1st October

2010 Technical Handbooks were published in April this year which set out the changes to building regulations and guidance that will come into force on the 1st October this year. The handbooks are available by clicking [here](#).

The changes introduced to the mandatory standards and associated guidance for 2010 involved all

sections of the Technical Handbooks. Although the key changes will be apparent to readers and users of the building standards system, it is considered important and worthwhile to identify the relevant changes to the documents.

September 2010

Countdown to World Plumbing Conference 2011

With just under one year to go to the start of the 9th World Plumbing Conference which will be held in Edinburgh from the 7 – 11 September 2011, organizers report that this is shaping up to be an event to remember.

Robert Burgon (current World Plumbing Council Chairman and Director & Secretary of the host organization, SNIEPF) reports that there are several encouraging signs which point to this being a successful conference. “Early registrations are at an encouragingly high level with delegates already having registered from several countries including Australia, USA, China and Switzerland. A large number of the bedrooms in the principal conference hotel have already been booked although there is a good allocation still available in other city centre hotels.”

Robert continued, “SNIEPF has established a Conference Planning Committee which is developing plans for both the business and social programme. There will be two full days of conference presentations- with a Call for Papers having been issued worldwide. We are arranging three social functions during the event which include a Welcome Reception and Dinner, a spectacular Reception at Edinburgh Castle and a Gala Dinner which is bound to give delegates an evening of a lifetime”.

Robert Burgon concluded: “Edinburgh in September is usually delightful- we have recently experienced some of the best weather of the entire summer and our city really looks its best at this time of year. The Conference follows the end of the Edinburgh Festival and Tattoo which will be of interest to those delegates able to arrive early.”

Click [here](#) for more information on the 2011 event.

Plumbing Industry in Northern Ireland withdraws from CITB

Plumbing and heating businesses who were previously registered with the Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) Northern Ireland were removed from levy liability as from **1 September 2010**.

This means that those businesses currently registered will not be required to pay levy to CITB (NI) and will as a consequence not be eligible to claim grant funding or be provided with the services of CITB-ConstructionSkills Northern Ireland. Any training undertaken by a business who did pay levy, will be paid the grant due will be honoured, so long as training was completed by 31 August 2010 and an application for grant is submitted (either on-line or hard copy) by 30 November 2010.

From 1 September 2010 all matters relating to the sectors training needs including new entrants and the existing workforce will become the responsibility of SummitSkills the Sector Skills Council for Building Services Engineering, who can be contacted at www.summitskills.org.uk.

New Micro-renewables Training Centre Opened

A new Micro-renewables Training Centre, which will be amongst the first in Scotland to deliver the new Scottish Qualification Authority (SQA) level 3 certificate in Environmental Technologies has been opened by Jim Mather the Minister for Enterprise, Energy and Tourism.

The centre which is based at the offices of SELECT in Midlothian, was supported by SNIEPF, HVCA, Skills Development Scotland and Vaillant and will offer Solar, Photovoltaic and Heat Pump courses. The first training courses will be run at the beginning of November.

In a further commitment to the new technologies, from this year, all plumbing, heating and electrical apprentices will undertake a core environmental technologies component as part of their SVQ qualification. This will give all new entrants some basic knowledge and skills in the new technologies and how they work in practice. Furthermore apprentices in the plumbing and heating sector will be able to choose to undertake the SVQ Level 3 Certificate in solar panel and heat pump installations in the third year of their apprenticeship which means that they will be fully trained and competent when they complete their 4 year training programme.



Jim Mather, Minister for Enterprise, Energy and Tourism (2nd left) with SNIEPF President Tom Galloway, Robert Burgon, SNIEPF Director, Duncan Wilson, SNIEPF Head of Training and Alan Wilson, Chair of the Scottish Microgeneration Working Group.

June 2010

Plumbing Apprentice Wins National Competition

Alan Henderson an apprentice plumber from Moray College in Elgin has won the prestigious Scottish Regional SkillPlumb Competition, which was held in Borders College, Galashiels on the 4th and 5th June 2010.

The competition, which is organised by SNIEPF, brings together apprentices from each of the Technical Colleges and Training Centres in Scotland who teach the Plumbing SVQ Level 3 Qualification. Alan was one of 17 competitors who took part in the two-day competition.

The SkillPlumb Competition has been devised to incorporate everyday plumbing tasks which an apprentice is likely to encounter during their training. The competition consists of two workshop exercises, a copper pipework exercise and a lead bossing and forming exercise. In addition there is also a multiple choice exam paper on aspects of plumbing and heating work.

At the prize giving ceremony held at Borders College, SNIEPF President Tom Galloway paid tribute to the hard work of the apprentices throughout the competition. He also thanked the host college for the work they had put in to make the competition such a success.

The prizes were awarded by Tom Galloway and Robert Beagley, Regional Director of Plumb Center who had donated all of the material for the copper pipe work exercise. Robert said "Plumb Center is pleased to continue its support for this important competition. The overall quality of work has been excellent and it augurs well for the future." "As a company we are fully behind these apprentices who undertake a proper apprenticeship in the industry".

Second place in the competition was won by Ben Tattersfield representing Ayr College, whilst Alistair Aird from Adam Smith College in Kirkcaldy finished third. The best lead work trophy was awarded to Liam Mutch from Inverness College.

Both Alan and Ben will now participate in the UK National SkillPlumb Competition which will be held at the Interbuild Exhibition in the NEC Birmingham in October.



Alan Henderson with SNIEPF President, Tom Galloway, Plumb Center Regional Director Robert Beagley and SNIEPF Vice-President, Preston Fleming.

May 2010

First SNIEPF Merit Award Presented

Jack Wishart, a Director of J W Wishart Plumbing and Heating LTD, has been awarded the first ever SNIEPF (Scottish & Northern Ireland Plumbing Employers' Federation) Merit Award.

The SNIEPF Merit Award was introduced to recognize individuals or organizations who had given exceptional service to SNIEPF and the wider plumbing industry in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

In presenting the award, Tom said "Jack Wishart has worked tirelessly for the plumbing industry over many years. He first served on the SNIEPF Council in 1980 and became SNIEPF President in 1992-93. He represented SNIEPF at meetings of the old CORGI Scottish Regional Council and was our representative at European meetings for a number of years. He has also been a regular participant in meetings of the World Plumbing Council".

Tom added "Until recently, Jack served as Chairman of the BPEC Group of companies, a role which he undertook with considerable dedication and passion. There is absolutely no doubt that Jack Wishart, the recipient of the first ever SNIEPF Merit Award has made a real difference to the plumbing industry not just in Scotland and Northern Ireland but throughout the UK".

New Scottish Government backed scheme launched by SNIEPF

A new scheme which will allow professional plumbing and heating installers to self-certify drainage, heating and plumbing work, including micro-renewable installations such as solar panels, which is subject to a Building Warrant, was launched by the Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Climate Change, Stewart Stevenson MSP, at the Scottish and Northern Ireland Plumbing Employers' Federation (SNIEPF) conference which was held on Friday 21 May in East Kilbride.

Certification with the building regulations by Approved Certifiers of Design and Approved Certifiers of Construction was introduced as part of the Building (Scotland) Regulations 2004 (including subsequent amendments). The Scottish Ministers approved a Scheme for Certification of Construction (Drainage, Heating & Plumbing Installations) at the end of last year and at the same time, the Scottish Government's Building Standards Division (BSD) appointed SNIEPF to run the Scheme. As well as being able to certify this type of work, members of the scheme will also be able to display a Scottish Government logo which will identify them as a member of the scheme.

Commenting on the launch, SNIEPF's Director & Secretary Robert Burgon said "The Approved Certifier of Construction Scheme is a significant step for the Plumbing Industry in Scotland. For the first time, properly qualified plumbers will be able to self-certify their work under a building warrant without waiting for a Local Authority inspector to inspect their work and sign off a completion certificate".

Robert continued “The range of work covered under the scheme which includes drainage, plumbing, heating, micro-renewables as well as a selection of electrical work is also significant as the scheme covers not only the traditional work areas of the industry such as drainage but it also encompasses the new skills the industry is learning on micro-renewables”.

SNIEPF President Tom Galloway said “SNIEPF has been working for a number of years with officials from the Scottish Building Standards Division to set up the scheme and the complex and wide ranging scope of the scheme has meant a great deal of work on both sides to ensure that we have ended up with a scheme which will benefit not only installers but also clients”.

The scheme will go live to the public in the middle of June and customers will be able to access the Building Standards website (www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Built-Environment/Building/Building-standards) and search for a list of Approved Certifiers.

SNIEPF Annual Report Issued

The 2009/10 Annual Report was approved at the recent SNIEPF Annual Conference. The report contains information on two new schemes launched by SNIEPF as well as details of the new SNIEPF offices which will become our new home from July this year.

New SNIEPF President Elected

Mr. Tom Galloway, a Partner in the firm of T. & R. Galloway, based in Douglas, South Lanarkshire, became President of the Scottish and Northern Ireland Plumbing Employers' Federation (SNIEPF) at its Annual Conference which was held in the MacDonald Crutherland House Hotel, East Kilbride on Friday, 21st May, 2010.

Mr. Galloway is the 8th President of SNIEPF to come from Lanarkshire. Mr. Galloway is married to Rosemary, who is also his business partner and has two sons, Bryan his elder son works within the Construction Industry and is married to Kari, whilst Craig his younger son, is the firm's Contracts Manager and lives with his partner, Josephine. He has two granddaughters, Alix and Ailee and one grandson, Abe.

April 2010

World Plumbing Conference Heads for Edinburgh in 2011

Registrations and hotel bookings are now being accepted for the 9th World Plumbing Conference which will be held in Edinburgh, Scotland from 7-11 September 2011. For details please go to www.wpc2011.co.uk

Father and Son Appointed Presidents

In what is believed to be a first, a father and son have been elected to serve concurrently as Presidents of two local SNIEPF organizations. Irvine based Bill Carson was elected President of the

SNIEPF Glasgow and West of Scotland Association on 13 April whilst his son, Ian, was elected as President of the Kilmarnock Branch of the Association at their AGM on 19 April.

Scottish Plumber's Invention Helps Saves Lives In Africa

David Osborne owner of Celsius Plumbing in Ayrshire has invented a device known as a "Jompy" which will help households in africa to use their fuel more efficiently, ultimately reducing household wood smoke and positively impacting on the environment.

Scottish Government Announces Launch Of Boiler Scrapage Scheme

Up to 5,000 households in Scotland will be able to claim £400 towards the cost of a new boiler, under a new boiler scrapage scheme announced by the Scottish Government. Households who have a central heating boiler which is listed as a category G rated boiler in the SEDBUK listing (www.sedbuk.com) and which convert less than 70 per cent of fuel into heat, will qualify for cashback on a new energy saving model.

From Monday 24 May 2010 households will be able to apply online or over the phone through the Scottish Government's Energy Saving Scotland advice network. However they must use an installer who must be registered with Gas Safe (for gas installations) and a recognised industry body such as CLE or SNIEPF. Members of certain other industry schemes may also be used and details of these will be included in the scheme guidance.

Announcing details of the scheme, Housing and Communities Minister Alex Neil said: "Through the boiler scrapage scheme we will help people replace inefficient old boilers for new energy saving models and importantly, put money back in the pockets of householders. "At the same time we are providing an economic stimulus for the heating industry, supporting jobs and helping it get through this financially difficult time."

SNIEPF Director Robert Burgon said: "The Scottish boiler scrapage scheme will be a great opportunity for many households to upgrade their inefficient heating systems which will be costing them many hundreds of pounds each year in wasted fuel costs. "Installing a new system will not only help the environment it will also help save money on their heating bills.

"Like many other industries the plumbing and heating sector has been badly hit by the recession and the scheme will prove a boost to many of our member businesses."

The Boiler Scrapage Scheme will be run through the Energy Saving Scotland advice network – the Scottish Government's 'one stop shop' for energy efficiency, renewables and sustainable transport advice. The advice network will issue vouchers as of 24 May 2010, available either by calling 0800 512 012 or through the Energy Saving Trust website.

The scheme will operate on a first come, first served basis and will last until all the funds have been allocated. Households will be able to apply over the phone or online and, if eligible, will receive a

£400 voucher towards the installation of a new boiler. The vouchers can then be redeemed for cash from the Energy Saving Trust once the boiler has been installed.

New boilers should be energy efficient models, certified under the Energy Saving Recommended scheme.

Approved Certifier of Construction Scheme Drainage, Heating and Plumbing).

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.

SNIEPF has been approved by the Scottish Ministers to run the above scheme which will allow individuals (Approved Certifiers of Construction) to "self-certify" drainage, heating and plumbing work which is subject to a building warrant. [Click here](#) to see what the scheme covers and the qualifications you need to be a scheme member.

The Approved Certifier must be employed by a business (Approved Body) which is either a member of the Plumbing Industry Licensing scheme which is operated by SNIEPF or they must meet the Licensing scheme criteria.

March 2010

Aberdeen Association mourns death of Past President.

Andy Wood a Past President of the SNIEPF Aberdeen Association passed away on Thursday 1 April 2010 after a short illness. Andy's funeral took place at Aberdeen Crematorium, Hazlehead (West Chapel), on Thursday, April 8, at 2.55 p.m. More than 400 mourners attended the funeral, where SNIEPF Past President Allan McIntosh read the eulogy.

SNIEPF Mourns Colleague

SNIEPF were sad to hear that Edith Tripney who many members will have known through operation of the PLUTOS holiday scheme passed away on the 27 of March. Edith, who retired last year had been ill for some time. Her funeral took place on Thursday 1 April at St Andrews Parish Church Deans, Livingston.

SNIEPF Gives Cautious Welcome to The Scottish Boiler Scrappage Scheme

SNIEPF has given a cautious welcome to the announcement by the Scottish Finance Minister, John Swinney, that a Boiler Scrappage Scheme will be introduced in Scotland.

SNIEPF Director, Robert Burgon, said “The decision to introduce a Boiler Scrappage Scheme in Scotland will be welcomed by both householders and the plumbing and heating industry alike. However, the £2M which has been allocated for the Scheme represents less than 5% of the total amount which has been set aside for the Scheme which currently applies in England”.

“If the same grant of £400 is given in Scotland then only 5000 householders will benefit compared with 125,000 in England”.

Robert continued “We are still unaware of the details of how a Scheme will work but we hope that the Government will not only consider the issue of the type of boilers which are to be replaced but also the requirements of the installers who will carry out this work. We have already offered our support to officials as they develop the terms of the Scheme and look forward to that process. There is clearly demand for such a scheme in Scotland- our e-petition on the Scottish Parliament website has attracted almost 300 signatures in just a few days and we are sure that the supporters of such a scheme will be pleased to learn of the introduction of the scheme. ”