

AffinityWater

Annual Contestability Summary 2025-26

Issue Date: January 2025



Introduction

This document sets out the contestable and non-contestable activity. It also sets out activity deemed contestable where the water company can indicate its requirements to allow the SLP to carry out the task.

The document is designed to be read in conjunction with the Design and Construction Specification (DCS) and will be updated annually.

Contestability Summary Table

	Work categories by number of properties potentially affected by work or strategic nature of Existing Main			
	>49	50-199	200-499	500+/ Strategic Main
Selection of a proposed POC to serve a Site/Development from records of Existing Mains				
Construction of new mains and service connections				
Construction of new mains as part of reinforcement of Network extension or associated Site diversion work				
Design of new water network				
Chlorination and pressure testing of Self-lay Works				
Meter installation in conjunction with new service connections				
Undertaking Water Quality samples				
Analysing Water Quality samples (subject to paragraph 17.3)				
Construction of routine mains connections (CRMC) connections				
Main and/or service connection: up to 63mm PE/Barrier pipe to: Parent Network: <12" nominal bore*1 DI/CI/SI/PE/AC/ Barrier pipe/ steel Permanent Connections (Piece through)				

	Work categories by number of properties potentially affected by work or strategic nature of Existing Main			
	>49	50-199	200-499	500+ / Strategic Main
Connection: 63mm to 300mm PE / Barrier Pipe to: Parent Network: <12" nominal bore *1 CI/SI/DI/AC/PE/Barrier pipe/steel Operational pressure: up to 50m				
Connections: 63mm to 300mm PE / Barrier pipe to: Parent Network: 12" nominal bore *1 to 18" nominal bore *2 / 300mm to 450mm nominal bore *3 DI/ CI/ SI/ AC/ PE/ Barrier pipe/Steel Operational pressure: 50m to 75m				
Connections: over 300mm to: Parent Network: 18" nominal bore *3 & above, or high-risk parent Network: material (such as steel) Operational pressure: above 75m				
Valve operation in relation to commissioning new Self-Lay Works *4				
Self-certification of SLP for Site water distribution systems designs				
Any size connection to GRP / PVC Network				
Design of Network Reinforcement (upsizing of existing assets) and/or design of Network diversion(s)				
Pipe sizing criteria, and the approval of design by others				
Assessment of network risk, & operating live network				
Commission telemetry links(meters / field equipment)				
Connection, commissioning and/or decommissioning of diverted Network				

Notes

- *1 All references to PE are to all Polyethylene pipe materials
- *2 PE pipe sizes are identified by outside (OD) diameter and other pipe materials and sizes refer to internal (nominal bore) diameters
- *3 Strategic main defined by reference to potential impact of work on key customer such as a hospitals
- *4 See further paragraph 11.7 of the DCS

Activities Shaded in Green

All activities shaded green in the above table are capable of being performed by SLPs

These green-shaded activities will apply where the SLP has the relevant WIRS or other accreditation (see section 7). Where further activities are accredited by WIRS, such activities shall be marked as green in the above table by agreement with the Codes Panel.

The Water Company will set out the procedures it has in place relating to connections to the Existing Main and the forms supporting this. These will be published on the Water Company's website.

Changes will be brought about by the panel procedures set out in appendix H – Governance

References to the Final Connection of the Self-Laid Main to the Existing Main on the network are;

- of an under-pressure type connection and/or,
- a connection to a previously installed temporary valve-controlled washout installed in conjunction with the connection to the Existing Mains Network at the POC to supply the Site or Development, and/or 030920 Water UK 9
- a connection to a previously installed valve-controlled washout, which has been installed on a Self-Laid Main for a future connection off such main.

Where references to the Final Connection of the Self-Laid Main to the Existing Main on the Network require a section to be isolated by a shut (to enable it to be cut-out to install a connection point), and/or if a new branch tee is required to be cut into a Self-Laid Main subsequently adopted by the Water Company (which therefore forms part of the Network), then such connections are excluded from activities shaded green.

Activities Shaded in Amber

The activities shaded amber shall be capable of being performed by an SLP in the area of an individual Water Company where the SLP complies with the requirements of the Water Company as set out below. Such publication shall include information about control measures required to allow the work to be performed. The following paragraphs set out how publication of such information is to be approached.

The Water Company may require additional evidence of competence to carry out activity and/or require the SLP to follow an operational process equivalent to one that the Water Company's direct labour or term contractor would be required to follow.

The company's requirements will relate to the specific site and will take account of the type of connection involved; the location of the connection; the strategic importance of the main network to be connected to; the potential impact on end user customers; risk to water quality and regulatory impact/consideration; and the resources the SLP proposes to use.

The company will set out the information it needs from the SLP regarding its Accreditation and how its general and specific operations, resources, and procedures will protect the company from any risk of interruption of supply to its end-user customers and/or to water quality. These requirements will be equivalent to those that the Water Company's direct labour or term contractor would be required to follow.

The SLP will need to demonstrate its competence to undertake this activity. Such may be by Self-lay Works being supervised by the Water Company or by the SLP providing details of similar work that it has carried out to a satisfactory standard for other Water Companies.

Valve operation in relation to commissioning of Self-Lay Works: Water Company requirements relative to this contestable activity shall apply as set out in paragraph 11.7 of the DCS.

The Water Company will set out in the DCS the procedures it has in place to allow connections to the Existing Main and the forms supporting this. These will be published on the Water Company's website.

Activities Shaded in Red

The Water Companies have concluded that connections shaded red in table 9.3 are of such a high risk that they are unlikely to be contestable in most conceivable circumstances.

However, if an SLP wishes to carry out this work, it shall contact the Water Company directly to determine whether conditions can be agreed that enable the SLP to carry out the requested activity.