Local Practice Agreement
For self-lay providers working in the North West

The self-lay code of practice and this Local Practice Agreement applies to all new main and services schemes where new assets are constructed by a self-lay provider (SLP) and which are intended to be adopted by United Utilities Water to form part of its licensed water undertaking.

Self-lay Application
Applications for new self-lay schemes should be submitted using an Application to self-lay water mains and services, which is available on unitedutilities.com.

Construction Design and Management (CDM) Regulations 2015
In accordance with CDM Regulations (2015), United Utilities will act as a Designer working under the Principal Designer on any development, including schemes delivered by SLTs. As such, it is expected that the Client or their appointed Principal Contractor / Principal Designer will provide United Utilities with the Pre-Construction Information needed to discharge our responsibilities safely. This could be direct from the developer or via the SLP.

Design
The design of new self-laid water mains and services will usually form part of the self-lay provider’s responsibilities. All designs should comply with the specifications set out in our Design Manual. (Please note that this manual is currently under review)

There are circumstances, as detailed below, where we will require an input into the design:
- Where the new self-laid main will be used to supply an adjacent development or will form part of a system improvement
- Where a self-laid main forms part of a diversion scheme
- Where a self-laid main is laid in third party land

Work that an SLP may do whilst gaining accreditation
To help an SLP to obtain accreditation or add further scopes to an existing accreditation, we will allow a SLP to carry out work on a trial basis. This is subject to the following:
- Lloyds Register has an application from the SLP for the new or extended accreditation, and has agreed to the trial.
- We have confirmation from Lloyds Register that the trial can start
- The trial has an agreed duration
- The SLP provides advance notice of all work carried out under the trial

Additional accreditation
United Utilities expects all ground workers laying service pipes, installing meter housing and making connections to new or existing network assets to have provided the relevant proof of competence. United Utilities will accept installations by a valid SPIDER registered installer or a BPEC “Service Pipe and Meter Housing Installation” registered installer as proof of this competence. Details of the BPEC course can be found on the BPEC website and can be booked via one of the training centres. This is in addition to being WIAPS approved and ensures familiarity with United Utilities’s equipment and ways of working. Training should be renewed every 3 years.

United Utilities expects all workers operating existing or new United Utilities assets (valves / hydrants) to be “Calm Network Trained”. This is a qualification recognised across the water industry and ensures existing assets and customers are protected as much as possible. The training is delivered via a free online course and once completed the staff member’s name is held on a national register. To get a link to the course or to hire one of our metered standpipes please contact our standpipe team on 01925 679498. Calm Network Training should be renewed every 3 years.

Metering
All meters fitted must be sourced directly from our nominated supplier, details of whom will be provided on request; this is to ensure that all meters meet our specifications.

If an SLP fails to install a meter following connection, then we will fit one and recharge the cost.

Our policy is to install domestic meters above ground in one of the following locations:
- Internally fitted with an external control valve;
- In a wall mounted meter chamber;
- In an in-wall meter chamber.

Where this is not possible, we will agree an alternative location with you.

Retained work
United Utilities Water can retain work that may affect water quality to existing customers. The following examples are for guidance only, the self-lay agreement will fully detail any retained work:
1. Establishing a point of connection to United Utilities’ existing network
2. Designing and installing reinforcement work
3. Work on an existing main requiring specialist attention due to risk associated with it because of the material type, previous history or its strategic importance
4. Work to any assets that are within a United Utilities Water building e.g. pumping stations
5. Installation of an offsite main intended to be shared with an unrelated new development
6. Installing meters larger than 20mm
7. Service connections greater than 63mm

For further information

developerserviceswater@uuplc.co.uk
0345 072 6067

United Utilities Developer Services Water
Windermere House
Lingley Mere
Warrington
WA5 3LP
As-laid drawings
SLPs should provide as-laid drawings electronically. These should be submitted in both PDF format and CAD 2014 or later. All drawings should be submitted to the local United Utilities Project Engineer, developer.services.water@UnitedUtilitiesplc.co.uk and water.reddline@UnitedUtilitiesplc.co.uk.

Prior to commissioning
The SLP will notify United Utilities of their intent to sample and pressure test via the SL07 form a minimum of 5 days prior to the pressure test and sampling being undertaken and send the form to the local United Utilities Project Engineer to allow our representative to witness the activity.

Charging reform
As the industry is currently in a period of change with the proposed reforms to charging being implemented from April 2018, United Utilities does not feel it is in the interests of any party to sign up for an adoption agreement covering a construction period longer than 2 years. Therefore, any sites that are expected to take longer than 2 years to construct will need to be phased accordingly. This will require a drawing indicating the plots and principle main lengths to be constructed within the first two years to accompany the adoption agreement.

United Utilities will provide, if requested, technical approval covering the whole site and, if requested, an estimated asset value based on the current charging policy for the whole site based on main lengths and a build programme provided by the SLP.

Connections off existing mains - network risk assessments
As part of a development there may be a need to connect new plots directly off existing mains. United Utilities has a Risk Assessment process for any work being undertaken on existing assets and a risk-based approach is applied to these connections. Some 25mm connections can be done under pressure without the need for a site-specific risk assessment, but there are criteria for when a site-specific Risk Assessment for connections off existing mains is required, as follows:

A site-specific Risk Assessment will need to be carried out by United Utilities Network Operations staff when completing the following connections under pressure:
1. All connections bigger than 25mm
2. Where host main is >8" internal bore
3. Where host main material is asbestos cement
4. The main is in an area which is historically sensitive to discoloured water (this will be highlighted to the SLP by the United Utilities Design Engineer)

If the connection satisfies any of the above criteria then the connection must not be carried out without confirmation from United Utilities that the site-specific Risk Assessment has taken place.

United Utilities would expect to carry out any connections where the host main material is PVC as United Utilities do not allow these to be done under pressure. This means a United Utilities Network Operative will carry out a Risk Assessment and shut-off survey, existing customers will be warned and United Utilities’s Network Operations staff will be involved in the works. Therefore, these connections will be retained by United Utilities under clause 5 of Retained Work.

United Utilities Water Pipe Disinfection Table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rule set</th>
<th>Pipe size (PE – od)</th>
<th>Pipe type</th>
<th>Pressure test</th>
<th>Disinfection</th>
<th>Disinfection testing</th>
<th>Time limit for connection to be made</th>
<th>Action if time limit exceeded</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>25mm and 32mm</td>
<td>Communication and Supply</td>
<td>12 bar visual test using hand pump on undrilled top tee (IGN)</td>
<td>Flush with mains water (disinfect 1 hour at 50 ppm if contamination is suspected)</td>
<td>Not required</td>
<td>14 calendar days after main has been filled with potable water</td>
<td>Re-flush with mains water</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>63mm</td>
<td>Communication</td>
<td>Top-tee - 12 bar visual test using a hand pump on undrilled top tee Branch – test with main (IGN)</td>
<td>1 hour at 50ppm of chlorine (communication pipes &lt;100m can be disinfected with the main - BSEN 805)</td>
<td>Certificate of disinfection required - bacteriological testing not normally required. (BSEN 805)</td>
<td>14 calendar days after main has been filled with potable water</td>
<td>Re-flush with mains water</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td>Supply</td>
<td>1.5 x max operating pressure (WFR, BS6700)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>&gt; 63mm</td>
<td>Communication and Supply</td>
<td>Type 2 with logger (WRC)</td>
<td>1 hour at 50ppm</td>
<td>Satisfactory bacteriological result required</td>
<td>14 calendar days after main has been filled with potable water</td>
<td>Re-flush with mains water and re-sample as per United Utilities Water’s mains hygiene procedure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>&gt;=63mm</td>
<td>Main</td>
<td>Type 2 with logger (WRC)</td>
<td>20ppm after 16 hours has elapsed as per United Utilities Water’s mains hygiene procedure</td>
<td>Satisfactory bacteriological result required</td>
<td>14 calendar days after main has been filled with potable water</td>
<td>Re-flush with mains water and re-sample as per United Utilities Water’s mains hygiene procedure</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- At the end of the disinfection procedure the pipe must be flushed thoroughly with mains water and sealed.
- If at any point contamination is suspected then the disinfection procedure must be repeated along with any testing.
- The 14 calendar days rule ensures that, for ongoing construction work, pre-disinfected pipes are installed in a timely manner. It also ensures consistency of message where the supply and communication pipe are one length of pipe and are being installed and tested at the same time.

About us
United Utilities is the North West’s water company. We keep the taps flowing and toilets flushing for seven million customers every day. From Crewe to Carlisle, we work hard behind the scenes to help your life flow smoothly.