

Frequently Asked Questions

Accredited Contractors List for Land Development

1. What is the purpose of the Accredited Contractors List?

The purpose of this Accredited Contractors List (for works delivered under a Land Development Agreement) is to provide assurance for both developers and SA Water that new water and waste water assets will be constructed safely and competently to the relevant standards that will ensure the required operational performance for our customers, including the required asset life

The purpose and benefits of SA Water providing the List:

- Ensure that infrastructure to serve our customers is installed to SA Water standards and is of a quality that meets our customer service requirements including any associated public health risks;
- To provide a communication tool for the exchange of information to land developers and contractors which ensures quality outcomes for our customers and the safety of workers including environmental and heritage considerations for the wider community;
- Provide a mechanism that values a contractor's performance. This value will be managed to promote and support the upskilling of local industry on effective pipelaying and associated civil industry requirements. This may result in less re-work; saving the contractors, developers and SA Water time and unnecessary costs;
- Ensure technical specifications and training is up to date and relevant;
- Provides developers details of contractors who have knowledge and experience in performing works to SA Water's technical requirements;
- Support SA Water's policies on safety, the environment, diversity, inclusion and social sustainability;
- Support requirements of the Technical Regulator. The Technical Regulator is a statutory office established by section 8 of the Water Industry Act 2012 (the Act) to regulate the state's water and sewerage infrastructure and on-site plumbing, through the development, monitoring and regulation of industry technical standards;
- Alignment with SA Water Corporate Growth Strategy; and
- Promotion of SA Water's social responsibility charter.

2. What is the Scope of services?

The contractors carry out water and/or sewer pipelaying and associated works per the SCM/WSCM Engineering Standards (red and blue book); this will be referred to as Category 1 accreditation.

There are more complex works, such as pump station installation, which are referred to as Category 2, 3 and 4 accreditation which will assist the land developers in selecting a contractor for these tasks.

3. Can a contractor be added to the Accredited Contractors List?

Yes. A contractor can go to the SA Water website and find details of how to register their interest to be added to the list.

4. What happens if a contractor has not applied to be on the Accredited Contractors List?

They are not included on the list, however they may apply

5. A Developer has asked a contractor to undertake works on a small, one-off, development, but the contractor is not on the Accredited Contractors List?

The contractor should apply to be included on the Accredited Contractors List following the requirements on the SA Water web site, and include a letter of support from the Developer, including location of the proposed works, works overview and construction timescales. The request will be assessed.

6. What happens if training or experience has not been acquired and proof provided to SA Water in the 10 months from signing the declaration of intent?

If a contractor has not met these requirements, nor can they demonstrate a reasonable intent to complete the requirements, they will be removed from the Accredited Contractors List. The contractor can reapply at any time.

7. Does experience in construction prior to the last three years allow accreditation?

No. Through industry consultation feedback was gathered that experience within three years combined with recent training and internal reviews was the minimum experience required for confidence in a contractor completing a task.

8. Can a contractor work on construction activities outside their assigned category?

A Developer may choose to request a tender from a Contractor for a category of works that they are not Accredited for. In such circumstances the Developer must consult with SA Water over the requested dispensation factors, and following a formal risk based assessment process, reach an agreement which will be included in the Land Development Agreement. Any additional requirements and or controls for support, oversight, on job training etc, to ensure the works can be completed in a satisfactory and timely manner, will be noted in the agreement. Such application for a dispensation must be reached prior to the commencement of works and execution of the Land Development Agreement.

9. If the company completes the relevant training course(s) will they be automatically added to the list?

No. Whilst this forms part of the requirements, SA Water also requires from contractors' evidence of relevant experience and personnel in the desired category of the Accredited Contractors List. Submission does not guarantee acceptance onto the Accredited Contractors List under the desired category.

10. Does the Category Accreditation apply to the company or the personnel?

Accreditation applies to the construction company based on the skills, experience and requirements of the applicable category assessed at the time of application. The Accredited Contracting Company is required to maintain these requirements for continued Accreditation.

11. What occurs if experienced personnel leave the company and an accreditation requirement no longer exists within the company?

It is the contractors responsibility to ensure that they maintain the required level of skills and competency needed for inclusion on the Accredited Contractors list for land development works. The developer may require confirmation of skills and competencies within their tender and contracting process as a part of their due diligence and selection procedure.

12. Is there a Performance Management Tool?

Yes. SA Water will monitor compliance to the design, construction and commissioning standards on site as jobs progress. We are committed to developing healthy working relationships with contractors and will assist contractors to bridge any skill gaps identified. Ongoing non-conformance to standards may result in removal from a category or the Accredited Contractors List entirely.

13. How long does the Accreditation last for?

The accreditation has no specific time limit. As Industry, SA Water and customers needs change, consultation and communication will occur with the Accredited Contractors, Developers and other partners to respond and adapt in the most appropriate way.

14. Will the requirements of the Accredited Contractors list be verified?

The requirements of the Accredited contractors list may be verified during Developers tender and evaluation process, SA Water site inspection and audits, one off audits, contractor engagement and or a future re-evaluation process.

15. What is the developer's agreement?

Refer to SA Water's website

<https://www.sawater.com.au/developers-and-builders/major-developers/land-development-by-land-developer-agreement>

16. How do I know SA Water's technical standards, including blue/red book, and any changes that take place?

These standards can be found on the SA Water website

<https://www.sawater.com.au/developers-and-builders>

Updates to the standards will be communicated to all contractors on the List to the email address registered with SA Water's Contractor Management System (CMS).

17. I have not undertaken any water or waste water pipe laying works to SA Water Standard for over three years, can I still apply?

If you are not an active contractor in the Land Development area, we would recommend you do not apply at this time. Requirements change over time and SA Water is constantly evolving our Technical Standards to meet our changing customer, community and Industry requirements. Refresher training is recommended every three years for many pipe laying skills.

18. I have been asked by a Developer to undertake works on a small, one-off, development, but I am not on the Accredited Contractors List, what should I do?

Apply to be included in the List and include a letter of support from your Developer, including location of the proposed works, works overview and construction timescales.

19. Do SA Water use companies on the Accredited Contractors List for Land Developments for capital/operational works (i.e. directly engaged)

SA Water has established panel and framework contractors who are engaged to carry out works for SA Water. There is no correlation between the panels/framework and the Accredited Contractors List for Land Development.

20. I don't have the formal qualifications required in the Training Table, can I still apply?

You may apply and we will consider if you have adequate experience and/or plan to undertake training

If your company has any questions or comments please contact SA Water via:

Email : majorld@sawater.com.au

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