



About CompetentRoofers

What is a Competent Person Scheme?

“Competent person self-certification schemes (commonly referred to as competent person schemes) were introduced by the Government in 2002 to allow registered installers (i.e. businesses, mostly small firms or sole traders), who are competent in their field, to self-certify certain types of building work as compliant with the requirements of the Building Regulations”
(Department of Communities and Local Government, 2012).

What is CompetentRoofers?

CompetentRoofers is the Government-authorized scheme for England and Wales that allows professional roofing contractors to self-certify that their roofing refurbishment work complies with the Building Regulations. The scheme encompasses all roofing types for domestic, industrial and commercial properties and is open to all roofing contractors to apply.

In what way is it Government-authorized?

On the 1st October 2010, the National Federation of Roofing Contractors Limited (NFRCL) was granted a licence by the Department of Communities and Local Government (CLG) to set up a Competent Person Scheme for roofing in England and Wales and the scheme was named CompetentRoofers.

What oversight is there?

The CompetentRoofers Oversight Committee was formed to ensure the scheme is being managed and run in line with the CLG direction and authorisation for the provision of a Roofing Competent Person Scheme. The Committee reviews the scheme operation twice annually to ensure that the scope and rules of the scheme are adhered to in an impartial manner and in accordance with CLG direction and UKAS EN 45011 validation.

The Committee reviews all aspects of the scheme including any complaints recorded. The Committee has no executive powers but has recourse to report to CLG if for any reason they believe that the scheme is failing to meet CLG directives. Furthermore, the Committee has recourse to report accreditation infringements to UKAS if for any reason it is believed that the scheme is failing to comply with the conditions of certification.

In addition, the scheme is approved by the Building Regulations Advisory Committee (BRAC) and works with the Local Authority Building Control (LABC), who are invited to the meetings of the Oversight Committee.

LABC endorsement

The LABC fully supports the introduction of competent person schemes where they assist in delivering building works complying with the Building Regulations.

LABC Chief Executive, Paul Overall CBE, pointed out:

“A successful CompetentRoofer scheme will be a real asset to this country and may well be of great assistance when the government comes to implement its Green Deal! CompetentRoofer is a real measure of assurance to the client that the work has not been done by a rogue trader.”

What is the scope of the scheme?

Authorisation is given under Schedule 3 (Self Certification Scheme) of the Building Regulations for: *“the installation as a replacement, of the covering of a pitched or flat roof and work carried out by the registered person as a necessary adjunct to that installation”*, which includes in detail:

- Repair of the roof structure, e.g. replacement of rotten joists or rafters on a like for like basis (but work on trussed rafters not allowed).
- Insertion of insulation.
- Provision of battens and counter battens.
- Provision of sheeting or boarding on pitched roofs.
- Provision of decking on flat roofs – this includes structural steel decking on industrial/commercial buildings.
- Flashing, guttering, re-pointing and eaves and verge work.
- Provision of roof lights – including “Velux” type roof windows provided they are only inserted between rafters/joists where existing structure is NOT altered.

Note: replacement of roof covering includes metal roofing and their built up elements on industrial roofs but excludes steel structural steelwork.

Self-certification under the scheme is not allowed for

- Any structural glazed roofs e.g. atriums.
- Any solar or PV installation.
- Any extensions to houses or buildings.
- Any work that involves structural alterations.
- Any work that significantly increases or decreases the load on the roof structure.

In the above cases, an LABC or Approved inspector will be needed or authorisation from a structural engineer will be required.