

1st November 2019

Dear Customer

IMPORTANT SAFETY RELATED INFORMATION REGARDING CHANGES TO WATER JETTING ASSOCIATION (WJA) TRAINING COURSES

As you are aware Flowplant is an approved supplier of Water Jetting Association (WJA) accredited training courses covering the use of your high-pressure water jetting equipment. In the past, many companies we provide training for have opted to take just the "Safety Awareness" course and have not taken any additional WJA practical courses. This was sufficient to obtain an operational safety certificate.

However, we have recently received notification from the WJA that after January 1st 2020 it will be mandatory for operators taking the Safety Awareness course, either for the first time or as a refresher, to also hold a valid additional certificate in the relevant WJA practical course.

This change is likely to have an effect on how you plan your training and we would be happy to discuss it with you in more detail to help you find the best solution for your business.

We have copied below the information we have received from the WJA explaining the reason behind this significant change and how safety is always the driving principle behind it.

Best Practice within the Industry

The WJA regularly review their approach to training to ensure that it remains fit for purpose as the expectations of its members, customers and regulators within the industry continue to evolve. They also have a duty, as the representative body for the water jetting industry in the UK, to always consider ways to raise the bar on the standards set.

Following extensive discussions within the WJA committee, WJA Ruling Council, as well as consultation with WJA members and stakeholders they have recognised the value of operatives entering the water jetting industry having received both theoretical and practical hands-on training.

Currently, in order for an operative to be registered with the WJA they must successfully complete the Safety Awareness course (one-day City & Guilds accredited theory-based class) in order to obtain a WJA photo ID card and certificate. They are then required to attend a refresher Safety Awareness course every 3 years to maintain their registration.

New Approach to Training

From January 2020, it will be mandatory for new operatives to pass the Safety Awareness course (1 day) and a relevant practical course (1/2 day) in order to be registered with the association and receive certification. The practical courses include:

- Drain & Sewer
- Tube & Pipe Bundling

- Surface Preparation
- Hydrodemolition

In line with current arrangements, operatives will then have to attend the refresher Safety Awareness course every 3 years to maintain their registration. The practical module undertaken at the initial training will not have to be repeated unless their certification has lapsed significantly.

Current WJA Card Holders

Operatives holding a valid WJA Safety Awareness course, but not a practical module, will keep their registration after 1st January 2020. However, when they undertake the next refresher Safety Awareness course, they will be required to take at least one of the most relevant practical modules in order to maintain their WJA registration.

Supporting Operational Safety

With the over-riding objective being to continuously improve health, safety and wellbeing in the water jetting industry we believe that the Water Jetting Association has made a sensible and essential decision in implementing mandatory practical, hands-on training.

We recognise that these new WJA training requirements will result in an additional one-off cost but we hope that all prospective and existing WJA card holders will see the great value of these changes.

Just one injury prevented makes it all worthwhile.

Yours sincerely



Ash Clifford
On behalf of Flowplant Group Ltd