

Master Plumber Certificate Application form



The Worshipful
Company of Plumbers



The Chartered Institute
of Plumbing & Heating
Engineering



The City and Guilds
of London Institute



World Plumbing Council

*Recognising excellence in the art, craft,
science and practice of plumbing*



Founded in 1906, The Chartered Institute of Plumbing & Heating Engineering is the plumbing and heating industry's professional body with around 7,500 members and an active overseas membership.

The Chartered Institute of Plumbing & Heating Engineering's (CIPHE) registered educational charity status ensures that the Institute has as its principal aim the improvement of plumbing standards for the benefit of the community as a whole. To this end, its members are qualified and experienced. A Continuing Professional Development (CPD) programme encourages members to keep up-to-date with the latest in plumbing and heating technology and legislation.

As part of its service to the public, the CIPHE's website, ciphe.org.uk provides information about the Institute, its aims and activities.

Ultimately, the Institute's strength lies in its members who voluntarily undertake to perform with competence and commitment whilst at work. Membership of the CIPHE confers status within the industry while indicating a willingness to support high standards in plumbing and heating as an important contribution to public health and safety.

The Master Plumber Certificate

The Chartered Institute of Plumbing & Heating Engineering recognises the need for a certificate to mark the expertise of many members who have attained a level of excellence in their chosen profession that may rightly be described as mastery of the art, craft, science and practice of plumbing. One essential requirement is that those who successfully apply for the Master Plumber Certificate shall be enrolled on the Register of Plumbers inaugurated by the Worshipful Company of Plumbers in July 1886 and maintained by the CIPHE since January 1970.

In addition, the applicant must provide evidence of achieving a satisfactory level of technical knowledge in vocational education, have membership/fellowship of the CIPHE and be educated to a minimum of NVQ Level 3/C&G Advanced Craft. A further requirement is that the applicant must be registered as either an Engineering Technician, Incorporated or Chartered Engineer with the Engineering Council. A panel formed from representatives of the CIPHE and the Worshipful Company of Plumbers will assess all applications.

Following submission of all relevant documents, including independent references, successful applicants will receive

a Master Plumber Certificate carrying the signatures of the President of the CIPHE, Master of The Worshipful Company of Plumbers, Chairman of the City & Guilds of London Institute and the Chairman of the World Plumbing Council.

Who can apply?

Any Member (MCIPHE) or Fellow (FCIPHE) of the CIPHE can apply for the Master Plumber Certificate, provided the criteria listed below has been attained and clearly demonstrated. Adequate experience in plumbing is an essential part of the award. In addition, successful candidates must submit evidence of CPD when providing their CV.

Requirements to satisfy conditions for the Master Plumber Certificate

In order to apply for the Master Plumber Certificate the following minimum requirements must be met and necessary evidence provided to support the application. You should therefore study carefully these requirements to ensure eligibility:

- a) the Master Plumber Certificate shall be valid while that person remains a member of The Chartered Institute of Plumbing & Heating Engineering;
- b) be qualified to City and Guilds Advanced Craft level / S/NVQ Level 3 or equivalent;
- c) be registered as either an Engineering Technician, Incorporated or Chartered Engineer with the Engineering Council;

- d) while in membership of the CIPHE the holder of the Master Plumber Certificate is obliged to conform to its Code of Professional Standards;
- e) photocopies of academic or other certificates must be submitted as evidence of qualifications;
- f) the applicant has been engaged in the industry for at least 10 years;
- g) two nominated referees must sign the application. These should be people who know the applicant professionally e.g. manager, client, teacher;
- h) satisfy the panel of assessors;
- i) there is a one-off payment of £120 to cover administration. Payment can be made with a cheque payable to CIPHE, or by requesting a card payment link to be sent via email. No application will proceed until payment has been made.

Processing your application

We would like to process your Master Plumber Certificate application as effectively and efficiently as possible. To help us do this please complete each section of the form opposite, as fully as you can providing all the required information.

Please cut along dotted line and send with copies of certificates. Include a cheque for for £120 (to CIPHE) or arrange card payment via membership@ciphe.org.uk

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Please include copies of certificates as proof of any qualifications claimed.
Your application cannot proceed without this information.

Title	First name(s)
Surname	
Address	
Postcode	Date of birth
Telephone (home)	
Mobile	
Email address	
CIPHE membership number	

Referees

Signature	Date
Print name	
Signature	Date
Print name	

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CV

Provide full details of your career progression including further education achievements and aspects of your CPD. Attach additional A4 pages covering any of the questions as necessary. Review achievements in your working life and briefly describe the main highlights. This might include training awards and qualifications, fulfilment of individual objectives and accomplishments within your business or employment.

Reasons for applying

Briefly state why you wish to be considered for this Certificate.

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Special skills

Describe any special skills you have and how they are used effectively.

Training experience

Have you trained or helped to train others in any aspect of the plumbing industry?

Personal contribution

Identify the personal contribution you have made to the advancement of plumbing, or of plumbing activity at Institute Branch or National level and what support you might offer in the future.

Please return your completed submission together with certificates and supporting information to:

The Membership Team, The Chartered Institute of Plumbing & Heating Engineering,
Saxon House, 27 Duke Street, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1HT

If you have any queries please ring the Membership Team on 01708 463116
or email membership@ciphe.org.uk.

All applications must be accompanied by a payment of £150 payable to the CIPHE

The Master Plumber Certificate

Background to the scheme

Ancient and modern

Master Craftsmen were key people in the building process as far back as the 13th century. Records show that in the 16th century each Master Craftsman was responsible for his own work and the training of apprentices. For exercising such skill and supervision a Master Plumber would receive a shilling a day and an appropriate livery (distinctive clothing).

In the City of London, where craft guilds originated in Britain, historic links with Master Craftsmen have been retained through today's Livery Companies. The Worshipful Company of Plumbers obtained its Grant of Ordinances in 1365 and the principal events since that time have been documented in the *History of The Worshipful Company of Plumbers*.

Meanwhile, in continental Europe, especially Germany, the national education and training programme has for many years in continuity, produced Master or 'Meister' Craftsmen. These in turn become leaders in the different sectors of industry where their technical skill supplemented by business expertise, plays an important part in the economy of the country.

Realising that changes to British vocational education, apprenticeship and training were taking place that could affect the availability of experienced, well-qualified plumbers (in effect, Master Plumbers), the Worshipful Company of

Plumbers took action in 1987. Working with the City and Guilds of London Institute, a syllabus was prepared for C&G Certificate 605 Master Plumber, resulting in publication during 1988. A pilot project commenced at a Further Education College in Kent leading to a situation where a number of candidates completed the course and the first Master Plumber Certificate was awarded in 1994. However, due to a number of unfortunate circumstances, including closure and sale of the craft campus, the pilot scheme was shelved. Subsequently, an attempt was made to revise and re-introduce C&G Course 605, but without success.

The pace of change

While this endeavour was in progress, Scottish/National Vocational Qualifications (S/NVQs) had replaced City and Guilds Certificates as evidence of studying and training in the noble art of plumbing. The introduction of S/NVQs occurred in parallel with a decline in Britain's skill base. A National Skills Task Force was charged with the job of producing a report which would ultimately explain what most people would know — we had a problem called a 'skills shortage'.

Faced with this situation, the then Institute of Plumbing, The Worshipful Company of Plumbers and City and Guilds, acting also with the support of the Engineering Council, decided to adopt a new approach to identify Master Plumbers.

This scheme built on the existing S/NVQ system and achieved a number of additional objectives. The main purpose was to offer encouragement to both students and mentors. In other words to provide incentive to those training for a career in plumbing and acknowledge the expertise of individuals who have responsibility for helping the next generation to achieve their potential. Although six centuries have passed, the demand for a transfer of work-place experience from Master Craftsmen to Apprentice still remains. In 2001 the pace of change was fast and furious. The Master Plumber Certificate offered by a partnership organisation, linked by history and professional concern for plumbing, arrived at the right time. The validity of the Certificate is conditional on the recipient remaining in membership of what is now the CIPHE, where the recipient has the support of a network of colleagues in a learning society.

Mastering a technicraft

With S/NVQ Level 3 or equivalent in Plumbing now the standard target for trainees, it is important that the content of the course is satisfactory for the majority of those who practise plumbing.

Plumbing has become more technically demanding for the many thousands that ply their 'technicraft' in a small business. The Master Plumber Certificate reflects this trend by drawing attention to the role

of the Professional Plumbing Technician. Thus, in its own way the new Certificate contributed to the national quest for a rise in standards among the skilled.

This is a sincere attempt by a group of authoritative organisations to introduce a sense of ambition to people who set out to train as plumbers. At the same time, the Master Plumber Certificate presents an opportunity for those who satisfy its requirements to set the seal on a career of true value to the community.

Finally, much mention has been made of the partners in this enterprise so as a reminder of their relationship; The Chartered Institute of Plumbing and Heating Engineering has managed, since 1970, the Register of Plumbers inaugurated by the Worshipful Company of Plumbers in 1886.

The City and Guilds of London Institute was founded by City Livery Companies and it is an Awarding Body Partner for plumbing qualifications. The CIPHE is also a Licensed Member of the Engineering Council. Calling for Master Plumber Certificate holders to be, as a minimum, registered with the Engineering Council as an Engineering Technician completes a series of meaningful connections.



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