



Technical Committee Meeting Notes.

Date: 25 November 2025

Time: 12:00 CET

Format: Hybrid meeting (in-person and online)

Location: Roca Gallery, Barcelona.

Attendance

In-Person Attendees: Markus Gantenbein (Geberit), Fiona Felix (Hansgrohe), Lee Cartwright (UWLA), Timo Kopka (Laufen), Mike Fox (Ikea), Judit Almunia Ruano (Roca).

Online Attendees: Paul Skinner (UWLA), Thomas Kempf (Oras Group), Martin Fries (TUV), Paul Hardy (Shower Cap), Carly Hunt (Shower Cap), Andy Mclean (Bathroom Association).

Welcome and Meeting Opening:

TK opened the meeting and outlined the agenda, including updates on EN 1821-related technical specifications, label redesign progress, repair/recycle/reuse work, electric shower criteria, urinal controller scope, database development, audit updates and strategic priorities. The agenda was agreed without amendment.

EN 1821 Technical Update:

TK confirmed that technical specifications for taps and showers had been revised earlier in the year and aligned with EN 1821 developments. Publication occurred in July and no unexpected changes had arisen. TK noted an ongoing gap regarding shower spray force measurement, as no robust industry test method currently exists.

Label Redesign Progress:

TK reported that the marketing committee had agreed a timeline for new label proposals, with an initial proposal expected around mid-December. Technical Committee review will focus on identifying technical risks rather than designing aesthetics. Finalisation is targeted for the end of Q1 2026, allowing approximately one year transition before 2027 implementation.

LC added that discussions with the European Commission highlighted concerns with the current label, potentially leading to technical scheme adjustments. The committee may need to respond quickly if regulatory feedback requires changes.

Repair, Recycle and Reuse Work:

PS explained that formal publication of repairability, recyclability and reuse criteria is currently on hold pending EU Commission feedback. Background research continues, particularly on recyclability labelling clarity and spare-parts availability.

LC stated that recent Commission discussions suggested repair/recycle/durability may not be required for a voluntary agreement submission. **LC** advised limiting further effort until clearer regulatory direction emerges.

PS agreed but noted the work should be documented and retained so it can be revived quickly if required.

TK requested that documentation be finalised and archived for future use. **PS** confirmed this would be completed.

Electric Showers Criteria Discussion:

PS reported industry feedback requesting electric showers use the full Unified Water Label rather than the “efficient product” designation. Manufacturers prefer calculation-based flow values, whereas technical criteria normally require physical testing.

TK stated that from a technical standpoint electric shower should ideally be tested using the same procedures as conventional showers unless a clear technical justification exists. Consistency with existing shower standards was emphasised.

LC supported maintaining consistent technical criteria across all products and highlighted the need for physical test data to support audit verification.

PS agreed to consult manufacturers and communicate expectations, aiming to align electric showers with existing shower testing where feasible.

Urinal Controllers Scope:

TK raised removal of the “UK only” restriction currently applied to urinal controllers within the scheme, noting no clear technical justification.



PS confirmed he had not identified regulatory reasons for the restriction and supported removing it to open broader participation.

LC indicated agreement unless regulatory conflicts emerge. No objections were raised, and the restriction is expected to be removed subject to final confirmation.

Database Structure and Product Families:

TK revisited earlier discussions on grouping products into families within the database to reduce administrative burden. **TK** suggested potential movement toward system-to-system data integration and possibly revisiting fee structures if SKU-level listing becomes dominant.

PS highlighted the need for a product range field to support filtering, auditing and specification clarity.

LC noted that any SKU reduction could affect revenue needed to fund audits. Financial modelling will therefore be required before implementing structural changes.

Audits Update:

PS reported that audits are ongoing, with approximately 543 products across 64 brands reviewed this year, compared with 437 products and 44 brands previously. Testing quality has generally improved, aided by pre-audit discussions and video-based evidence.

PS highlighted a recurring issue: poor visibility of the Unified Water Label across websites, datasheets and trade exhibitions.

LC suggested more proactive support from the association, including providing label packs to exhibitors ahead of trade shows.

Other members noted that visibility is influenced by marketing priorities, exhibition planning timelines and communication strategies, indicating cross-functional responsibility.



Contact Data Management:

LC emphasised the need for members to keep contact information updated to ensure communications reach appropriate technical, marketing and audit contacts.

PS suggested database changes to allow separate technical, marketing, audit and lead contacts to improve communication accuracy.

Strategic Priority:

TK concluded that preparation for a potential voluntary agreement with the European Commission remains the key strategic priority for the Technical Committee for the coming year.

Close:

The meeting closed with agreement to continue monitoring regulatory developments, progress label redesign work, maintain audit improvements and ensure technical readiness for future policy engagement.