



TEMPORARY EVENTS

The information provided in this booklet will help temporary event organisers and installers to understand their legal obligations under the water fittings regulations, byelaws in Scotland. Further information can also be found on the Water Regs UK website www.waterregsuk.co.uk.

What are the water fittings regulations, byelaws in Scotland?

The water fittings regulations are national regulations in [England, Wales](#) and [Northern Ireland](#), [byelaws in Scotland](#), which protect drinking water by ensuring plumbing systems are designed, installed and used safely.

When do they apply to temporary events?

These regulations/byelaws apply if there is any form of mains water supply on site, even if it is only a back-up to any alternative sources of water.

Irrespective of the water source installers must always speak to the local water undertaker before an event. This will help to ensure compliance with the water fittings regulations, byelaws in Scotland, and access to sufficient drinking water at the event.

Other useful information can be found on the DWI website [here](#)

What do event organisers and installers need to do?

1. Obtain a license from the local authority to hold the event. As part of this process a water safety plan, including a schematic of the proposed water supply and distribution arrangements will have to be submitted. Refer to Drinking Water Safety Plan [precis](#) for further information. Please note this is not the same as notification.
2. Ensure the installation is safe by talking to and [notifying](#) the [local water undertaker](#) at least 10 working days before the event takes place. (In this document the term water undertaker includes Scottish Water.)
3. Protect public health by preventing drinking water supplies from becoming contaminated by identifying and acting to mitigate all the potential contamination risks on site.
4. Protect the plumbing installations from all forms of damage and maintain the quality of the water. For example, regularly checking on site installations and using plumbing fittings which are suitable for use with drinking water.

Powers of water undertakers

Local water undertakers have a range of legal powers to require remedial action where they consider there to be a potential risk to public health. These include powers of entry and disconnection of the mains water supply.

MAKE SURE YOUR EVENT IS SAFE

Make sure you liaise with the local water undertaker in advance of any plumbing work you are planning to do. This will provide the opportunity to ensure the plumbing on site is legal and safe.

Although there are some exemptions in the case of temporary events, advanced notification of any proposed plumbing work, even that undertaken by an approved contractor, may be required.



What is notification?

If a temporary event has any form of mains water supply, then the water fittings regulations/byelaws apply. These make it a legal requirement for the local water undertaker to be given advanced notice of any proposed plumbing work, including a schematic showing the pipework and fittings to be installed. This is an important, simple, and essential check to minimise the risks of waste and contaminating water supplies both on the site and in the wider community. Consent may be delayed if a copy of the event Water Safety Plan is not supplied in support of the notification.

Many water undertakers have their own notification forms and dedicated contact information which can be found on the water undertaker's website and [here](#). It is important to use the local water undertaker's form especially when submitting electronically.

Standpipe licensing

If standpipes are being connected to mains water supply onsite, appropriate authorisation, in the form of a license, has to be obtained from the local water undertaker prior to the event. It is an offence to attach any apparatus to the public mains water supply without permission.

All standpipes must be maintained and incorporate a suitable double check valve.

MAKE SURE THE DRINKING WATER IS SAFE

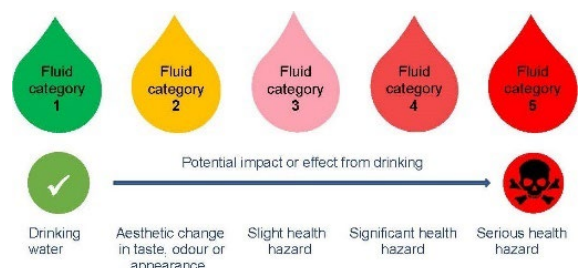
Contamination risks

Make sure the drinking water supplies on site, and in the network, remain safe by developing a Water Safety Plan which identifies all possible sources of contamination and ensuring steps are taken to protect and mitigate against contamination.

What is contamination?

Contamination occurs when there is a change in water quality. If the water supply at the event were to be contaminated it would potentially pose a risk to the health and wellbeing of not only those on site but also, if it entered the public water supply, that of the wider community.

The regulations/byelaws identify five categories of contamination risk, reflecting the impact and risk to health. These range from no risk (fluid category 1) to serious health hazard (fluid category 5).



Water quality and hygiene

All those involved should be holders of national water hygiene cards (blue cards), in Scotland [DOMS](#). Those installing and operating water systems on site should be competent for example, an approved contractor listed on the WaterSafe website.

All water quality sampling results should be shared with both the local authority and local water undertaker.

Disinfection, sampling, monitoring and procedures for dealing with unsatisfactory results should be carried out in accordance with the Water Safety Plan agreed with the local water undertaker. Further information can be found in [BS 8551](#).



Water distribution system

Details of the site design, sampling and monitoring regime as well as risk assessment will form part of the event Water Safety Plan and notification. Particular attention should be paid to the risk of backflow, cross connection (especially where water recycling is in use), ingress and permeation, with appropriate steps taken to address these.

To avoid undue warming in summer and freezing in winter any pipework laid at a depth of less than 750 mm needs to be adequately insulated.

All pipework and fittings should be clearly labelled, this not only helps to ensure correct operation but reduces the risk of cross connection between wholesome and unwholesome water supplies. Further information about labelling can be found in BS 1710 and [here](#).

When decommissioning systems after the event care should be taken to avoid leaving 'deadlegs' i.e. lengths of redundant pipework onsite. Further information can be found in [BS 8551](#).

Appropriate quality & standard

To help maintain the quality of drinking water, prevent illness and reduce the waste of water, all water fittings must conform to an appropriate performance specification and, where applicable satisfy, specific requirements for materials in contact with drinking water. Further information can be found on the Water Regs UK [website](#) If in doubt, ask the manufacturer for evidence their product is compliant with the regulations/byelaws.

Storage and reuse of water fittings

If water fittings are to be reused it is essential they are cleaned before being hygienically and securely stored, and any damaged or faulty fittings are repaired or disposed. Pipework and fittings should be cleaned and disinfected prior to reuse. During installation care should be taken to ensure cleanliness is maintained. For further information refer to [BS 8551](#).



Hiring equipment

If equipment is to be hired, it is advisable for event organisers (or contractors if they are responsible for hiring), to obtain appropriate hygiene certification where applicable.

In the case of high risk installations, such as welfare units, it is important to confirm whether and what form of backflow protection is incorporated.

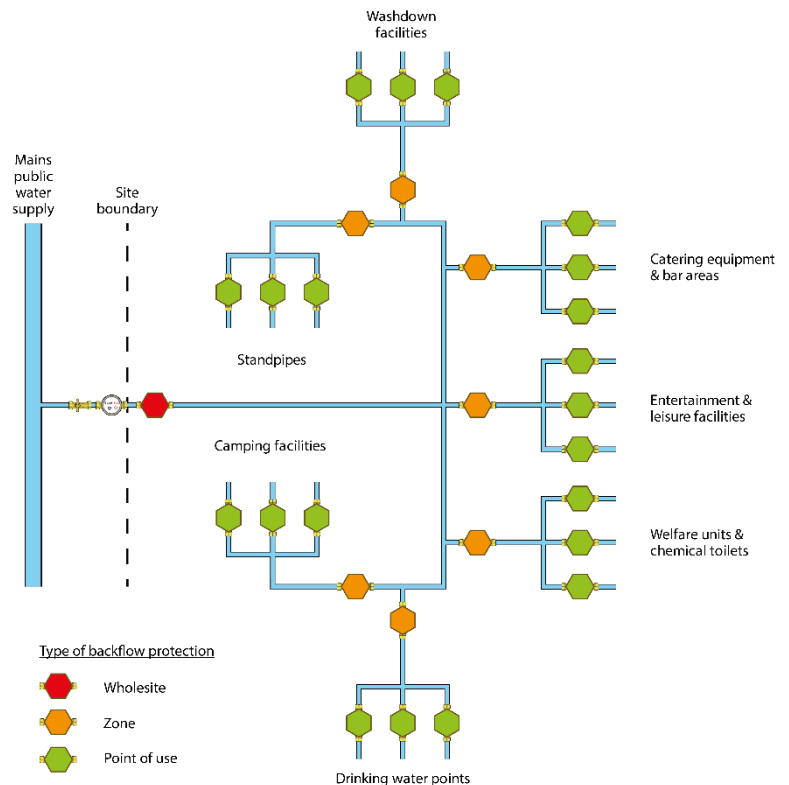
Backflow protection

Contamination by backflow occurs when fluid in a plumbing system flows in the opposite to the intended or normal direction of flow. Backflow is not theoretical rather an ever present threat to people's health.

In addition to requiring the installation of wholesite protection the local water undertaker may ask for zonal protection on each branch as well as point of use backflow protection. This is to allow for the isolation of specific areas (zones) should a problem occur rather than disconnection of the whole site. For example, a localised water quality failure.

As determined by the local water undertaker, adequate backflow protection will also be needed for any storage arrangements, installations where mains and water from other sources combine and at the point at which the water is used.

Further information about backflow protection can be found [here](#).



For illustration purposes only

PROTECT YOUR PLUMBING INSTALLATIONS

The following advice should help those responsible for temporary events to prevent water quality being adversely affected and plumbing installations damaged.

For drinking water supplies to remain safe it is important they do not become contaminated. There are various ways this could happen, including by backflow, ingress and permeation. Water fittings incorrectly installed or inadequately monitored poses a risk.

In addition to being adequately insulated any temporary water fittings installed above ground or at a shallow depth must be protected against environmental, accidental, or deliberate damage. Event Water Safety Plans must include regular inspection of pipework and water fittings to identify leaks or other issues throughout the duration of an event. Water leaks not only waste water but also pose a contamination risk.

Pipework should never be installed in a contaminated environment such as a sewer. Plastic plumbing fittings are at risk of permeation by hydrocarbons (e.g. diesel) and organic substances or fluids (e.g. manure) so should never be installed where they could come into direct contact, including contact with soil contaminated with them.



This is informative, non-statutory guidance and intended for general guidance purposes only; it is subject to change. Conformity with this information should not be relied upon as guaranteeing compliance with the water fittings regulations/byelaws or no enforcement action will be taken by water undertakers. Water Regs UK accepts no liability for loss, indirect or consequential loss arising from or in connection with this guidance document