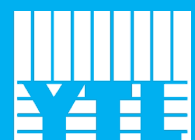


**Policy for the supply of water to
household and non-household
automatic fire sprinkler systems**
January 2019



Introduction

The purpose of this document is to set out Wessex Water's policy and commitment to supporting the installation of fire sprinkler systems.

This policy will require that installers carry out installations in accordance with The Water Supply (Water fittings) Regulations 1999 (the regulations) and be in accordance with the company's terms and conditions within the area we are responsible for supplying water.

Wessex Water primarily supplies water in three counties, Somerset, Dorset and Wiltshire.

This policy describes the principles used to ensure compliance with the Water Fittings Regulations and the terms and conditions of how we will work with stakeholders to achieve its outcomes.

The documents will be reviewed every five years to reflect any change in legislation.

Principles

Automatic Fire Sprinklers can be installed in new and existing premises.

While the pressure in our network may currently be higher than our guaranteed minimum; we may reduce pressures in the future and therefore we advise all developers that we cannot guarantee pressures at the point of connection at more than our minimum standard of 15m pressure and that developers should design their systems accordingly.

Unless there is dedicated storage, any interruption to the supply could leave the premises unprotected. An interruption could be due to Wessex Water undertaking planned or unplanned work or if the supply to the premises has to be shut down due to operational reasons. Therefore, we cannot guarantee a continuous supply or constancy of pressure.

All installers must contact us prior to the installation of a fire sprinkler system to comply with regulation 5, Notification. The minimum and maximum flow and operating pressure required will need to be provided so as to assess the likely impact on the water supply network. If the result of the impact assessment identifies an adverse effect on the water supply network, it will very likely result in a requirement to change the proposed design. For example, by increasing or including storage.

Aims of the policy

Wessex Water is committed to the following aims:

- Enforcement of the Regulations under section 75 of the Water Act 1991.
- Provide a supply of water where available for use with fire sprinklers systems.
- Engage with all stakeholders to maintain best practice where appropriate.
- Protect water quality.

Wessex Water - roles and responsibilities

- Respond to written enquiries regarding fire sprinkler systems within 28 working days.
- Respond to formal applications detailing connection charges within our levels of service.
- We will carry out a Water Fittings inspection and final connection, provided that the sprinkler system and service pipe is compliant.
- Apply and enforce the regulations where a sprinkler system and installation is non-compliant.
- Choose to inspect an installation where the sprinkler system has been installed by an approved contractor.
- Provide a new supply pipe and connection within our levels of service after payments of the required charges and the installation being compliant with the regulations.
- Install a controlling valve within the public highway which can be used to isolate both the domestic and fire sprinkler system.

Applying for a sprinkler system connection (customer)

- Notify Wessex Water under Regulation 5 of the Water Fittings Regulation.
- If a new connection is required, you must complete an application form for a new supply, along with schematic drawings and a fittings schedule to ensure compliance with the regulations.
- If an existing connection is to be used then regulation 5 Notification must be submitted to us.
- Use a single point of connection to the water main for both the fire sprinkler system and the domestic water supply.
- Arrange for the installation to be installed by an approved plumber. Regulation 6.
- If an approved plumber is not being employed, a full fittings inspection must be arranged before the final connection is to be made.
- Ensure all water fittings comply with Regulation 4, approved fittings, and all valves back flow prevention devices and pipework within the property boundary are appropriately maintained and serviced.
- If the existing service pipe is not adequate for a new fire sprinkler system and a new one is requested, the cost of replacement will be at your expense.
- Pay all connection charges prior to any work being undertaken by ourselves.
- Rectify any non-compliant water fittings identified.
- Ensure the fire sprinkler system is installed, maintained and is used in accordance with the appropriate British standard.
- An approved double check valve to be installed on the leg to the sprinkler system and the storage cistern.

Water supply arrangements for fire sprinklers

Direct mains fed systems

The system is directly supplied from the distribution network. The use of a priority demand valve can be used on this system. The priority demand valve may not be appropriate if the domestic supply is part of a shared supply to more than one property. The constant supply of water cannot be guaranteed at any one time.

Storage and boosted systems

This type of system relies on a volume of stored water to meet the demands of the fire sprinkler system. All such storage cisterns must have the appropriate back flow prevention devices and air gap installed at the inlet. The dedicated supply will supply a booster system via a suitable pump.

Mains fed boosted system

This is where a pump is directly connected to the mains distribution network. This can only be permitted if the pump automatically shuts down in the event of a reduced pressure within the distribution network. This system can only be installed after careful consultation with Wessex Water with all the appropriate design details. The regulations standard for pumping directly from the mains distribution system is a flow of 12L/M (0.2L/S) but we can deviate from this standard on a case by case basis.

Meters

All new connections to the distribution system will be water metered. We do not charge for water for firefighting purposes. If you are on a water meter and your fire sprinkler has been activated, you can claim an allowance by calling 0345 600 5 600 (24hrs) If a cross connection were to be found between the fire sprinkler system and the domestic supply this would be deemed as a contravention of the water fittings regulations, and would be appropriately dealt with under section 75 of the 1991 Water Act.

Communication pipe

The standard size for a fire sprinkler system is 32mm external bore for a household property. A different size could be agreed on a case by case basis.

This policy primarily relates to domestic (household) sprinkler systems.

Please refer to the section on commercial (non-household) sprinkler systems.

Commercial fire sprinkler systems

Wessex Water follow the guidelines for the supply of water to automatic fire sprinkler systems endorsed by Water UK which state that the method of providing water supplies for automatic fire sprinkler systems (mains fed or storage) will vary by region/area and are likely to be influenced by a variety of local factors such as availability of supply, condition of infrastructure, water company operational requirements and customer service obligations.

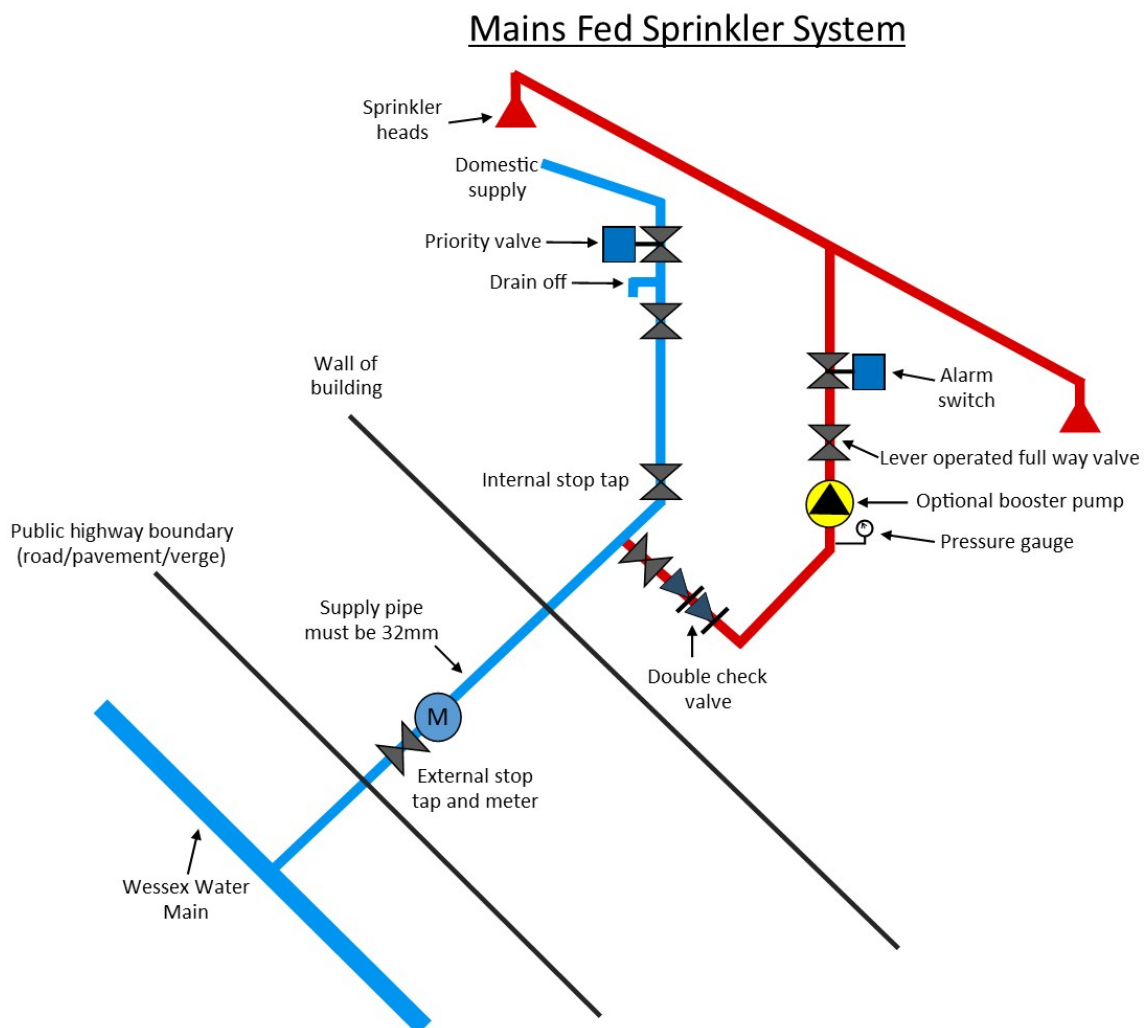
When Wessex Water agree to a mains fed sprinkler system (with a direct connection to the mains as opposed to a storage tank and pump) it is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that their system is fit for purpose based on the agreed maximum flow rate and our guaranteed minimum standard for pressure. While the pressure in our network may currently be higher than our guaranteed minimum; we may reduce pressures in the future and therefore we advise all developers that we cannot guarantee pressures at the point of connection at more than our minimum standard of 15m pressure and that developers should design their systems accordingly.

Unless there is dedicated storage, any interruption to the supply could leave the premises unprotected. An interruption could be due to Wessex Water undertaking planned or unplanned work or if the supply to the premises has to be shut down due to operational reasons. Therefore, we cannot guarantee a continuous supply or constancy of pressure.

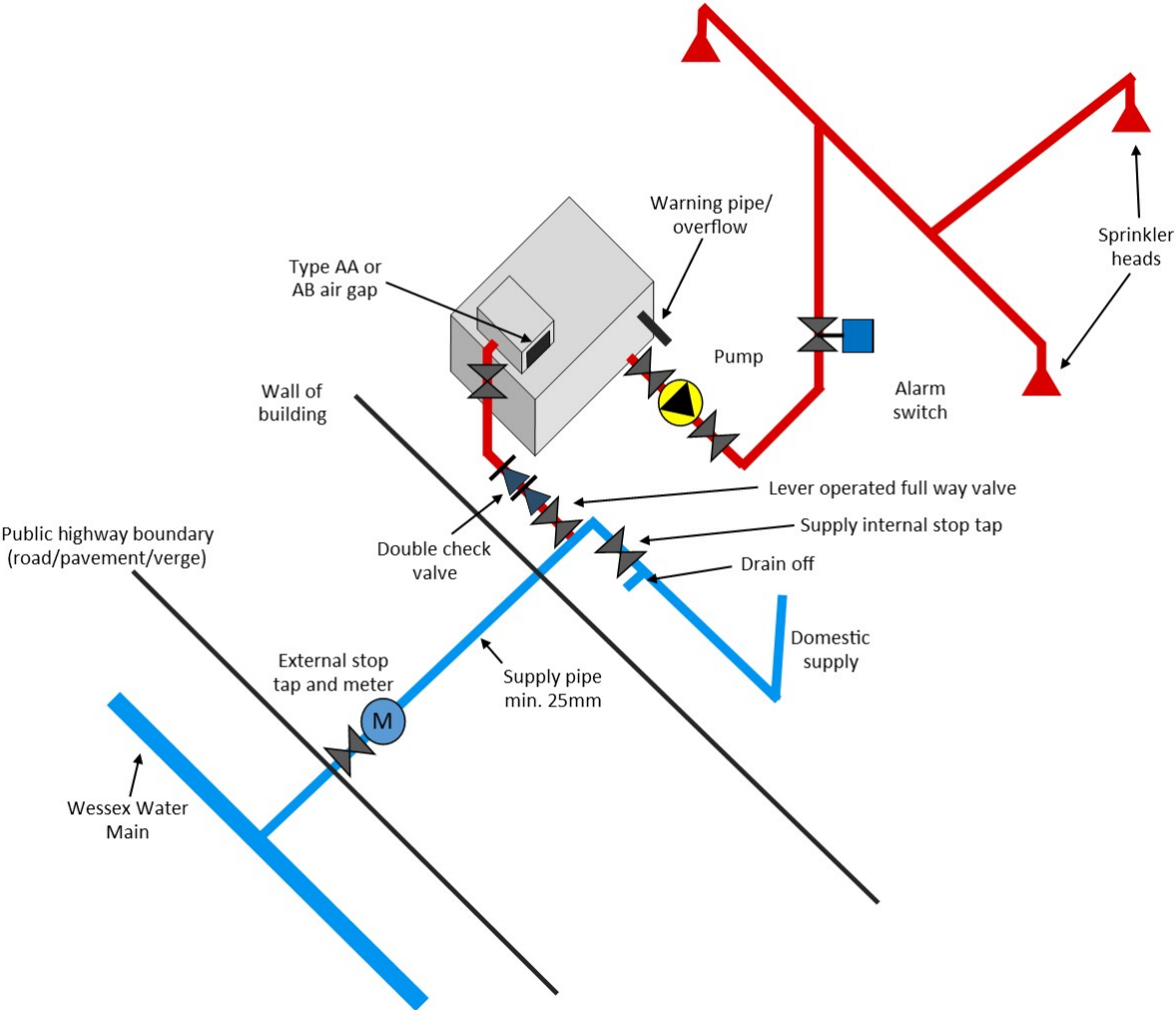
Appendices

1. Schematic drawings of fire sprinkler systems

FOR GUIDANCE PURPOSES ONLY



Sprinkler System with Storage



2. Wessex Water supply area



Information

If any information is required regarding fire sprinkler systems, new connections and water fittings inspections, please contact Wessex Water on 0345 600 4 600, visit www.wessexwater.co.uk or email new.connections@wessexwater.co.uk

To find an approved plumber please contact Water safe on 0333 207 9030 or email info@watersafe.org.uk

