



## The Implications of the Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations 1999 (Scotland Byelaws)

### Introduction

The Water Fittings Regulations (Byelaws 2000 in Scotland) are National Legislation. Their purpose is to prevent misuse, waste, undue consumption and erroneous measurement of water, and ultimately prevent contamination of drinking water. Schedule 2 also incorporates details for the design, installation and maintenance of plumbing systems, water fittings and water-using appliances.

These Regulations/Byelaws are enforced by Water Suppliers on behalf of the Government, and individual Water Suppliers may provide copies of their own policy on Enforcement.

**It is a criminal offence to breach the Regulations and offenders may face prosecution.**

Anyone who installs plumbing systems, water fittings and equipment supplied, or to be supplied from the public water supply, has a legal duty to ensure that the installations satisfy the Regulations. Any materials and fittings must be of a suitable standard, it is unfortunately not illegal to sell unsuitable fittings and appliances but to install them is an offence. It is important to check suitability before installation, using the Water Fittings and Materials Directory (published by WRAS\*) as reference and the KIWA listings.

### Prevention of Backflow

Where water or water-using equipment is used in conjunction with any fluids or materials which may contaminate the water, there must be adequate and suitable protection to prevent backflow of contaminated water into any part of the system. The Regulations define fluid risk

categories and appropriate prevention devices to guard against backflow.

### Notification

Except in cases where the installer is an **ACP\*\***, before any proposed work starts, consent from the Water Supplier must be obtained by giving advanced notice of the work, in the following circumstances

- The erection of any new building or structure.
- The extension or alteration of the water supply system in any premises except a domestic dwelling.
- The material change of use in any building

The installation of:

- A bidet with an ascending spray or flexible hose.
- A bath with a capacity larger than 230 litres.
- A shower unit of a type specified by the Regulator (none currently specified)
- A pump or booster drawing more than 12 l/min.
- A reverse osmosis unit.
- A water treatment unit producing a waste water discharge or requiring water for regeneration or cleaning.
- A reduced pressure zone valve or other mechanical device for protection against backflow in fluid category 4 or 5.
- A garden watering system unless designed to be a hand-operated one.
- Any water system laid outside a building and either less than 750mm or more than 1350mm below ground level.

Or:

- Construction of an automatically-replenished pond or swimming pool of more than 10,000 litres.

**The Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations 1999** are available at:  
[www.legislation.hmsso.gov.uk](http://www.legislation.hmsso.gov.uk).

\*The Water Regulations Advisory Scheme (WRAS) is funded by all of the UK Water Suppliers to fund an advisory service for Water Regulations. Copies of the Water Regulations Guide (including the Scottish Byelaws) are available through the IPHE (details available on our website: [www.iphe.org.uk](http://www.iphe.org.uk)), or through WRAS, visit [www.wras.co.uk](http://www.wras.co.uk) for further details.

\*\* The Water Supply Regulations 1999 introduced the concept of ACP's (Approved Contractor Persons). An ACP is a Plumber who is able to prove, via an assessment, knowledge of the Water Regulations. These Plumbers can then join an ACP scheme, which will allow them to undertake work without the need to pre-notify the Water Supplier of the following installations:

- The extension or alteration of the water supply system in any premises except a domestic dwelling
- The installation of a bidet with an ascending spray or flexible hose.
- The installation of a reduced pressure zone valve or other mechanical device for protection against backflow in fluid category 4 or 5.

Details of the IPHE's ACP scheme are available at [www.iphe.org.uk](http://www.iphe.org.uk).

*The Institute of Plumbing & Heating Engineering cannot accept responsibility for any errors or omissions contained in this information.*

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