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## Water Regulations Tutorial # 1 – Introduction

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### Foreword

Arrow Valves have produced a series of Water Regulations tutorials to assist designers and installers comply with the latest Water Regulations. We have taken an application and compiled the relevant regulations. We also suggest practical solutions.

### Tutorial 1

The Water Regulations were introduced 1<sup>st</sup> July 1999 in England and Wales. In Scotland, the “Byelaws 2000” became lawful 4<sup>th</sup> April 2000. The Scottish Byelaws are technically identical to the Water Regulations. The colour Water Regulations Guide was published February 2001 – after which all water companies have actively enforced the regulations. The regulations are the property of the government and are **law**. One well-known contractor was taken to court by a water company and lost!

The Regulations consist of –

- The actual [“Water Supply \(Water Fittings\) Regulations 1999” Schedules 1, 2 & 3”](#)
- Government Guidance (G-Clauses)
- Water Industry Clauses (R-Clauses)

The first three are available free of charge. For example, you can download as a word file from our website [www.arrowvalves.co.uk](http://www.arrowvalves.co.uk) to obtain all four, together with clear colour illustrations you need to buy the Water Regulations Guide.



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## Main Changes

**Backflow Protection** – Mechanical backflow prevention devices, known as Reduced Pressure Zone (RPZ or “BA Device”) are acceptable in place of a Break Tank for Fluid Categories up to 4. Fluid Category 5, the most serious risk, requires a suitable air gap.

**Point-of-use protection** – Schedule 2, paragraph 15 states, “...every water system shall contain an adequate device or devices for preventing backflow of fluid from any appliance, fitting or process from occurring”. This means every appliance must have its own backflow prevention according to the potential contamination risk. Most appliances have an integral air gap such as basin taps and WC cisterns and generally need no further protection.

**Water Conservation** – Toilet cisterns are now 6 litres and dual flush volumes are permitted. Urinals can be flushed direct from a supply pipe provided a DC Pipe Interrupter and suitable controls are used.

**Risk Assessment** – Hose union taps, washing machines and dishwashers are three examples where the water company can determine the Fluid Category and therefore the type of backflow prevention to be used. As a designer, you cannot assume that a Double Check Valve will be suitable. In some cases, a higher level of protection is required.

**Approved Fittings** – It is a legal requirement that only approved fittings are used in the plumbing system. Until other European approvals are accepted through harmonisation, the choice is –

- [WRAS](#) (previously known as WRc or WBS – still acceptable)
- [KIWA UK](#)
- BSI Kite marked



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**Notification** – New buildings, alterations and extensions to a building other than a house requires the drawings to be sent to, and approved by, the local water company, before work starts. The design consultant is the most suitable person to do this.

The changes listed above are expanded in future tutorials and specific problems and solutions are highlighted. Remember, you can download .pdf data sheets, copy specification clauses etc on our website [www.hurlstoneassociates.co.uk](http://www.hurlstoneassociates.co.uk)

*Thank you for your interest*