

Temporary Events: Water Safety Plans Key Information

Event organisers are responsible for ensuring there is a sufficient and wholesome supply of water at a temporary event. Typically, water can be supplied:

- in bottles, containers, tankers, bowsers, and static tanks;
- from a public water main; or
- from a private source, such as a private supply, borehole, well or river abstraction scheme.

Ensuring water used for drinking, washing, cooking and sanitary purposes remains safe, as defined in the Water Quality Regulations is important to public health, which is why there are various statutory requirements to safeguard supplies at temporary events. These requirements include the water fittings regulations, byelaws in Scotland¹, which need to be satisfied, regardless of source.

A risk assessment approach from source to tap is advised to ensure that the water at the temporary event remains safe. This can be done by preparing a Water Safety Plan.

This document summaries' the information to be included in a Water Safety Plan which should be submitted to the local water undertaker prior to the event taking place, as part of the notification process. Please note other requirements will apply, for further information refer to the [Water Regs UK website](#)

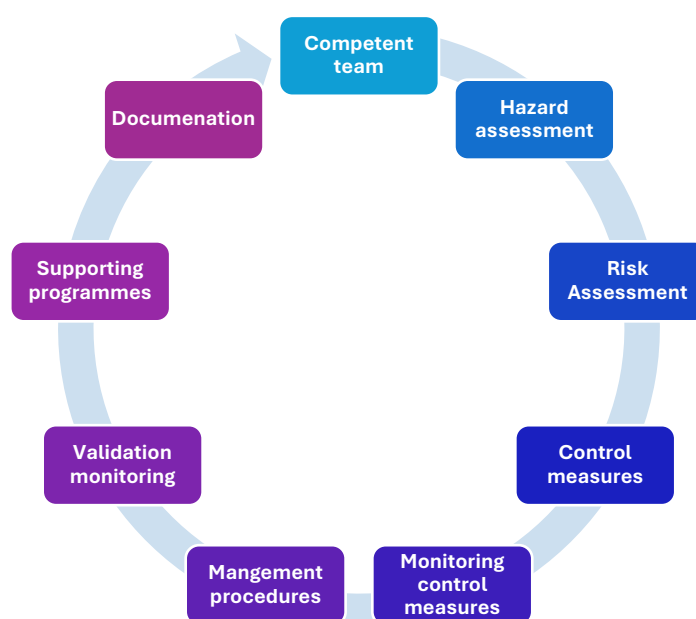
Further detailed information can be also be found on the [DWI website](#) and in [BS 8551](#)

Plumbing systems

Where the water at a temporary event has been supplied by a water undertaker the plumbing systems used to deliver it, up to and including the point of use, must comply with the water fittings regulations, byelaws in Scotland. Plumbing systems used to supply water from other sources should likewise satisfy these requirements.

Water Safety plan

To demonstrate compliance with the various statutory requirements a comprehensive risk assessment and risk management plan will be needed. In the case of water this will be a water safety plan.



¹ The Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations 1999 in [England & Wales](#)
 The Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations ([Northern Ireland](#)) 2009
 The Water Supply (Water Fittings) ([Scotland](#)) Byelaws 2014

Risk assessment

The risk assessment process must be carried out by a competent person(s), and should include the following steps:

1. Securing a sufficient supply

If a connection to the mains drinking water supply is needed, including existing installations the local water undertaker should be contacted at least 12 weeks before an event. If tankers or bowsers are to be used a valid license should be obtained from the local water undertaker, before drawing off water from a public water supply. Consideration should be given to the possibility of an interruption to supply and the actions to be taken in the event of loss of supply

2. Assessing the temporary supply

This should include, but not be limited to assessing the distribution system, including any storage and operational controls, including permissions as well as sampling and monitoring points. It may be helpful to draw up a schematic of the supply arrangements to help identify risks and put in place any mitigation measures required. i.e. backflow protection.

3. Hazard identification

Examples include but are not limited to:

Direct mains connection	Sediment in the mains water
	Taste or odour
	Insufficient or interruption of supply
Indirect mains source	Water fittings used – compliant, condition, storage, disinfection, labelling
	Filling points location and hygiene
Private water	Refer to local authority risk assessment
Installation	Vicinity to hydrocarbons e.g. fuel tanks
	Contaminants in the ground
	Inappropriate use
	Malicious activity e.g. vandalism
	Faecal contamination e.g. septic tanks, portable toilets
	Inadequate disinfection
	Exposure to physical damage e.g. vehicles, vermin
	Exposure to sunlight and other heat sources
	Stagnation
	Cross connection
Fittings	Inadequate backflow protection
	Non-compliant fittings
	Incorrect storage

4. Control measures

Assess the risk here, for the likelihood and severity of the hazard and then rank them. For example, using compliant water fittings and having procedures for dealing with sudden loss of supply, carrying out repairs, maintaining wholesomeness.

5. Validation and monitoring of control measures

A plan for sampling and other on-site checks to ensure that your control measures are adequate.

6. Supporting programs

Developing and implementing personnel training in operational as well as hygienic and other quality control procedures. For example, the water hygiene ‘blue card’ scheme.

7. Management procedures

Incident response plans defining action to be taken in response to unsafe situations such as monitoring non-compliance, exposure to hazardous substances, failure of utilities and issues with the water.

For further information please refer to [BS 8551](#).

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