

Terms and Conditions for the Installation and Maintenance of Reduced Pressure Zone (RPZ) Valve Assemblies

The following terms and conditions apply to all installations of Type BA backflow prevention devices (Verifiable Backflow Preventer with Reduced Pressure Zone), commonly known as an RPZ valve, on water fittings installations conveying water that is supplied by Welsh Water.

Failure to adhere to these terms may result in prosecution for infringements under The Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations 1999 and/or relevant sections of The Water Industry Act 1991.

Notification, installation and commissioning.

1. The installation of these fittings is subject to prior written consent from Welsh Water. In all instances, consent shall be sought by a customer using a [notification form](#).
2. RPZ Valves must be installed, commissioned, tested and maintained in accordance with the requirements of the current edition of Water Regs UK's **Approved Installation Method – AIM-08-01**. These installations must also comply with *The Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations 1999*. The requirements of the AIM and The Regulations are to be applied in addition to these terms.
3. RPZ valves and fittings associated with their installation shall have current and valid evidence of compliance with Regulation 4 of The Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations 1999 at the time of installation. Welsh Water shall request evidence of compliance for the product to be installed prior to granting consent to its installation. *An example of sufficient evidence would be current and valid certification or approval.*
4. Welsh Water may impose further conditions upon the installation of these fittings as deemed appropriate when granting consent to the proposed works.
5. Once installed, an RPZ valve shall be commissioned and tested by an accredited tester, such as those listed by [WaterSafe](#). **This must be conducted prior to any valve being put into service.**
6. The Installation of an RPZ valve is only permitted subject to these Terms and Conditions being met. Failure to satisfy these Terms and Conditions may result in Welsh Water requiring the removal of an RPZ valve assembly and the provision of appropriate alternative backflow protection.

Maintenance and compliance testing.

7. RPZ valves and associated fittings shall be maintained by the customer in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations. Welsh Water may, at their discretion, impose other conditions upon the maintenance of any RPZ valve.
8. The customer shall be required to operate an inspection and maintenance programme which ensures that RPZ valves are tested at intervals specified by the manufacturer, or at intervals not exceeding 12 months - whichever is the shorter period. Welsh Water may impose the

requirement for inspection and maintenance to be undertaken at shorter intervals where it is felt necessary.

9. Test report certificates shall be retained by the customer alongside any other documents relating to the installation and maintenance of an RPZ valve. These shall be stored in manner which is readily accessible for the purposes of review by Welsh Water. We may request this information from you during inspection or review.
10. Welsh Water may insist upon additional in-situ testing of an RPZ valve at any time and may specify that in-situ testing be conducted more frequently than specified in the AIM where it is deemed appropriate.
11. Compliance testing of an RPZ valve may be carried out up to a maximum of 30 days prior to the required date of next test without affecting the subsequent re-test date.
12. Compliance testing of RPZ valves shall be carried out at the customer's expense by an accredited tester. The customer shall display a notice in a prominent position close to the assembly to advise those nearby that any problems with the assembly should be reported immediately and that maintenance is only to be performed by authorised and suitably trained personnel.
13. No changes to the ownership of, or alterations to the plumbing installations containing an RPZ valve shall be made without the written consent of Welsh Water. Proposed changes should be notified in advance using our [notification form](#).
14. Where an RPZ valve is no longer required, the customer shall continue to maintain and test it. Alternatively, consent to remove the valve should be sought from Welsh Water.
15. The Customer shall permit any authorised employee or agent of Welsh Water to enter the premises at all reasonable times for purposes relating to these terms. This is in addition to Welsh Water's statutory right of entry.

Testing failures, repair and replacement.

16. In the event of a commissioning or compliance test failure of any RPZ valve, Welsh Water must be informed as soon as is practicable and always within 24 hours. The nature of the test failure must be reported along with any actions taken. Where a failed valve cannot be repaired or replaced immediately, **Welsh Water must be notified immediately.**
17. RPZ valves must be isolated following a test failure until otherwise advised by Welsh Water. Welsh Water may insist that other remedial actions are taken following a failure where repair or replacement cannot be undertaken.
18. Replacement components for any RPZ valve must conform to the manufacturer's specifications for the model of valve that is installed. Following replacement or repair of components the valve must be recommissioned and tested by an accredited tester before being brought back into service.

Welsh Water reserves the right to amend these Terms & Conditions as may be necessary from time to time in accordance with changes to legislation or industry guidance. Changes will be communicated out to customers upon implementation.