

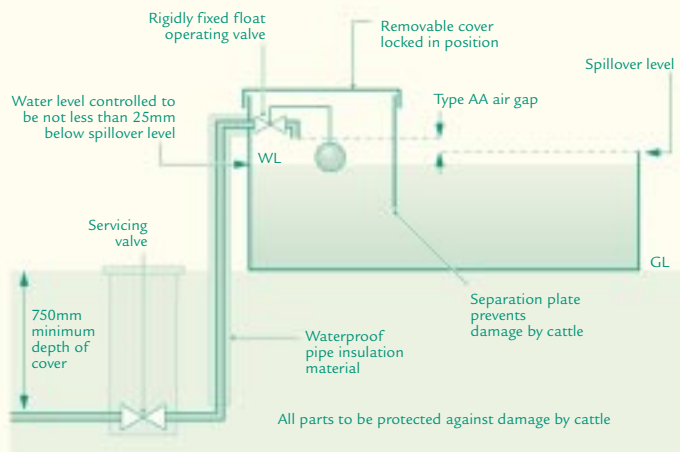
Purpose

This brief guide is intended to encourage the horse owners and keepers to consider the management of their water supply so that it meets the requirements of the Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations 1999.

The Regulations are intended to help landowners ensure that their own water supply is clean and delivered from a reliable plumbing system.



Diagram of water trough



References

BHS Guide to Grassland Management for Horse and Pony Owners
British Horse Society 2000

Country Guide: Grassland and Grasskeep Management
NFU Countryside

Country Guide: Horse & Pony Management
NFU Countryside

Equine Industry Welfare Guidelines Compendium for Horses, Ponies and Donkeys
ADAS Consulting Ltd 2002

Five Point Plan for wildlife friendly farming
English Nature & NFU 2002

Horses, grasslands & nature conservation
English Nature 2002

Equipment & Vehicle Storage Advice Note (012)
Horse Pasture Management Project 2002

Exercise Areas & Exercise Equipment Advice Note (005)
Horse Pasture Management Project 2002

Gateways Advice Note (008)
Horse Pasture Management Project 2002

Grassland Management Advice Note (003)
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Feed & Bedding Advice Note (011)
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Fencing Advice Note (002)
Horse Pasture Management Project 2002

Manure Advice Note (007)
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Poisonous Plants Advice Note (010)
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Stables & Buildings Advice Note (006)
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Tenancy Agreement Advice Note (008)
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Water Regulations Advice Note (004)
Horse Pasture Management Project 2002

Water Supply Installation Guide to Agricultural Premises
Published by Water Regulations Advisory Scheme 2001

Worming Advice Note (009)
Horse Pasture Management Project 2002

Useful Contacts

ADAS
01954 267666
www.adas.co.uk

British Horse Society (BHS)
08701 202 244
www.bhs.org.uk

British Trust for Conservation
Volunteers (BTCV)
01491 839766
www.btcv.org.uk

Country Land & Business Association
01435 865106
www.cla.org.uk

Countryside Agency
020 7340 2900
www.countryside.gov.uk

English Heritage
www.english-heritage.org.uk

English Nature
01733 455101
www.english-nature.org.uk

Business, Farming and Rural Advisor:
Businesslink Surrey
0845 749 4949
www.businesslinksurrey.co.uk

Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group
(FWAG)
01483 404255
www.fwag.org.uk

Fencing Contractors Association
07000 560722
www.fencingcontractors.org

Forestry Commission
0845 3673787
www.forestry.gov.uk

Horse Pasture Management Project
01372 741783
www.surreycc.gov.uk/horsepastureproject

National Association of
Agricultural Contractors
01733 362920
www.naac.co.uk

National Farmers Union (NFU)
01483 414016
www.nfucountryside.org.uk

Water Regulations Advisory Scheme
01495 248454
www.wras.co.uk



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Water Regulations Advice

Note (004)

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Introduction

Fresh water is the most vital part of a horse or pony's diet, but we may not pay sufficient attention to its quality. It is essential that horses and ponies have access to clean, uncontaminated water at all times. It is also extremely important that the drinking bowls and troughs for horses and ponies cannot backflow and contaminate the rest of the premises or the main water supply.

The Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations 1999 are reasonable measures in place to protect the water supply to our animals and to us, and they can also save money by helping to prevent wastage!

The law

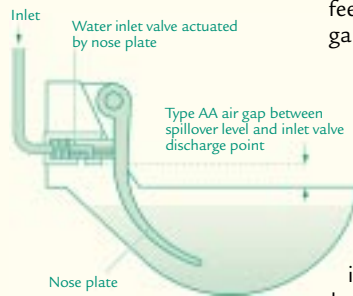
In 1999 the government introduced new regulations to replace the older bylaws. This important legislation was implemented to protect water supplies from contamination and to reduce water wastage. The owners or occupiers of all premises have a legal duty to comply with the Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations 1999.

The intention of the Regulations is to 'prevent contamination, waste, misuse and undue consumption' of public water supplies.

The Regulations define five levels of risk for water contamination, and the corresponding protection measures required of consumers. A water supply for horses comes under the controls of Category 5.

Main requirements for horse owners and keepers

Diagram of water trough



- Water troughs and water feeders must have a minimum air gap of 25mm (1"), or twice the diameter of the inlet pipe between the inlet level and the overflow level to prevent water from being drawn back into the supplying pipework (back flow). The air gap is measured between the lowest discharge point of the water inlet and the spill over level (top edge) of the trough.

- You must never directly connect a pipe from the water main to one carrying other water, such as rainwater. If water other than mains water (possibly from rainwater pipes or recycled water) is used with mains water, the mains water must be discharged into a cistern with an adequate air gap to prevent contamination of the mains supply by backflow.

- Underground pipes must be buried to a minimum of 750mm (2'6") to protect them from frost.

- Water pipes above ground, or less than 750mm below ground in any unheated places must be adequately lagged to protect them from frost.

Diagram of generic plumbing layout etc

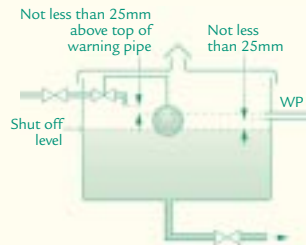
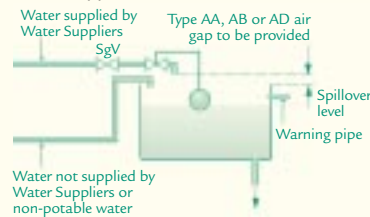


Diagram of separation of mains from other supplies



- Where a gravity fed cistern or header tank is used (perhaps to supply individual horse drinking bowls) they must be fitted with a float operated valve to BS1212 Part 2 or 3 or those listed by the Water Regulations Advisory Scheme (WRAS), to ensure that backflow is prevented. They must also have a valve to turn off the supply (a servicing valve) upstream of the float operated valve.

- There must be a stop valve to isolate the supply from the water main, and each building with a water supply should have a separate stop valve controlling the supply. If a burst or leak occurs in one building, it can be isolated without having to turn off the supply to every building on the holding.
- Pipes and fittings, especially plastic, must not be installed where they could come into contact (whether above or below ground) with any contaminated materials, such as manure or diesel or heating fuel, or where they are likely to be spilt.
- Hosepipes are a frequent cause of backflow, by allowing contaminants to be sucked back into the pipework if the end of the hose is submerged. Where a hosepipe is attached to a yard tap, the end of the hose must not be submerged eg in buckets of water, drains or left lying on the ground where it may siphon water back into the main supply. In domestic premises, a hose can be supplied with water directly from the main only if it is hand held, has a self closing flow control, such as a trigger device, and is protected by a double check valve (non-return valve). The check valve must be protected against freezing or it will fail. If these requirements are not met, the water supplier has the right to insist that the hose is fed from a storage cistern, which is unlikely to provide the same water pressure without a booster pump.
- In non domestic premises, hoses should be fed from storage cisterns with an adequate air gap, but water suppliers may permit lesser protection in certain circumstances.

- The location of water mains entering and crossing the land must be known to protect the pipes from damage when fencing or putting in new buildings.
- The location of the water meter (where fitted) should be known. This should be regularly read, as a high reading could indicate that a pipe has burst or a water trough is overflowing.

Compliance

All new installations since 1st July 1999 must comply with the current Regulations. The Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations 1999 do not require the replacement of fittings installed before that date, if they complied with the original bylaws.

However, under separate legislation, (The Water Industry Act 1991), if a water supplier considers these fittings are a significant risk of contamination or waste of water, improvements will be required.

Any pre-July 1999 fittings that do not meet the original bylaws will have to be modified to comply with the current Regulations.

New work

- Materials and fittings must comply with the regulations' requirements. (See the Water Fittings and Materials Directory published by the Water Regulations Advisory Scheme)
- A competent plumber should be used to ensure any work carried out complies with the Regulations. Plumbers approved by WRAS or the water supplier can issue a certificate of competence.
- By law, you must let your water supplier know what plumbing work is to be carried out (unless it repairs or like-for-like replacements) and have the suppliers consent. The water supplier should then let you know within ten working days whether or not you have consent. If they don't stick to this time scale, consent has automatically been granted, and work can go ahead, but must of course still comply with the Regulations.

Conclusion

The new Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations 1999 seem complicated when they are first viewed, but most of the requirements are simple common sense, and most horse owners and keepers will probably find that they comply with them already.

Whilst this list of requirements is not exhaustive, further information can be easily obtained from WRAS, the NFU and your local water supplier, WRAS or the NFU. Details of each Water Suppliers Regulations are on the WRAS website.