**The Provision of Temporary Drinking Water Supplies at Events**

The following information is intended for use by organisers of large events that require a temporary drinking water supply from a public supply, a private water supply or tankers/bowsers. Thought needs to be given to the preparation, maintenance and monitoring measures that need to be in place to ensure a source of safe drinking water is available throughout the duration of the event.

**Legislation**

Where water is derived from a Water Company (for example Wessex Water), the site fittings and the way they are installed must comply with the Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations 1999. Where the water is derived from a private supply, the Private Water Supplies regulations 2016 apply, please contact the Council if this is the case.

**Guidance**

‘The Purple Guide’ – covering both legislation and good practice, this guide has been designed to sign-post event organisers and suppliers to the practices and issues that need to be considered when events are being organised - <https://www.thepurpleguide.co.uk/>

With regards to temporary water supplies (tanks/bowsers), it is expected that the British Standard is followed – BS8551:2011 Provision and management of temporary water supplies and distribution networks – Code of Practice – Section 7.2

**Temporary Drinking Water Supply**

Connection to a public (mains) supply – for new connections the Water Undertaker will need to be contacted at least 12 weeks in advance of the event. If the water is to be taken from an existing connection, 28 days’ notice is required. If using tankers/bowsers/containers, they should be suitable for use (only used for drinking water), cleaned, serviced and labelled as appropriate. If connecting to a private supply, permission should be obtained from the owner and samples taken from the supply to ensure that it is safe for consumption.

**Plans/Risk Assessments**

Detailed plans and drawings of the water supply distribution network and infrastructure should be proved for the event (e.g. location and description of source, pipe work and tankers if used). During the planning stage, consideration should be given to making sure that the water temperature is maintained at an acceptable level – below 20 degrees centigrade. Once the site has been planned, event organisers should carry out a risk assessment on the water supply that describes the potential risks that may cause contamination of the water supply or an insufficient supply. Event organisers should document their emergency operating plan for dealing with contamination or failure of the water supply e.g. close the event or have a contingency in place for emergency water supplies.

**Commissioning a Temporary Drinking Water Supply**

Pipes and fittings should be drained and stored off the ground to avoid entry of dirt or vermin. They should have close-fitting end caps, and these should remain in place until connected. All fittings and pipe connection points must be bagged/covered/sealed to prevent contamination and any standpipe used to withdraw water from the public water supply must be disinfected before use. Where water is derived from a public water supply, all water fittings must comply with the Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations 1999 requirements for performance and suitability for water quality - <https://www.waterregsuk.co.uk/>

The laying, preparation and disinfection of drinking water supply pipe work should only be undertaken by personnel with the appropriate training and certification. Microbiological samples will be required to be taken after commissioning to ensure the water is bacterially safe and further samples need to be taken during the duration of the event (daily). On-site measurements will need to be made of chlorine levels to check that the pipe work has been disinfected and further measurements following de-chlorination. Please contact the Council for further advice on disinfection procedures.

**Further Recommendations for Good Practice**

• Operational personnel involved in the supply of water should be appropriately trained including water quality hygiene awareness training. In common with food preparation and supply, personnel involved in water supply should be aware of the ongoing need to report certain illnesses e.g. vomiting and diarrhoea to management so that they are removed from tasks where they have direct contact with the water supply and drinking water facilities. A sickness policy should be included in the risk assessment

• Distribution pipe work should not have been used for any other purpose other than drinking water, be flushed and drained after each use, be handled with care to prevent contamination and be stored appropriately before and during the event. Pipe work should be stored above ground level with end caps

• Find out the location of any existing buried sewer, water pipes (buried or over ground) or electricity cables and mark them on your site plan:

- Are there any old mains water or private water supply pipes on the site and where are they?

- Are there any mains water or untreated private water supplies to gardens or farm animal troughs and where are they?

• Consider the location of power availability for operating pumps and water treatment systems if required

• Consider the environmental conditions (indoors or outside) which could cause contamination during connection and operation. Include this as part of the risk assessment

• Ensure that there is control and restriction of access to water storage by unauthorised people

• Ensure there is access to and around the site for samplers, plumbers, auditors, etc .

• Consider where illegal connections are possible and ensure additional checks are in place to prevent contamination e.g. regular inspections of the site as the event is taking place

• Consider the location of fuel or paint stores near water pipes and the use of bunding or barrier pipes if there are risks of spillage and contamination

• If the event is to take place during warm weather over several days, consider where insulation could be best applied to prevent water temperatures rising

• Label taps that are suitable drinking water points and disinfect before the event

• Monitor chlorine residuals during the event at appropriate points. This provides a level of confidence that the water is satisfactory.

• Ensure mobile traders that have water tanks on their facility have disinfected the tank before it is used for water storage.

• Consider where pipes are laid, overland pipes should be made safe and secure and should avoid through routes for cars etc. or if this is not possible ensure they are protected from damage

• Carry out regular inspections of drinking water taps to make sure they remain in a hygienic condition throughout the event