

The following sets out general information for housing developers / sprinkler installers who wish to install domestic residential sprinkler systems into new or existing properties. This document should be read in conjunction with BS9251:2005 – ‘Sprinkler systems for residential and domestic occupancies – code of practice’.

INTRODUCTION

Fire Sprinkler Systems for dwellings are designed to provide additional protection to life and property above that already achieved by the building design and the installation of smoke and/or fire detectors. Southern Water supports this and has developed a policy to facilitate the best possible approach to providing connections for this purpose.

PREFERRED OPTION

Southern Water strongly advise careful consideration before the installation of a system that relies on direct mains pressure, flow and continuity of supply for its satisfactory operation. The provision of a suitable alternative, such as an indirect system with adequate dedicated on-site storage and a pump should be given careful consideration. Under the provisions of the Water Industry Act 1991, Southern Water is primarily obliged to provide supplies for domestic purposes. Supplies for fire fighting purposes are not included as a ‘domestic purpose’ and constancy of pressure and continuity of supply cannot be guaranteed. Our minimum service standard for the supply of water is a pressure of 15 metres head or 1.5 bar at the connection to the distribution main. Supplies can be expected to meet (and exceed) the domestic standard in most instances and at most times, however, it must be emphasised that this standard cannot be expected at all times. It must be noted that pressures and flows will vary due to demand, both throughout the day and seasonally, and supplies may be interrupted at any time for a variety of reasons, including planned and unplanned/emergency system maintenance and third party damage incidents. In addition Southern Water reserves the right to amend the network in future to reduce or alter current system pressures as part of leakage or other initiatives.. **Should water pressures be changed at any time in the future, Southern Water will not be held liable for any failure of the installation or any other consequences arising out of the decision not to install a storage based system.**

Figure 1 – New Residential Property with storage & Boosted Sprinkler Supply

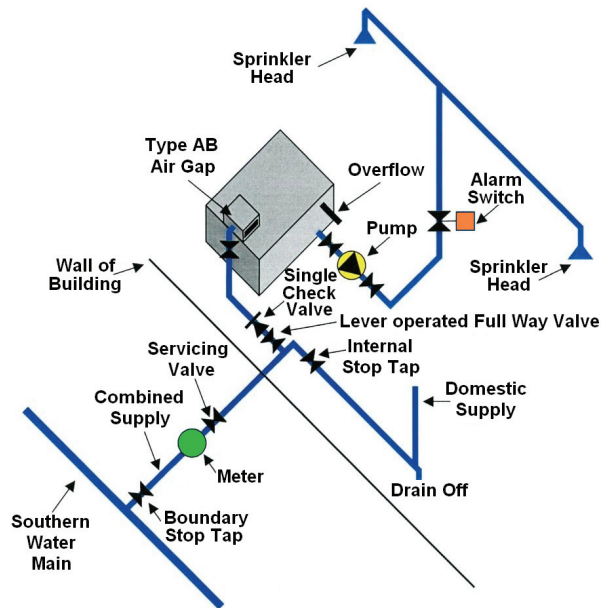


Figure 2 – New Residential Property with storage & Boosted Sprinkler Supply via un-metered branch pipe

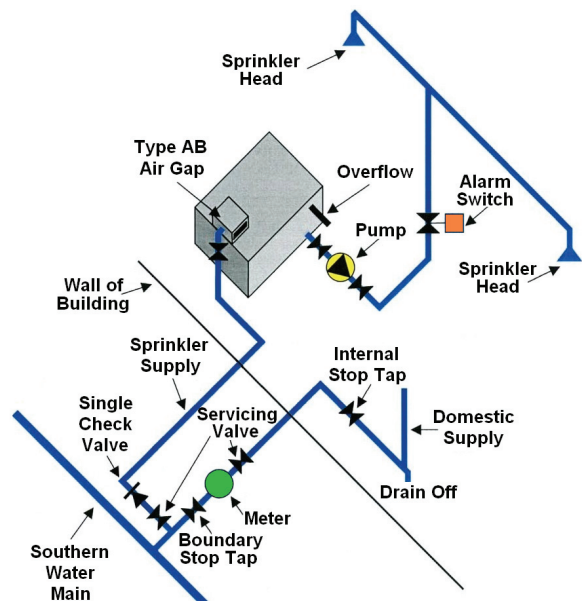
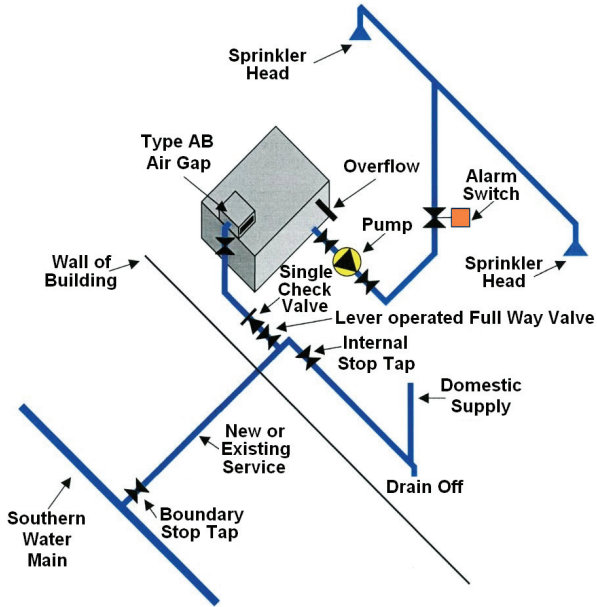


Figure 3 – Existing Residential Property with storage & Boosted Sprinkler Supply from Existing Service Pipe



GENERAL NOTES

The guidance diagrams on this information sheet show the five principal approaches, variations on these may well be acceptable, but must be agreed via discussion with Southern Water. It is the developer's responsibility to install the single check valve and chamber indicated on the guidance diagrams, this would normally be sited on private land. The owner / occupier will then be responsible for maintaining the check valve and chamber along with the rest of the sprinkler system.

Southern Water will only permit the fire sprinkler connection to be installed without a water meter, provided the following criteria is met:-

1. The connection is no larger than 32mm OD
2. The design and installation of any system should be entrusted to a suitable qualified and experienced sprinkler contractor.
3. The installation is designed in accordance with one of the guidance diagrams, or a variation agreed with Southern Water.
4. In the case of a new property, the domestic supply must be independently metered via a boundary box or wall mounted meter box.

All fire sprinkler connections that do not meet the above criteria will be fitted with a water meter for monitoring purposes.

NOTIFICATION

As with any work on water supply systems, all sprinkler installations in new premises, or alterations to sprinkler systems in existing

premises, should be notified to our water regulations department. Installation work should not commence without water regulations approval. Consent from the water regulations department shall be deemed to have been granted if no notice is issued by Southern Water within ten working days, however, this does not alter the obligation of the installer to comply with the regulatory requirements.

ALTERNATIVE OPTION

Figs 4 & 5 apply only if you are unable to install a storage cistern and booster system and opt for a sprinkler system supplied via a direct connection from the water mains. The installation of a pump in this situation will be at Southern Water's discretion under Water Regulation 5.1. Please note, written approval for a pump may not be granted.

Figure 4 – New Residential Property

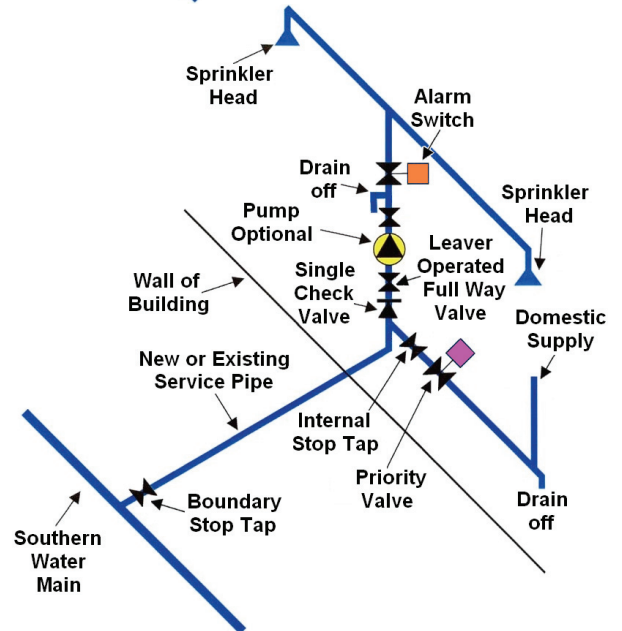
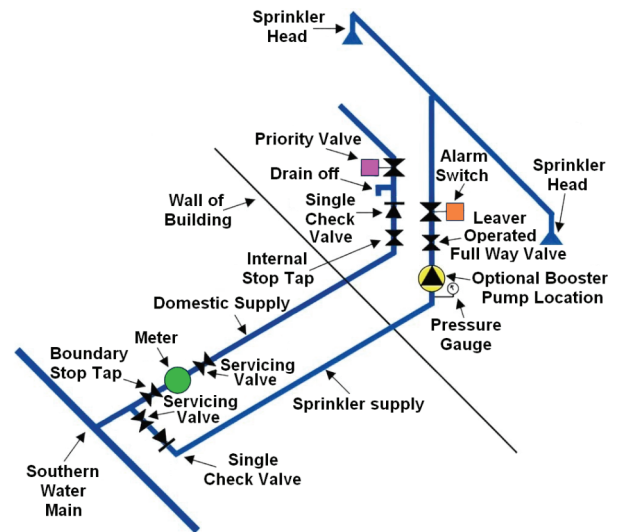


Figure 5 – Existing Residential Property