

No BS Fact Sheet No. 16



Dry and Wet Risers

Wet Rising and Dry Rising mains are intended for use by the Fire Brigade or other trained personnel. They provide a readily available means of delivering considerable quantities of water to extinguish or to prevent the spread of fire.

Dry risers

Dry risers are vertical mains fitted into staircase enclosures or other suitable positions, with outlet valves on each floor and inlets fitted at ground level to enable the Fire Brigade to connect to the water supply.

Wet risers

Wet risers are pipes kept permanently charged with water either from a storage tank (via a booster pump) or direct from the town's main water supply.

It is important that fire mains are kept in good working order. Issues to be considered can include the following:

- The physical approach to the inlet box should be such that a fire engine can park within 18m with the inlet box in view.
- Prohibit car parking in front of the inlet box.
- Secure the inlet box in such a way that firefighters can open the door without too much difficulty.
- It is advisable to lock the landing valves in the closed position, usually with a leather strap and padlock.

Servicing and maintenance

A visual inspection every 6 months and a wet test yearly are required. All buildings which have fire risers must comply with the standard BS 9990/2006.

Annual pressure testing

A visual inspection every 6 months and a wet test yearly are required. All buildings which have fire risers must comply with the standard BS 9990/2006.

Annual pressure testing

For dry risers this normally entails connecting the inlet to a pump and water supply. The system is then completely charged with water to a pressure of 10 bar measured at the inlet for a period of at least 15 minutes. During this period, an inspection is made to ensure that there is no leakage of water at any of the joints or landing valves. Once the pressure test is completed, the system must be drained so that it is left ready for immediate use. In the event of a system failure due to inability to hold pressure for the recommended 15 minutes at 10 bar (at the inlet), a retest will be required.

For Wet risers, there are additional checks on cleanliness of storage tanks, booster pumps and associated mechanical and electrical equipment.

