

The simpler the supply, the simpler the rules



Compliance pathways for small, community, and rural drinking water supplies

When you turn on the tap, you should be able to trust your water is safe to drink – just like you trust the food you buy from a shop is safe to eat.

The Water Services Act 2021 (the Act) requires drinking water suppliers to provide safe and reliable drinking water every day. We realise that every water supply is unique. That's why the Drinking Water Quality Assurance Rules (the Rules) are not 'one size fits all'.

The Act provides the foundation for compliance pathways which are proportionate to the scale, complexity, and risk profile for a range of supplies.

We have developed these compliance pathways based on factors such as population, source water type, high agricultural use, and the remoteness of the supply.

Requirement	The Rules	Acceptable Solution	General Exemption
Supply Registration	Yes	Yes	Yes
Reporting Requirements	Yes	No	No
DWSP* Required	Yes	No	No
End-point treatment	No	Yes	No

*Drinking Water Safety Plans (DWSP)

Your DWSP records the hazards and risks to your drinking water supply and how you will manage them to ensure that drinking water is safe.

DWSP templates available at taumataarowai.govt.nz



General exemption

- Exempt from many duties under the Act.
- Can apply Individually or may be part of a class e.g. isolated from access and power.

Acceptable solutions

Mixed-use rural water supplies

- More than 50% agricultural use.
- No supply population limit.

Roof water supplies

- Supplies up to 500 people.
- To a building or group of buildings.

Self-supplied buildings

- If water is provided to 10 or fewer buildings on one site.
- Population is over 25 people.
- No distribution rules.

Spring and bore water supplies

- Supplies up to 500 people.
- To a building or group of buildings.

The Rules

Small networked supply rules

- Population fewer than 100 people most of the year.
- Straightforward source treatment and distribution rules.

Very small community rules

- Has a population of up to 25 people most of the year.
- Microbiological testing every six months.