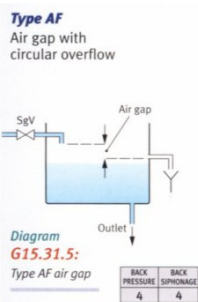
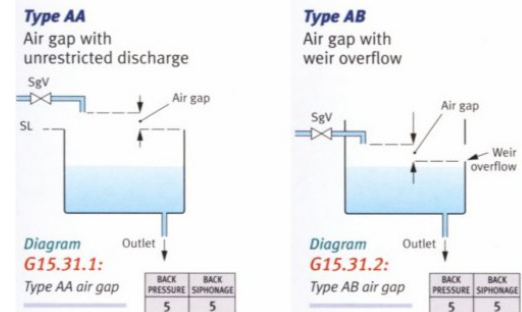


Reduced Pressure Zone Valves (RPZ Valves)

For the most dangerous types of 'backflow' into the wholesome water network a "Fluid Category 5" is the risk level. For this level of fluid risk a water tank with 'weir overflow' is the only acceptable type of 'backflow prevention' device. The picture right is taken from the Water Regulations Guide.



For "Fluid Category 4", the second highest level of risk to the wholesome water network, a similar level of backflow prevention is often applied. However the weir overflow can be replaced with a circular overflow (normally an overflow drainage pipe). See picture left.

However, there is a new type of valve in the UK market that is acceptable for category 4 fluid risks – and this is the Reduced Pressure Zone valve (or just RPZ valve).



There are of course pros and cons to all modern solutions and below are listed a few of just the key ones.

- Pros – can be fitted instead of a tank so all legionella responsibilities associated with water tanks are removed. Also they are cheap, small, easy to fix, reliable.
- Cons – needs to be fitted by a qualified & registered person, needs to be maintained annually by a qualified & registered person, need to be registered with local water authority.

Despite the cons I believe the RPZ valve should be seriously considered for all appropriate applications.

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