



BACKFLOW

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Recently I was contacted by a small water system in the southern tier that had received Department of Health (DOH) notification about Backflow compliance. The system was under the impression that they were exempt. No one is exempt!

What does Backflow mean? The real name is Cross Connection Control. According to 5-1.31 of the State Sanitary Code, effective 1/17/2018.

(a) The supplier of water shall implement a service protection program (also known as containment) which includes the following: (1) requiring a protective device commensurate with the degree of hazard posed by any service connection. (2) requiring the user of such connections to submit plans for the installation of protective devices to the supplier of water and/or the State for approval; and (3) assuring all protective devices are inspected and tested by a certified backflow prevention device tester, as prescribed in subdivision (b) of this section, at the time of initial installation, after each repair, and annually thereafter. Records of such tests shall be made available to, reviewed by, and maintained by the supplier of water. All protective device tests and inspections shall be conducted by a certified backflow prevention device tester. (Photo1)

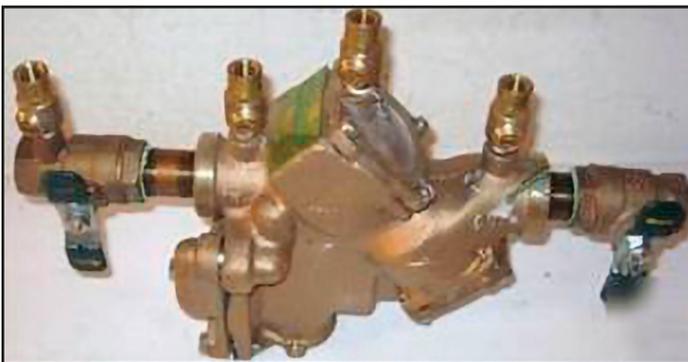


Photo 1

Many water purveyors will require all "Commercial" businesses have cross connection protection. It is becoming common practice for purveyors to require a non-testable dual check valve, where the service enters a residence, when this is the case, the customer needs to be made aware of the need of an expansion tank.

What does "Degree of Hazard mean?"

HAZARDOUS (PHOTO2)



Photo 2

During the course of business, the facility may use, process or store significant amounts of contaminants that would be considered Toxic to Human Health if they were introduced into the public water supply.

AESTHETICALLY OBJECTIONABLE

During the course of business, the facility does not use contaminants that are considered Toxic, but may use, process or store significant amounts of contaminants that if introduced into the public water supply may affect the taste, temperature, odor, color, and/or the aesthetic features of the public water supply.

NON-HAZARDOUS

The facility does not use, process or store significant amounts of contaminants that would be considered toxic, or of aesthetic concern by the above Hazardous/Aesthetically Objectionable definitions.

Engineered drawings need to be submitted to the DOH and water purveyor prior to installation. After installation, an inspection needs to be completed to assure that the device was installed according to plan. Annual testing is required by a certified tester for all devices. NYSDOH provides a database listing certified testers by county, https://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/water/drinking/cross/backflow_testers/. >>>

Many municipalities choose to have a certified tester on staff. I became a certified tester through the Cross Connection Control Foundation of the Niagara Frontier, <https://www.cccfnf.com>. Their organization holds initial certification classes and renewal classes throughout the year. Classes are in high demand and fill quickly. During the class you will learn the concept behind the devices, how they work, and what to do if they do not. Hands-on testing of devices helps you to know what device failure looks like and how to diagnose the possible solution. Testing equipment comes in various configurations and prices and while not required in NYS, equipment certification is important for consistent test results. (Photo3)

Every water system needs to have a cross connection plan in place. One of the key elements is documentation. The municipality needs to maintain a record log of devices in their system and have a written plan to enforce compliance.

You may have noticed a title change for me. As I get closer to that full retirement date a new person has been awarded the title of Circuit Rider III. I am still here to help and will work with the new Circuit Rider during the transition.

We are here to help. We all need to work together to keep **Quality on Tap!** I hope to see you in my travels. 💧💧💧



Photo 3