

Louisiana Water Company

Backflow Prevention and Cross-Connection Control Program

Purpose

Pursuant to the Louisiana Uniform Construction Code, International Building Code, International Residential Code, International Plumbing Code, Environmental Protection Agency and the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals regulations, Louisiana Water Company (LAWCO) has implemented and will maintain a backflow prevention and cross-connection control program. The purpose of this backflow prevention and cross-connection control program is to protect the public water supply from the possibility of contamination from a customer's plumbing line that could backflow into the public water system.

Method of Prevention/Protection

LAWCO will require the isolation of the customer's plumbing through the installation of a backflow prevention assembly at the point of connection to the public water supply. Such backflow prevention assembly will be owned and maintained by the customer and must be installed downstream of the LAWCO metering device before any branches in the customer's plumbing or distribution system.

Responsibility

LAWCO shall give notice to the customer to install an approved backflow prevention assembly. The customer shall immediately install such at their expense. Failure, refusal or inability on the part of the customer to install, have tested, and maintain said assembly shall constitute grounds for discontinuing all water service to the premises until such requirements have been satisfactorily met.

Ownership of Service Protection Backflow Prevention Assemblies

The customer will have the responsibility for the proper installation, field testing, and maintenance of the backflow prevention assembly. The customer can select the backflow prevention assembly manufacturer that is best for their water service condition (e.g. pressure loss, size, orientations, etc.).

Testing Backflow Prevention Assemblies

To ensure that the backflow prevention assembly functions properly, the customer is required to field test at the time of installation, immediately after repairs or relocation, after any confirmed backflow incident and at least annually thereafter unless more stringent testing is required by the manufacturer of the device.

Testing procedures must follow federal, state and/or local regulatory guidelines for such devices. Backflow prevention assemblies must be installed in accordance with federal, state and local regulations, manufacturer's guidelines and in manner that will provide for routine testing. Proper field testing and repair of backflow prevention assemblies must be conducted by persons certified and trained to perform such tests as required by federal, state and local regulatory guidelines.

If a backflow prevention assembly is feeding a critical service facility where water service cannot be interrupted for a period of time to test the device, it is suggested that more than one assembly be installed in a parallel installation. In this way, one assembly can be field-tested or repaired while the facility receives water that is delivered by the other assembly. Two or more parallel assemblies shall be the same type of assembly as the degree of hazard shall dictate. When parallel assemblies are used, the piping system should be sized hydraulically, taking into account both volume requirements and pressure loss through the assemblies. Regardless of the nature of the critical service facility, backflow prevention assemblies must be tested as required.

Records of Backflow Prevention Assemblies

LAWCO will keep a record for each customer where a backflow prevention assembly is required with such record to include: information on the location of the backflow prevention assembly, type, size, make, model and serial number of the backflow prevention assembly, and the dates of annual testing.

Backflow Prevention Assembly Test Reports

The customer must maintain a record of backflow prevention test reports and provide copies of such reports to the water utility on an annual basis or as requested. The report must include the following: name and certification number of the backflow prevention assembly tester, field test results, repair history, tester's signature, type, size, make, model and serial number of backflow prevention assembly, and name of authorized repair person, when repaired. At a minimum, all records of tests or repairs shall be kept by the owner of the backflow prevention device or method for at least five (5) years, and upon specific request, shall be made available to LAWCO.

Backflow Incident Reports

LAWCO must be notified of reported backflow incidents and be allowed to investigate and clearly detail any such incident and subsequent corrective action taken to remediate the incident. Such investigation may include the state or local public health official or plumbing inspectors.

Required Protection for Service Types

Each new commercial service, fire protection service and commercial/residential lawn sprinkler/irrigation service must have an approved backflow prevention assembly with thermal/weather protection installed. The customer shall install a Reduced Pressure Zone

backflow prevention assembly to protect against the highest degree of hazard. All backflow prevention devices shall meet the requirements of all applicable federal, state or local codes and ordinances.

For services that do not require a backflow preventer device at the point of connection to the water system (mandatory containment practices), if we are informed or become aware of an unprotected or improperly protected cross connection on the premise, LAWCO shall do the following:

- Report the cross connection to the customer, state health officer, and, if applicable, the local plumbing official; and
- If in the reasonable opinion of LAWCO, the cross connection poses a risk to other customers of the system, LAWCO will discontinue water service to the customer until such time as the state health officer or plumbing official certifies the customer's plumbing complies with mandatory fixture isolation and backflow prevention requirements.

Historic Buildings

As directed by regulation, the provisions of the Louisiana Uniform Construction Code relating to the construction, alteration, repair, enlargement, restoration, relocation or moving of buildings or structures shall not be mandatory for existing buildings or structures identified and classified by the federal, state or local jurisdiction as historic buildings when such buildings or structures are judged by the state health officer or local plumbing official to be safe and in the public interest of health, safety and welfare regarding any proposed construction, alteration, repair, enlargement, restoration, relocation or moving of buildings.

It will be the responsibility of the owner or person requesting water service to provide any such certification from a federal, state or local jurisdiction that a building is identified and classified as a historic building.

It will be the responsibility of the owner or person requesting water service to provide documentation from a state health officer or local plumbing official that a historic building is safe and exempt from mandatory containment practices.

Program Administration and Enforcement Action

LAWCO will include in the Application for Commercial Water Service, Fire Protection Service and/or any Irrigation Water Service specific information regarding the installation and maintenance requirements for backflow protection and LAWCO's enforcement policy (disconnection of water service) for failure to install, test and maintain such backflow prevention assemblies.

Prior to activating a new water service connection where a backflow prevention assembly is required, the customer shall forward a certification, signed by a certified and licensed Louisiana Master Plumber with a Water Supply Protection Specialist (WSPS)

endorsement or person certified and licensed for such by a federal, state or local governing authority, stating that the installation is in compliance with all applicable codes and ordinances. Water service will not be activated until the backflow prevention assembly has been installed and proper certification of installation provided.

Prior to initiating water service to a previously inactive account with a backflow preventer, a current (within 12 months) "Backflow Preventer Inspection and Test Report" must be on file for that service location. If the inspection and testing information is not current, the customer shall forward a "Backflow Preventer Inspection and Test Report" certifying that the backflow assembly has been properly inspected and tested. Water service will not be activated until the backflow prevention assembly has been inspected, tested and the report provided to LAWCO/AquaResource.

Annually, LAWCO will mail a Backflow Preventer Inspection and Test notice to all customers with backflow assemblies requesting that the devices be inspected, tested and that a "Backflow Preventer Inspection and Test Report" be provided to LAWCO/AquaResource. We will document the annual inspection and testing data on each customer's account. Any customer that fails to have their backflow prevention assembly inspected, tested and submit such records to LAWCO/AquaResource in accordance with federal, state and local regulations will have the water service disconnected.