

LAWCO Backflow Prevention Program (BFP)
Policies and Procedures for Plumbers

REV: 3-2026

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1) Summary

The following policies and procedures govern the installation and testing of backflow preventers (BFP) within the Louisiana Water Company (LAWCO) service areas. It is the responsibility of each plumber to become familiar with the policies and procedures established by LWC. Failure to abide by the regulations set forth herein shall be cause for non-acceptance of installed and tested BFPs within LAWCO.

2) Definitions

- a) Plumbers- (LAC 51:XII.346.A) includes State Plumbing Board (SPBLA) licensed plumbers with a Water Supply Protection Specialist endorsement (WSPS) to install/repair/maintain and test BFPs.
- b) Testers- (LAC 51:XII.346.B) includes plumbers as defined above, and other individuals holding a testing certificate from a nationally recognized backflow certification organization approved by the state health officer.
- c) Devices
 - i) RPZ – Reduced Pressure Zone – only type allowed by LAWCO for domestic service & leak detector
 - ii) RPDA – Reduced Pressure Detector Assembly – only type allowed by LAWCO for fire protection
 - iii) PVB – Pressure Vacuum Breaker – allowed by LAWCO on irrigation service only

3) Installations

- a) New
 - i) Plumbers must contact and coordinate with LAWCO prior to the installation of any BFPs at 337-365-0002 or lawcobackflow@louisianawater.com.
 - ii) All installations shall be installed above ground with rigid piping.
 - iii) BFP installations are to be made as close to the public water supply (PWS) as possible and before any branches in the service line.
 - iv) In the rare case that there is no location near the PWS, coordinate with LAWCO to determine closest available location to be installed.
 - v) Upon completion of the installation, the plumber must contact LAWCO for installation inspection and approval.
- b) Retrofits
 - i) All services (fire, domestic, irrigation)
 - (1) Plumbers must contact and coordinate with LAWCO prior to the removal/installation of any BFPs at 337-365-0002 or lawcobackflow@louisianawater.com.
 - (2) All installations shall be installed above ground with rigid piping.
 - (3) BFP installations are to be made as close to the PWS as possible and before any branches in the service line.
 - (4) In the rare case that there is no location near the PWS, coordinate with LAWCO to determine closest available location to be installed.
 - (5) Upon completion of the installation, the plumber must contact LAWCO for installation inspection and approval.
 - ii) Fire Service Lines
 - (1) Check for devices on riser pipes in building; if the riser is fitted with a reduced pressure backflow preventer that passes testing, the customer will be considered in compliance.

- (2) Plumbers will need a Louisiana Office of the State Fire Marshal (LASFM) approval before making any modifications to fire sprinkler services per NFPA 13 (NFPA 13:30.1.4 – 2022 ed).
 - (a) Coordinate with a licensed sprinkler contractor.
 - (b) Hydraulic calculations may be required to demonstrate that the installation of the BFP will not result in additional modifications to the sprinkler system.
- (3) Thermal protection is required for backflow devices on fire service lines per LASFM.
- (4) All fire service lines to be fitted with a RPDA with bypass and meter.
- (5) All RPDAs to be sized to match the service line size (e.g., an 8" RPDA shall be installed on an 8" fire service line).

iii) In Ground Checks

- (1) All In Ground Checks – All backflow preventers shall be installed above ground. In ground devices are not in compliance per 2021 IPC 608.15.

iv) Domestic

- (1) Plumbers must contact and coordinate with LAWCO prior to the removal or installation of any BFPs at 337-365-0002 or lawcobackflow@louisianawater.com.
- (2) Plumbers shall determine which BFP to install based on LAWCO's requirements. LAWCO requires the maximum protection Reduced Pressure Type required for all applications except irrigation, a PVB may be installed on irrigation services.
- (3) All installations shall be installed above ground with rigid piping and weather protection.
- (4) BFP installations are to be made as close to the PWS as possible and before any branches in the service line.
- (5) In the rare case that there is no location near the PWS, coordinate with LAWCO to determine closest available location to be installed.
- (6) Upon completion of the installation, the plumber must contact LAWCO for installation inspection and approval.

4) Testing

Upon completion of the installation, the plumber/tester shall test the device (including the bypass on the fire service lines).

5) Reporting

- a) Test reports must be submitted by the plumber / tester to LAWCO's BFP management system – AquaResouce and a copy of the report provided to the customer for their records.
- b) Reports shall include the meter number and customer account number.
- c) Tests are to be submitted annually and immediately after repairs or relocations.
- d) LAWCO will maintain test reports for a minimum of five (5) years.