

Revision to LBWD Rules: Testing and Maintenance of Backflow Prevention Assemblies

Board of Water Commissioners

May 12, 2022



Background

What is Backflow?

A condition created by a difference in water pressures that causes water from customer side of the meter to **flow back** into the potable water system.



Backflow Prevention Assemblies (BPAs)

BPAs...

**Protect Water
Quality!**



Customers required to have BPAs

BPAs in Long Beach - currently 5,267

Examples:

- Industrial – Refineries
- Corporate – Hotels, Retailers, Grocery Stores
- Small Business – Restaurants, Laundromats
- City Accounts – Parks, PW, Airport
- Other – HOAs, Medical Centers



Testing and Certification of BPAs

California Code of Regulations

- Water Supplier must assure adequate maintenance and periodic testing...to ensure proper operation of backflow preventer
- Frequency: at least annually; immediately after installation, relocation or repair

Title 17 Code of Regulations, Division 1, Chapter 5, Group 4, Article 2, Section 7605

Who performs testing?

- For other California cities, testing is the responsibility of property owner
- Testing must be performed by “Certified” Backflow Tester



Proposed Changes to Section 804

LBWD's Rules and Regulations pertaining to testing and certification of BPAs.

	Current Rule	Proposed Rule
Upon Installation	LBWD	LBWD
Annual	LBWD	Owner
After Modification	LBWD	Owner



Proposed Changes to Section 804 (cont.)

Other proposed changes

- Owner must use tester certified by Los Angeles County or American Water Works Association
- Explicit language regarding “High hazard devices”
- Test records must be sent to LBWD

LBWD still responsible for:

- Administration of backflow program
- Ensuring program compliance



Phased Implementation

Notification to customers of rule change

- Letter sent to all accounts with BPAs
 - Effective date
 - Explanation of change
 - Contact phone number and email
- Follow up visit by LBWD backflow team

Effective Dates

- **Phase I** - January 1, 2023
 - Industrial, corporate, larger commercial customers, and City Departments (3,799 BPAs)
- **Phase II** - January 1, 2024
 - Smaller businesses and accounts from Phase I that request an extensions (1,253 BPAs)



Questions?



Long Beach Water

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