



Cross Connection Control Policy

Department of Utilities

Staff

March, 2018

I. Program Authority

Responsibility of the User: The Louisiana State Uniform Construction Code (LSUCC) and the 2015 International Plumbing Code state that the customer who operates one of the categories of facilities listed in their code, requiring a backflow prevention device, is responsible for installing and inspecting the device. Section 608.18 of the Code states “Backflow prevention methods or devices shall be utilized as directed by the water supplier or code official to isolate specific water supply system customers from the water supply system’s mains when such action is deemed necessary to protect the water supply system against potential contamination caused by backflow of water from that part of the water system owned and maintained by the customer”.

Responsibility of the Public Water System: However, it should also be noted that the Louisiana Administrative Code, LAC 51:XII.344.B states:

“Protection of Water Supply/Containment Practices...In order to protect its water supply from potential contamination, each water supplier shall develop and implement a written backflow prevention plan outlining the policies and procedures it will use to verify that its customers comply with mandatory containment practices...”

The Public Water Supplier (Department of Utilities) can be cited for a violation if its customers with backflow prevention devices do not maintain the proper certifications and inspections for the devices. Department of Utilities is ultimately responsible for the quality and safety of the water supplied to our customers. The Public Water Supplier acts as the first level of oversight for the backflow protection program, and may be penalized if its customers do not obtain the proper certifications and inspections.

See Appendix A of this document for a full copy of the Louisiana State Uniform Construction Code (LSUCC) and the 2015 International Plumbing Code (Backflow/Cross-Connection Control Requirements) and the Louisiana Department of Health, Office of Public Health declaration of emergency LAC 51.Part XII. Chapter 3. 344 and 346.

See Appendix B of this document for a list of community water systems owned and/or operated by Department of Utilities.

Regulation: The Federal government has promulgated safe drinking water standards within the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) and the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations (NPDWR). The NPDWR delegates the authority to administer safe drinking water standards to the states if the state’s safe drinking water program is at least as stringent as the federal requirements. The state of Louisiana has established a regulatory scheme at least as stringent as the federal guidelines and has had primacy in regulating drinking water in the state of Louisiana since 1977. The Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) has been delegated the authority to establish regulations by the Louisiana State Legislature via La Revised Statute 40.5. The Louisiana State Uniform Construction Code (LSUCC) and the 2015 International Plumbing

Code, which are adopted by the Louisiana State Sanitary Code, contain the regulations that specifically address backflow prevention and the installation, certification, and inspection of backflow prevention devices (BFPD). Applicable sections are attached to this policy.

II. Program Summary

- Different facilities require different levels of backflow prevention devices in accordance with LSUCC Table 608.18.1 (see attached). It is the customers' responsibility to install any backflow prevention devices properly on their side of the water meter.
- The 'person in control of the device' is responsible for the certification and inspection of the backflow prevention device. This means that backflow prevention devices on the customer side of the water meter are the responsibility of the customer and backflow prevention devices located on the supplier side of the water meter are the responsibility of Department of Utilities.
- State certified plumbers with a Water Supply Protection Specialist (WSPS) endorsement are certified to perform the installation and inspection of backflow prevention devices. A non-state certified plumber can be certified to perform scheduled inspections if he/she holds a testing certificate from a nationally recognized backflow certification organization approved by the state health officer.
- Back Flow Prevention Devices are required by the LSUCC to be inspected: upon installation; when cleaned, repaired or overhauled; when relocated; annually; and as required by the Plumbing Official or water supplier.

III. Certification & Inspection Requirements

-The Louisiana State Uniform Construction Code (LSUCC) and the 2015 International Plumbing Code 312.10.1 ‘Inspections’ states:

“Annual inspections shall be made of all backflow prevention assemblies, barometric loops and air gaps to determine whether they are operable, properly installed and maintained, and meet testing/code requirements. Inspections of backflow prevention devices including barometric loops and air gaps used to protect high degree of hazard cross connections shall be documented in writing and the report provided to the owner of the backflow prevention device (BFPD).

-The Louisiana State Uniform Construction Code (LSUCC) and the 2015 International Plumbing Code 312.10.2 ‘’ states:

Reduced pressure principal, double check, pressure vacuum breaker, reduced pressure detector fire protection, double check detector fire protection, and spill-resistant vacuum breaker backflow preventer assemblies shall be tested at the time of installation, immediately after repairs or relocation and at least annually. The testing procedure shall be performed in accordance with standards (see Code for standards required to be utilized).

Additional Requirements:

- The BFPD’s listed above are required to be field tested during the following times: upon installation; when cleaned, repaired, or overhauled; when relocated; annually; as required by the Plumbing Official or the water supplier.
- Any backflow preventer listed above which is found defective shall be repaired by a duly authorized WSPS licensed by the Louisiana State Plumbing Board pursuant to LSA – R.S. 37: 1361 *et seq* and its implementing regulations or, for those BFPD’s located on public property or otherwise under the complete control of the water supplier, by a Backflow Prevention Assembly Repairer who meets ASSE 5030 Professional Qualification Standard or other individuals found acceptable to the water supplier.
- It is the duty of the owner of the BFPD to see that these tests are made in a timely manner in accord with the frequency of field testing specified in the LSPC. The owner is required to notify the Plumbing Official and/or water supplier in advance when the tests are to be undertaken so that the Plumbing Official and/or water supplier may witness the tests if so desired. And all tests, repairs, overhauls or replacements shall be at the expense of the owner of the backflow preventer. (2015 International Plumbing Code 312.10.3))

- The LSPC also establishes record keeping requirements that all records of such tests, repairs, overhauls or replacements shall be kept by the owner of the backflow preventer for at least five years, and upon request, shall be made available to the Plumbing Official, water supplier, and/or the State Health Officer.

APPENDIX A:

Louisiana State Uniform
Construction Code (LSUCC)

2015 International Plumbing
Code

LAC 51.Part XII. Chapter 3.
344 and 346

<http://dhh.louisiana.gov/index.cfm/page/549/n/281>

APPENDIX B:

Department of Utilities **Public Water System List**