

Rules, Regulations, and Rates Section XVII - Cross Connections

PURPOSE

The purpose of this regulation is to protect the public water supply system from contamination due to potential and actual cross-connections. This shall be accomplished as required by State regulations. This regulation is adopted pursuant to Title 17, Sections 7586-7605, inclusive, of the California Code of Regulations, entitled "Regulations Relating to Cross-Connections".

RESPONSIBILITY

The General Manager or cross-connection control specialist shall be responsible for implementing and enforcing the cross-connection control program. An appropriate backflow prevention assembly shall be installed by and at the expense of the water user at each user connection where required to prevent backflow from the water user's premises to the domestic water system. It shall be the water user's responsibility to comply with the Company's requirements.

CROSS-CONNECTION PROTECTION REQUIREMENTS

The type of protection that shall be provided to prevent back flow into the public water supply system shall be commensurate with the degree of hazard, actual or potential, that exists on the water user's premises. Unprotected cross-connections with the public water supply are prohibited. The type of backflow prevention assembly that may be required (listed in decreasing level of protection includes Air-gap separation (AG), Reduced Pressure Principal Backflow Prevention Assembly (RP), and a Double Check Valve Assembly (DC). The water user may choose a higher level of protection than required by the water supplier. The minimum types of backflow protection required to protect the approved water supply at the user's water connection to premises with varying degrees of hazard are in Table 1 of Section 7604, Title 17. Situations not covered in Table 1 shall be evaluated case-by-case and appropriate backflow protection shall be determined by the water supplier or health agency.

BACKFLOW PREVENTION ASSEMBLIES

Only backflow prevention assemblies approved by the Company shall be acceptable for installation by a water user. A list of approved backflow prevention assemblies will be provided upon request to any affected customer. Backflow

prevention assemblies shall be installed as prescribed in Section 7603, Title 17. Location of the assemblies shall be installed on the customer side and as close as practical to the user's connection. The Company shall have the final authority in determining the required location of a backflow prevention assembly.

Backflow assemblies testing shall be conducted only by qualified testers, and testing will be the water user's responsibility. Backflow prevention assemblies must be tested annually and immediately after installation, relocation, or repair. More frequent testing may be required if deemed necessary by the Company. No assembly shall be placed in service unless the assembly is functioning as required. These assemblies shall be serviced, overhauled, or replaced whenever they are found defective and all costs of testing, repair, and maintenance shall be borne by the water user. Approval must be obtained from the Company prior to removing, relocating or replacing a backflow prevention assembly.

ADMINISTRATION

The cross-connection control program shall be administered by the General Manager or cross-connection control specialist. The Company will establish and maintain a list of approved backflow prevention assembly testers. The Company shall conduct necessary surveys of water user's premises to evaluate the degree of potential health hazards. The Company shall notify users when an assembly needs to be tested. The notice shall contain the date when the test must be completed.

WATER SERVICE TERMINATION

When the Company encounters water users that represent a clear and immediate hazard to the potable water supply that cannot be immediately abated, the procedure for terminating water service will be instituted. Conditions of water users that create a basis for water service termination shall include, but are not limited to the following:

1. Refusal to install or to test a backflow prevention assembly, or to repair or replace a faulty backflow prevention assembly.
2. Direct or indirect connection between the public water system and a sewer line.
3. Unprotected direct or indirect connection between the public water system and a system or equipment containing contaminants.
4. Unprotected direct or indirect connection between the public water system and an auxiliary water system.

For condition 1, the Company will terminate service to water user's premises after proper notification has been sent. If no action is taken within the allowed time period water service shall be terminated. For conditions 2,3, or 4, the Company shall take the following steps:

1. Make reasonable effort to advise the water user of intent to terminate water service.
2. Terminate water service and lock service valve. The water service shall remain inactive until corrections of violations have been approved by the Company.