



TECHNICAL GUIDELINE

ISSUE DATE:	1/31/12 Update – Initial issue date 6/15/94
CODE/SECTION:	2006 Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC), Section 602 and 603 City Code Section 37-143
APPROVED:	Julie Belyeu, Building Official
DEVELOPED BY:	John Bauer, Plumbing/Mechanical Inspections Field Supervisor
REFERENCES:	City Code Chapter 37, 2006 Uniform Plumbing Code, AZ Title R18-4-215

BACKFLOW PREVENTION ASSEMBLIES TESTING AND CERTIFIED TEST REPORTS

PURPOSE

The purpose of this regulation is to outline additional requirements and procedures for property owners, testing companies and testers for the purpose of testing all required backflow prevention assemblies. The requirements include internal or PRIMARY backflow preventers required by the Plumbing Code, and containment or SECONDARY backflow preventers required by City Code Chapter 37.

UPC SECTION 603.1 requires:

All devices or assemblies installed in a potable water supply system for protection against backflow shall be maintained in good working condition by the person or persons having control of such devices or assemblies. Such devices or assemblies shall be tested at the time of installation, repair or relocation and at least on an annual schedule thereafter, or more often when required by the Authority Having Jurisdiction. If found to be defective or inoperative, the device or assembly shall be repaired or replaced. No device or assembly shall be removed from use or relocated or other device or assembly substituted, without the approval of the Authority Having Jurisdiction.

Testing shall be performed by a certified backflow assembly tester.

CITY CODE SECTION 37-143 (C)

37-143 (C) Requirements are located in Phoenix City Code, Part II, Chapter 37, Article XII.

AZ Title R18-4-215 (F)

An assembly shall not be placed in service unless it has been tested and is functioning as designed.

ADDITIONAL WATER CUSTOMER RESPONSIBILITIES

The customer shall be responsible for submitting an original test certification report for each backflow assembly tested. A tester who has met the requirements of the city and has been placed on a list of certified testers shall perform all testing and repairs of backflow assemblies. The test certification report shall be on a form approved for use in the city of Phoenix. Incomplete test reports will not be accepted and all information shall be current and accurate. The test report must be forwarded to Planning and Development Department (P&D) by the due date indicated on the work order. The customer shall retain all records for a minimum of three years from the backflow assembly test date.

Any testing downstream of a fire line backflow preventer shall be the responsibility of the Phoenix Fire Department.

TESTING COMPANY AND TESTER REQUIREMENTS

Each testing company and tester of backflow assemblies shall provide a copy of the documents listed below and notify P&D when changes occur. Expired documentation and/or certification may result with the tester and/or the testing company being removed from the "Active" list.

1. Tester competency certification
2. Test gauge annual calibration certification report
3. Arizona State Contractor's License. If you will only be testing backflow preventers and will not be engaged in any work requiring a permit, a Contractor's License is not required. Please see "Requisites for New Backflow Test Companies" for information needed.
4. City of Phoenix Privilege License

Testers are responsible for submitting accurate and complete test certification reports. The certification report shall be submitted to P&D on a form approved for use in the city of Phoenix. When field testing a backflow assembly, the tester shall use the procedures outlined in the Ninth Edition of the University of Southern California Foundation for Cross-Connection Control and Hydraulic Research Manual – of Cross-Connection Control.

BACKFLOW DEVICE TEST GAUGE

Test equipment used for the purpose of testing a backflow assembly shall be recognized and approved for such use. No test gauge shall be used for the testing of a backflow assembly that has not successfully passed a valid calibration test within the 12-month period of the date on the backflow assembly test report.

Each backflow device testing company shall forward to P&D a valid **original** calibration test report for each gauge under their control. The calibration report form shall include the calibration company name, address, telephone number, and the name of the person performing the test and their signature, gauge manufacturer name, gauge model number, gauge serial number, the owner of the gauge and the date of the calibration. The calibration report shall indicate the test standards used in the calibration of the gauge.

APPLICATION OF TEST REQUIREMENTS FOR BACKFLOW PREVENTION ASSEMBLIES (BPA's)				
PURPOSE FOR BPA INSTALLATION	PRIMARY Point-of-Use	PRIMARY or INTERNAL Accepted by P&D to Satisfy P.C.C. 37 Requirements	SECONDARY P.C.C. 37 at Point-of-Service, or at an Internal Location	SECONDARY P.C.C. 37 Located on a Fire Line or Fire Sprinkler System
BPA REQUIRED BY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phoenix Plumbing Code • City Code Chapter 37 	*	*	*	*
BPA TESTER QUALIFICATIONS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be Certified* • Must also be approved by Phoenix Fire Dept. 	*	*	*	*
BPA TESTING REQUIRED <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At time of installation • At time of repair, alteration or relocation of assembly • At least annually • When requested by city (such as after any backflow incident) 	*	*	*	*
BPA TEST REPORT DISTRIBUTION <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Copy kept on premises • Tester must send original to P&D Cross-Connection Control within 10 days of each test • Tester must also be sent to PHOENIX FIRE DEPT/Fire Prevention Division • Copy to be provided to city inspector upon request 	*	*	*	*

* "Certified Tester" means an individual certified to test backflow prevention assemblies by the Piping Industry Progress and Education Trust fund (P.I.P.E.), the Arizona State Environmental Technology Training (ASETT) Center, the American Backflow Prevention Association (ABPA) or other agencies or organizations involved with the training and certification of testers if they are acceptable to the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality.