



AMERICAN BACKFLOW PREVENTION ASSOCIATION

## **Position Statement Concerning FIELD TESTING OF BACKFLOW PREVENTION ASSEMBLIES**

In pursuit of the stated goals of the American Backflow Prevention Association (ABPA) of protecting the quality and integrity of clean drinking water, the Board of Directors believes that a Position Statement regarding “Field Testing of Backflow Prevention Assemblies” is essential.

Backflow prevention assemblies are installed to protect against an actual or potential cross-connection. Any mechanical piece of equipment such as a backflow preventer is subject to failure due to wear from usage. The ABPA supports regular field testing and maintenance of backflow prevention assemblies to ensure their proper operation and to protect the potable water supply. The actual frequency of field testing of each assembly must be determined by the local jurisdiction having authority. However, the ABPA concurs with the various manufacturers’ recommended practice of field testing all backflow prevention assemblies after initial installation, upon relocation, after repairs of any kind are made to the assembly, and at least once annually thereafter. This is also consistent with the prevailing Building and Plumbing Codes used in the United States and Canada. The ABPA advocates using test equipment and field test procedures that will accurately determine the working condition of the backflow prevention assembly.

Therefore, in order to ensure the continued proper operation of all backflow prevention assemblies, it is the position of the ABPA that they be tested by individuals properly trained and certified, and with the appropriate equipment using ABPA-adopted field test procedures, or those procedures accepted or required by the authority having jurisdiction.

*Approved by the ABPA Board of Directors: May 9, 2004 – Long Beach, California*

*Reapproved: May 18, 2010 – New Orleans, Louisiana*

*Amended and Reapproved: May 16, 2015 – Nashville, Tennessee .*