

## **Notice from the Certification Program Administrator**

### **Mike Ahlee**

In our ongoing efforts to improve the service provided to ABPA certified Backflow Prevention Assembly Testers (Testers) and Cross-Connection Control Specialists (Specialists), the ABPA Certification Committee, at the direction of the ABPA Board of Directors (BOD), will be implementing several changes to our certification programs. These changes will dramatically improve the experience, response time and access to exams, exam results, and certificates for all those who apply for ABPA certification.

In order to accomplish these goals, the Tester certification program will be conducting more proctor training events where needed. In addition, ABPA will be providing more “stand-alone” exams (i.e., exams not administered at the conclusion of a training class or course of study) to allow more opportunities for applicants to take their ABPA examination.

To support the continued growth and improvements to the ABPA certification programs, the BOD approved a fee increase for both Testers and Specialists, at a meeting held on April 1, 2017 in San Antonio, TX.

The Tester certification/recertification fee will be increased from \$95.00 to \$165.00 for a three-year certification.

The Specialist certification/recertification fee will be increased from \$75.00 to \$120.00 for a three-year certification.

These increases will go into effect on **June 1, 2017**. The current fees have been unchanged since 2014. These fee increases are crucial to the continued improvement and success of the ABPA certification programs. The following is a list of the changes approved by the ABPA BOD. There are more changes being considered, all designed to improve access, availability and the overall experience for certification program participants.

### **List of the American Backflow Prevention Association (ABPA) Backflow Prevention Assembly Tester and Cross-Connection Control Specialist Certification Programs Enhancements and Justifications to Support the Application Fee Increase**

#### **Backflow Prevention Assembly Tester**

1. The application fee increase is necessary to maintain and increase the level of quality and service to the Certification Program and certified personnel.
2. Provide the option to an applicant to either start with the performance examination or written examination. Previously, it was required that the applicant must start with the written examination.
3. The applicant will be allowed to complete the full examination (written and performance) even if they fail one portion of the examination. In addition, within six (6) months of the initial examination, the applicant may reapply to re-take the portion of the examination that they did not

pass and still maintain the passing score for the other portion. Previously, it was required that the applicant successfully complete the written examination before they proceed to the performance examination.

4. A Certified Tester (new or recertifying) will be able to print their certificate on-line via the ABPA website.
5. Provide more “stand-alone” examination testing locations and dates in addition to examination locations and dates that are requested by the training providers. This will provide applicants, who have not passed the examination, more opportunities to re-take the examination.
6. Work on compliance with the accreditation of the certification program via international standards. This will allow us to document that the program operates in a consistent, comparable and reliable manner.
7. The ABPA Tester certification program is a voluntary third party certification and does not require an applicant who is recertifying to take additional training (i.e., update refresher course, seminar and/or workshop) or study materials. It is up to the recertifying applicant to decide if they need additional training.
8. The ABPA third party Tester certification program is considered one of the best certification programs in the backflow prevention and cross-connection control industry. The fee increase has been carefully reviewed and is being taken to improve and insure quality. The continual increase in associated examination costs (administrative support, personnel, materials and equipment) requires this action at this time.
9. A complimentary one-year membership be presented to all newly-certified and recertified Backflow Prevention Assembly Testers who currently are not Association members.

### **Cross-Connection Control Specialist**

1. The application fee increase is necessary to maintain and increase the level of quality and service to the Certification Program and certified personnel.
2. A certified Specialist (new or recertifying) will be able to print their certificate on-line via the ABPA website.
3. Provide more “stand-alone” examination testing locations and dates in addition to examination locations and dates that are requested by the training providers. This will provide applicants, who have not passed the examination, more opportunities to re-take the examination.
4. Work on compliance with the accreditation of the certification program via international standards. This will allow us to document that the program operates in a consistent, comparable and reliable manner.
5. The ABPA Specialist certification program is a voluntary third party certification and does not require an applicant who is recertifying to take additional training (i.e., update refresher

course, seminar and/or workshop) or study materials. It is up to the recertifying applicant to decide if they need additional training.

6. The ABPA third party Specialist certification program is considered one of the best certification programs in the backflow prevention and cross-connection control industry. The fee increase has been carefully reviewed and is being taken to improve and insure quality. The continual increase in associated examination costs (administrative support, personnel and materials) requires this action at this time.

7. A complimentary one-year membership be presented to all newly-certified and recertified Cross-Connection Control Specialists who currently are not Association members.