



AMERICAN BACKFLOW PREVENTION ASSOCIATION

Position Statement Concerning CROSS-CONNECTIONS AND APPROPRIATE BACKFLOW PROTECTION

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 “Cross-Connections and Appropriate Backflow Protection” is essential.

A cross-connection is defined as an actual or potential connection between a potable water supply and any other non-potable liquid, gas or substance. Where an actual or potential connection between a potable water supply and a non-potable liquid, gas or substance exists, a backflow incident can negatively affect water quality by introducing pollutants or contaminants into the potable water system.

Cross-connection hazards are classified as either:

- non-health hazard or low hazard
- health hazard or high hazard

A licensed or regulated water utility is legally liable/responsible for water quality under local, state or federal jurisdiction, and must have the autonomy to enforce all rules, ordinances or standards to provide the production, delivery and continued appropriate backflow protection is taken and maintained on all actual or potential cross connections.

Therefore, in order to ensure clean drinking water, it is the position of the ABPA that all actual or potential cross-connections either be eliminated or protected with the appropriate means of protection commensurate with the degree of hazard, and as required by the authority having jurisdiction.

*Approved by the ABPA Board of Directors: May 8, 2005 Orlando, Florida
Amended and Reapproved: May 19, 2010 – New Orleans, Louisiana
Reapproved: May 16, 2015 – Nashville, Tennessee*