



WATER MANAGEMENT
CITY OF DURHAM

September 12, 2007

Dear Tester,

The Cross-Connection Control staff has continued to receive test and maintenance reports for backflow assemblies which have failed their annual testing requirements and have been repaired with the incorrect type of backflow prevention assemblies which is in violation of City code. Such backflow assemblies can be cleaned **once** and retested although if the assembly continues to fail it **must** be brought up to the City of Durham City Code (Chapter 23, part 23-170 through 23-190).

The Cross-Connection Control staff wants to inform you that repairing and/or replacing with the same type backflow assemblies which are not up to code such as Double Check Valve Assemblies for lawn irrigation, Double Check Detector Assembly for 2- ½" or greater in size for fire protection with chemical injection and/or siamese/FDC connection, and anything less than a reduced pressure zone type assembly in a medical facilities is in violation.

In addition, please be advised that all backflow prevention assemblies must be installed above ground, with a wye strainer (excluding fire protection), and unions. RPZ type assemblies shall **never** be installed below ground. Backflows that are located below ground such as a vault and/or meter box must be brought up to code when it fails its annual testing requirements. As a certified tester, you should bring this to the attention of your customer to rectify the situation and maintain compliance with the ordinance.

From now on, the Cross-Connection Control staff will not accept these incorrect test and maintenance (T&M) reports. Please remember that as a certified tester you have proven your competency to test, repair, overhaul, and make reports on backflow prevention. Sometimes it may even fall upon your shoulder to educate the customer on requirements in protecting the City of Durham's water distribution system.

On behalf of the Cross Connection Control Staff, thank you for your cooperation in protecting the City of Durham's distribution water system.

Sincerely,

Cross-Connection Control Staff
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