

Regulation No. 14  
Prevention of Contamination by Backflow  
and Cross-Connections

Adopted: July 19, 2004

Amended: November 17, 2008; December 21, 2009; January 28, 2013;  
June 15, 2015

A. Authority and Purposes

1. Title 17, Sections 7583 through 7605 of the California Code of Regulations provides rules and regulations governing Cross-Connections.
2. Title 17, Section 7584 of the California Code of Regulations provides in part: “The water suppliers shall protect the public water supply from contamination by implementation of a Cross-Connection Control Program.” The District is a water supplier within the meaning of Title 17, Section 7583 of the California Code of Regulations.
3. In order to provide for an orderly and adequate means of protection of the District Water System from Backflow, the requirements set forth below are reasonable and necessary for the protection of the District Water System and the public health and welfare. New Service Connections shall be installed and existing Service Connections shall be modified to conform to the requirements provided in this Regulation 14.

B. Incorporation of Title 17 of the California Code of Regulations

The regulations of the Department of Public Health, Title 17 of the California Code of Regulations, Sections 7583 through 7605, as amended from time to time, are hereby adopted, incorporated by reference herein and made a part hereof, insofar as the same are applicable to the protection of the District Water System.

C. Requirements for Backflow Prevention Assemblies

A Backflow Prevention Assembly shall be required at the Service Connection of all Premises in the following categories:

1. Premises having an Auxiliary Water Supply.

2. Premises on which any substance is handled under pressure in such a fashion as to permit the substance's possible entry into the District Water System, including water originating from the District Water System.
3. All non-residential Parcels or residential Parcels having five or more dwelling units served from a common Service Connection.
4. Premises that contain a Cross-Connection or the potential for a Cross-Connection that could result in the pollution or contamination of the District Water System in the event of backflow.
5. Premises having multiple use capabilities.
6. All Private Systems for fire suppression or other purposes.
7. Certain Metered Services. A Reduced Pressure Principal Device (RP) as identified in the District Specifications and Plans will be required to be installed with Meters serving all non-residential Parcels, including irrigation services, and any residential Parcels used for business purposes as determined by the District.

#### D. Installation of Backflow Prevention Assemblies

Installation of an Backflow Prevention Assembly, where required by the District, shall be a condition of water service. The installation of a Backflow Prevention Assembly shall be deemed a permanent requirement for all Service Connections described in Section C, Subsections 1 through 7 hereof.

1. New Service Connections. At the time a new Application for Water Service is made, the District's Engineering Services Department will review the application to determine, in accordance with applicable District regulations, whether a Backflow Prevention Assembly is required to be installed on the Applicant's Service Connection. If a Backflow Prevention Assembly is required, it shall be the Applicant's responsibility at his or her sole expense to install the device.

The Backflow Prevention Assembly shall be furnished by the Customer as specified and when required by the District Engineer, installed per applicable County Standards and inspected by District staff.

2. Existing Service Connections without Backflow Prevention Assemblies. The District may inspect a Premises' existing Service Connection and determine if the Premises requires a Backflow Prevention Assembly in accordance with Section C of this Regulation 14. If it is determined that a Backflow Prevention Assembly is required, the installation of a Backflow Prevention Assembly in compliance with this Regulation 14 shall be a condition of continued District water service.

If a Customer fails to install a required Backflow Prevention Assembly within a reasonable time limit set forth in a written notification from the District, the District shall suspend water service to the Parcel being served.

3. Upgrading of Existing Backflow Prevention Assemblies. An existing Backflow Prevention Assembly that fails to meet applicable state, county, and District standards and specifications and any amendments thereto, does not provide adequate protection from potential backflow hazard and shall be upgraded at the Customer's expense following the procedures provided in this Regulation 14.

Upgrading required by the District may include complete replacement of the Backflow Prevention Assembly as determined by District staff.

4. Repair of Existing Backflow Prevention Assembly. In the event that an existing Backflow Prevention Assembly fails its annual test, the Customer will be notified by the District and will be responsible for repairing or replacing the defective Backflow Prevention Assembly and testing of the repaired or replaced Backflow Prevention Assembly in accordance with this Regulation 14. The District will not perform repairs or replacements of Backflow Prevention Assemblies. If the Backflow Prevention Assembly is not repaired or replaced within the amount of time specified by the District, water service to the Customer's Parcel may be terminated. District staff must be notified of all Backflow Prevention Assembly replacements performed by Customers, so that an inspection and testing can be performed and approval provided by the District prior to the Customer placing the replaced Backflow Prevention Assembly into service. If a trench was opened for the replacement, an open-trench inspection is required before the District will approve the replacement.
5. Ownership of Backflow Prevention Assemblies. All Backflow Prevention Assemblies installed or upgraded either by a Customer or by the District shall be owned and maintained by the Customer after acceptance by the District.

#### E. Testing of Backflow Prevention Assemblies

1. Testing – As required by law, the District shall notify each Customer annually to have their Backflow Prevention Assembly tested by a District-approved Certified Tester. Letters notifying Customers to have their Backflow Prevention Assembly tested will be sent to the current billing address on file unless otherwise specified. Each Customer shall have 30 days to execute the test. Results of all acceptable tests shall be submitted to the District within two days of the completed test. The District must receive notification within 24 hours if the Assembly fails its annual test. A Customer whose Backflow Prevention Assembly fails its annual test shall have 15 days to repair and 30 days to replace the defective device, unless otherwise specified by the District due to regulatory or other requirements (e.g. high hazards). If a Customer fails to have their Backflow Prevention Assembly tested in a timely manner, then the District shall test the device. Costs for such

tests shall be charged to the Customer. Charges shall include the test and all labor in accordance with Regulation 3, Section D.

2. Prior to acceptance by the District, all newly-installed Backflow Prevention Assemblies shall be tested by a District-approved Certified Tester at the expense of the Customer installing the device. Certified test results shall be furnished to the District prior to final acceptance of the Backflow Prevention Assembly and provision of water service by the District. The certified test results shall be provided to the Customer or Applicant upon request to the District.

#### F. Right to Enter Customer Property

As a condition of water service for new Customers, the District reserves the right of ingress and egress to determine compliance with Cross-Connection Control Program requirements. As a condition of continued water service for existing Customers, the right of ingress and egress is reserved by the District for the purpose of inspection to determine compliance with the District's Cross-Connection Control Program regulations.

#### G. Penalties

In addition to the other remedies granted to the District by law, the District also may terminate water service to any Premises if a required Backflow Prevention Assembly is removed by a Customer or if the District finds evidence that an installed Backflow Prevention Assembly has been bypassed, altered, or allowed to remain ineffective or unmaintained.

Any Customer who willfully fails to install a Backflow Prevention Assembly as required by this Regulation 14, or who willfully bypasses or alters such a device may be subject to prosecution and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punishable by a fine not exceeding \$500.00 or by imprisonment in the County jail for a period not exceeding six months or by both fine and imprisonment. (California Health & Safety Code, § 116820)