

# CROSS TALK

QUARTERLY BULLETIN

FOUNDATION FOR CROSS-CONNECTION CONTROL RESEARCH

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

University Park, Los Angeles, California 90007

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## The Late Cross Talk

Many members of the Foundation have been wondering - and some have politely asked - what has happened to their copies of *Cross Talk* during the recent months. We must apologize for this breakdown in our communications with you. The reason is that recent months have been rather hectic with quite a bit of field work on devices in process of evaluation and more recently with a number of new devices being submitted to the Foundation for Laboratory evaluation plus

a number of calls from members asking for on-site assistance with their cross-connection problems. We also have been very busy presenting the short courses for training and certification of backflow prevention device testers. With all of this activity and the continuing high volume of correspondence our quarterly newsletter has fallen way behind.

Our plan is to catch up so that you will ultimately have a complete set of *Cross Talk* and a working communi-

cation line. We will shorten the headway between issues of *Cross Talk* until we are back on the normal schedule. And, we are deeply appreciative of your patience with our problems of excess load.

*Thank you.*

## The Short Course

Last September the Foundation presented the first 5-day short course for the training and certification of testers of backflow prevention devices. This was followed by a second short-course in February and a third in June of this year. In addition, at the request of the Oregon State Board of Health, and with the cooperation of the Water Bureau of the City of Portland and Water Metrics, a 5-day short course was presented in February for the men from the Portland area and the Willamette Valley. The success of these short, intensive training sessions has resulted in a number of requests for help with local cross-connection control programs and the training of testers from all parts of the country. The men who have been sent to the Laboratory for the short courses here have come from the length and breadth of the land - from Hawaii to Massachusetts and from Washington to Georgia as well as British Columbia.

The list of men successfully passing the September 1970 short course were detailed in the October 1970 issue of *Cross Talk*. Those who have completed the more recent courses are:

### *February 1971 course:*

William Bailey, Environmental Engineering Health Dept., B.C. Provincial Government, Victoria, B.C.  
D. J. Collins, Water Dept. Inglewood, California  
Charles Flanagan, Hersey Products, Inc., Fairlawn, N.J.  
Wilmer Hansen, Hersey Products, Inc., Dallas, Texas  
Harvey C. Lucas, Hersey Products, Inc., Elkgrove Village, Ill.  
Joseph Lucia, Jr. Poway Municipal Water Dist., Poway, Calif.  
A. R. Moore, Hersey Products, Inc. Dedham, Mass.  
Chester Parcher, Covina Water Dept Covina, Calif.  
Curtis A. Perkins, Northridge Park CWD, Sacramento, Calif.  
William M. Scarlott, Desert Water Agency, Palm Springs, Calif.  
Porter Scott, Hersey Products, Inc., Atlanta, Georgia

### *June, 1971 Course:*

Carl Ansite, Inglewood Water Dept., Inglewood, Calif.  
George Boukouzis, Abbott Laboratories, North Chicago, Ill.  
Jos Cosney, L.A. County Engineering Dept., Lancaster, Calif.

Robert Curry, Lewiston Water Department., Lewiston, Idaho  
Elwin C. Elkins, City of Fairfield, Fairfield, Calif.  
Guenter Grams, Surgical Mechanical Research, Inc., Newport Beach, California  
Tom Haman, Marin MWD, Corte Madera, Calif.  
Thomas R. Higham, Jr., Dept. of Water Supply & Water Works, Salt Lake City, Utah  
Bud Jones, Las Vegas Valley Water District, Las Vegas, Nevada  
Andrew Nielsen, Denver Water Department, Denver, Colorado  
Rudy Rincon, L.A. County Engineering Dept., West L.A., Calif.  
Finlay Thomson, City of Sunnyvale, Sunnyvale, Calif.  
Takeshi Uyesugi, Board of Water Supply, Honolulu, Hawaii  
Gene B. Young, Contra Costa CWD, Concord, Calif.  
Orville C. Zimmerman, Twentynine Palms CWD, Twentynine Palms, California.

## Additional Approvals

In recent weeks there have been three (3) changes or additions to the List of Approved Backflow Prevention Devices issued by the Foundation.

Two Double Check Valve assemblies have moved from the "Provisional Approval" listing to the "Full Approval" listing in accordance with the specifications of the 2nd Edition of the *Manual of Cross-Connection Control* under which their approval programs were started.

These units are:

SMR - 1 inch DHC Double Check Valve Assembly

SMR - 2 inch DHC Double Check Valve Assembly.

Also, a new design of reduced pressure principle backflow prevention device has now successfully passed all

the requirements of the 4th Edition of the *Manual of Cross-Connection* approval for the three year period stipulated by the *Manual*. It is the

BEECO Model 14-1 inch RP Reduced Pressure Principle Assembly.

You will recall that the 4th Edition of the *Manual* provides for granting approvals for only a three year period of time subject to renewal. The reason for this is to provide the Foundation with a forceful means of keeping in touch with the operation of these units in the field; and, thus not allow what might be thought of as a minor design or material change to become the reason for a malfunction or failure to meet the specifications. Now, with the three year period of forced review we will be maintaining a recorded analysis of performance after

*Control* and has been granted. After the original field evaluation and thus better insure the continued high quality of these devices.

This tightening in the granting of approvals is not to say that the former arrangement ever led to a deterioration of equipment; for, the earlier approvals are still standing up exceptionally well. But, now the mechanics of continuous surveillance has been provided and will be implemented.

Also, in all fairness, it must be pointed out that no mechanical device can be expected to continue to operate for years on end without regular, periodic inspections & maintenance. So, please, be sure that a viable program for regular testing and reporting covers all the backflow prevention units in your system.

## Truth in Advertising

Earlier this year a Febco catalog was circulated showing among other items a double-check valve assembly and a reduced pressure principle assembly. In the comments relating to these devices the following phrase was used:

"These units are designed to the specifications of AWWA, ASSE, the Foundation for Cross-Connection Control, Public Health Officials, Sanitary Engineers, and Military requirements."

We are not challenging the intent of the Febco management; but, many Members of the Foundation have written or telephoned to inquire if this means that these units have been "approved" by the Foundation and placed on the *List of Approved Backflow Prevention Devices*. Our answer to each inquire has been - "none of

these units has been evaluated and only two sizes in each category has ever been submitted to the Foundation for evaluation. Since that time the 3" and 4" sizes of the Febco double check valve assembly have been accepted for field evaluation - which has yet to begin. The 1½ inch and 2½ inch reduced pressure principle assemblies of the Chas. M. Bailey Co. were submitted to the Foundation and were found to fail to meet the Laboratory evaluation. These are the RP units shown in the Febco catalog.

As a matter of clarification of the relationship between these devices and the manufacturers a word of explanation seems to be in order in terms of the corporate and sales structure under which these units are to be placed on the market. The double check valve devices are a design and product

Febco which is now a part of the Buckner Division of General Sprinkler Corp. at Fresno, Calif. The reduced pressure principle devices are a design and product of the Chas. M. Bailey Co. of Emeryville, Calif. that will be marketed through the Febco organization. The submission of these devices to the Foundation is by each individual organization; and, at the present time we understand that the cognizance of the evaluation performance will remain in the hands of the individual companies.

We mention this situation here simply as a matter of clarification so that there will be no misunderstanding among our membership that these devices have not, at this point in time, come anywhere near reaching a state of approval by the Foundation.



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