



Recommended Annual Field Testing for Backflow Prevention Assemblies

The USC Foundation recommends annual field testing for all backflow prevention assemblies.

Field testing backflow prevention assemblies ensures they are functioning correctly. Assemblies are subject to failure, like any mechanical device. Field testing the assemblies on a scheduled basis becomes critical for safe drinking water, since all assemblies are installed to protect the public from pollutants or contaminants.

The standard practice of care in the cross-connection control and backflow prevention industry is to field test backflow prevention assemblies annually. The USC Foundation's *Manual of Cross-Connection Control, Tenth Edition*, recommends annual field testing. This recommendation is supported by the Water Research Foundation (AWWARF) report 90928F, entitled "*Impacts of Cross-Connections in North American Water Supplies*," which states that 94% of water suppliers require field tests annually or more frequently.

The USC Foundation's annual testing recommendation originates from its Approval Program for backflow prevention assemblies. As part of the program, all assemblies that pass the laboratory evaluation must also complete a one-year field evaluation. Therefore, the Foundation recommends annual field testing for assemblies. Field testing ensures installed assemblies operate correctly, protecting public health by safeguarding the drinking water.

For any questions about the recommendation for annual field testing of backflow prevention assemblies please contact the Foundation office.