



AMERICAN BACKFLOW PREVENTION ASSOCIATION

## **POSITION STATEMENT**

**CONCERNING**

### **FIELD TESTING OF BACKFLOW PREVENTION ASSEMBLIES**

In pursuit of the stated goals of the American Backflow Prevention Association of protecting the quality and the integrity of the drinking water being delivered to the public for consumption, the Board of Directors feel that a Position Statement regarding the field testing of backflow prevention assemblies is needed.

It is understood that any and all mechanical devices are subject to failure due to age, wear, damage, corrosive water, and manufacturing flaws. The American Backflow Prevention Association supports regular field testing and maintenance of backflow prevention assemblies to ensure their proper operation, to protect the public water supply and the financial investment of the consumer by extending the life of the assembly. The actual frequency of field testing of each assembly must be determined by the local jurisdiction having authority. However, the American Backflow Prevention Association concurs with the various manufacturers' recommended practice of field testing all backflow prevention assemblies after initial installation, after repairs of any kind are made to the assembly and at least once annually. This is also consistent with the prevailing Building and Plumbing Codes utilized in the United States and Canada. The Association advocates using test equipment and procedures that will accurately reflect the internal working condition of the assembly.

Therefore, in order to ensure the continued proper operation of all backflow prevention assemblies, it will be the position of the American Backflow Prevention Association that they be tested by individuals properly trained and certified with the appropriate equipment using the American Backflow Prevention Association adopted field test procedures or those procedures accepted or required by the authority having jurisdiction.

REVISED: September 25, 2003

APPROVED: May 9, 2004