City of Dawson

Standard Operating Procedures for a Customer Service Inspection.

Purpose: To ensure that There is neither backflow or back siphonage that can occur. Also to ensure less than maximum lead materials in the service lines.

Scope: This Document is to be referred to by a city employee that is licensed or an outside contractor that is either a licensed Plumbing inspector or has a water supply protector specialist endorsement. Also, this document and be used to reference procedures put in placed by the municipality in case of disputes.

Definitions: The following words and terms shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise

Air gap—A complete physical separation between the free-flowing discharge end of a potable water supply pipeline and an open or non-pressure receiving vessel.

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Atmospheric Vacuum Breaker—An assembly containing an air inlet valve, a check seat, and an air inlet port. The flow of water into the body causes the air inlet valve to close the air inlet port. When the flow of water stops the air inlet valve falls and forms a check against back-siphonage. At the same time the air inlet port opens, allowing air to enter and satisfy the vacuum. Also known as an Atmospheric Vacuum Breaker Back-siphonage Prevention Assembly.

Backflow prevention—The mechanical prevention of reverse flow, or back siphonage, of non-potable water from an irrigation system into the potable water source.

Backflow prevention assembly—Any assembly used to prevent backflow into a potable water system. The type of assembly used is based on the existing or potential degree of health hazard and backflow condition.

Cross-connection—An actual or potential connection between a potable water source and an irrigation system that may contain contaminates or pollutants or any source of water that has been treated to a lesser degree in the treatment process.

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Double Check Valve—An assembly that is composed of two independently acting, approved check valves, including tightly closed resilient seated shutoff valves attached at each end of the assembly and fitted with properly

Health hazard—A cross-connection or potential cross-connection with an irrigation system that involves any substance that may, if introduced into the potable water supply, cause death or illness, spread disease, or have a high probability of causing such effects.

Non-health hazard—A cross-connection or potential cross connection from a landscape irrigation system that involves any substance that generally would not be a health hazard but would constitute a nuisance or be aesthetically objectionable if introduced into the potable water supply.

Non-potable water—Water that is not suitable for human consumption. Nonpotable water sources include, but are not limited to, irrigation systems, lakes, ponds, streams, gray water that is discharged from washing machines, dishwashers or other appliances,

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water vapor condensate from cooling towers, reclaimed water, and harvested rainwater.

Potable water—Water that is suitable for human consumption.

Pressure Vacuum Breaker—An assembly containing an independently operating internally loaded check valve and an independently operating loaded air inlet valve located on the discharge side of the

Reclaimed water—Domestic or municipal wastewater which has been treated to a quality suitable for beneficial use, such as landscape irrigation.

Reduced Pressure Principal Backflow Prevention Assembly—An assembly containing two independently acting approved check valves together with a hydraulically operating mechanically independent pressure differential relief valve located between the two check valves and below the first check valve.

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Steps:

1. **Call the Homeowner**
    a. Determine a good time to perform the inspection.
    b. Ask for any plans their plumber has to help you determine every connection in the house.
2. **Start the inspection**
    a. **Meter**
        i. Look at the meter to ensure no leaks on premises.
        ii. Look for any Backflow protection at the meter (Consult below for Backflow types.)
            1. If there is a Backflow Device, ensure it meets the minimum standards per TCEQ Requirements.
            2. If no Backflow Device is present move to step 2.2.
    b. **Outside**
        i. Locate all outside faucets
            1. Ensure there are Vacuum Breakers on all Faucets outside.
        ii. Look for Wastewater utilities.

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1. For Aerobic Septic, Look to see if there is a connection with it and the potable water supply.
    i. If yes, Is there a Reduced Pressure Principal Backflow Prevention Assembly?
    ii. If No, Proceed to the next step.
2. For Sewer Systems, make sure there isn't a potential Cross connection installed.

iii. Look for Irrigation Systems
1. If present, check for a Reduced Pressure Principle Backflow Prevention Assembly.
2. If not present, Move to next step.

iv. Look for RV/Mobile Homes
1. If Present Ensure hookup has some kind of Backflow protection Device.

c. Inside

i. Check Kitchen
1. Ensure air gap on the sink
2. Check for weighted sprayer (If Present)

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3. Check underneath sink for potential cross connections.
4. Check Ice maker for potential cross connections. (If Present)
5. Check Dishwasher for potential cross connections. (If Present)

ii. Check 1st Bathroom (Repeat as needed per number of Bathrooms)

1. Ensure air gap on sink.
2. Ensure air gap on bathtub.
3. Check Outside toilet for potential cross connections.
4. Check Guts of toilet for an air gap.

iii. Check Washer/ Hot water Heater

1. Check Washer connections.
2. Check Hot Water Heater connections.
    a. If a Backflow device is installed at meter or before the Hot Water Heater, Check for expansion tank.

3. Conduct a Lead Test based on what material of pipe is installed.

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4. Fill out Certificate with remarks (If needed)

   a. Give a copy to homeowner

   b. Give a copy to Dawson's Water Superintendent

   c. Keep a copy

Reference Materials are attached

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