

STATE BACKFLOW REQUIREMENTS

641—25.6(135) Backflow prevention with containment. Cities of 15,000 population or greater as determined by the 1990 census or any subsequent special census shall enact a backflow prevention program with containment by January 1, 1996. The minimum requirements for a program are given in subrules 25.6(1) to 25.6(5). These requirements are in addition to the applicable requirements of sub-section 603 of the Uniform Plumbing Code, 1994 Edition.

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25.6(1) Definitions. The following definitions are added to those in Chapter 2 and section 603 of the Uniform Plumbing Code, 1994 Edition, or are modified from those definitions for the purposes of rule 25.6(135) only.

a. Administrative authority. The administrative authority for this rule is the city council and its designees.

b. Approved backflow prevention assembly for containment. A backflow prevention assembly which is listed by the University of Southern California-Foundation for Cross Connection Control and Hydraulic Research as having met the requirements of ANSI-AWWA Standard C510-92, "Double Check Valve Backflow-Prevention Assemblies," or ANSI-AWWA Standard C511-92, "Reduced-Pressure Principle Backflow-Prevention Assemblies," for containment. The listing shall include the limitations of use based on the degree of hazard. The backflow prevention assembly must also be listed by the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials.

c. Approved backflow prevention assembly for containment in a fire protection system. A back-flow prevention assembly to be used in a fire protection system which meets the requirements of Factory Mutual Research Corporation (FM) and Underwriters Laboratory (UL) in addition to the requirements of 25.6(1) "a."

d. Containment. Containment is a method of backflow prevention which requires a backflow prevention assembly on certain water services. Containment requires that the backflow prevention assembly be installed on the water service as close to the public water supply main as is practical.

e. Customer. The owner, operator or occupant of a building or property which has a water service from a public water system, or the owner or operator of a private water system which has a water service from a public water system.

f. Degree of hazard. The rating of a cross connection or a water service which indicates if it has the potential to cause contamination (high hazard) or pollution (low hazard).

g. Water service. Depending on the context, water service is the physical connection between a public water system and a customer's building, property or private water system, or the act of providing potable water to a customer.

25.6(2) Proposed water service.

a. No person shall install, or cause to have installed, a water service to a building, property or private water system if it is found that contamination or pollution of the public water supply could occur unless the water service is protected by an approved backflow prevention assembly for containment.

b. The administrative authority shall require the submission of plans, specifications and other information deemed necessary for a building, property or private water system to which a water service is proposed. The administrative authority shall review the information submitted to determine if cross connections will exist and the degree of hazard.

c. The owner of a building, property or private water system shall install, or cause to have installed, an approved backflow prevention assembly for containment as directed by the administrative authority before water service is initiated.

d. Reconstruction of an existing water service shall be treated as a proposed water service for the purposes of rule 641—25.6(135).

25.6(3) Existing water services.

a. The administrative authority shall publish the standards which it uses to determine the degree of hazard for a water service. These shall be consistent with standards published by the Iowa department of public health.

b. Each customer shall survey the activities and processes which receive water from the water service and shall report to the administrative authority if cross connections exist and the degree of hazard.

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c. The administrative authority may inspect the plumbing of any building, property and private water system which has a water service to determine if cross connections exist and the degree of hazard.

d. If, based on information provided through 25.6(3) “*b*” and “*c*,” the administrative authority determines that a water service may contaminate the public water supply, the administrative authority shall require that the customer install the appropriate backflow prevention assembly for containment.

e. If a customer refuses to install a backflow prevention assembly for containment when it is required by the administrative authority, the administrative authority may order that water service to the customer be discontinued until an appropriate backflow prevention assembly is installed.

25.6(4) Backflow prevention assemblies for containment.

a. Backflow prevention assemblies for containment shall be installed immediately following the water meter or as close to that location as deemed practical by the administrative authority.

b. A water service determined to present a high hazard shall be protected by an air gap or an approved reduced pressure principle backflow prevention assembly.

c. A water service determined to present a low hazard shall be protected by an approved double check valve assembly or as in 25.6(5) “*b*.”

d. A water service to a fire protection system shall be protected from backflow in accordance with the recommendations of American Water Works Association Manual M14. Where backflow prevention is required for a fire protection system, an approved backflow prevention assembly for containment in a fire protection system shall be used.

25.6(5) Backflow incidents.

a. The customer shall immediately notify the agency providing water service when the customer becomes aware that backflow has occurred in the building, property or private water system receiving water service.

b. The administrative authority may order that a water service be temporarily shut off when a backflow occurs in a customer’s building, property or private water system.

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code section 135.11(5).

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