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• The Mission of the Virginia Department of Health is to protect the health and promote the well-being of all people in Virginia. The agency's vision statement is "Become the healthiest state in the nation."

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Virginia Laws and Regulations

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- Virginia Public Water Supply Law (Title 32.1-167 through Title 32.1-176)
- Virginia Administrative Code for Waterworks Regulations (12VAC5-590)
- Virginia Administrative Code for Waterworks Operation Fees (12VAC5-600)

12VAC5-590-590. Cross connections.

- A. The purveyor shall not install, maintain, or allow to be installed a
 water service connection to any premises where cross connections to a
 waterworks or a consumer's water system may exist unless such cross
 connections are abated or controlled to the satisfaction of the water
 purveyor or the division.
- B. The purveyor shall not install, maintain, or allow to be installed any connection whereby water from an auxiliary water system may enter a waterworks or consumer's water system unless the auxiliary water system and the method of connection and use of such system shall have been approved by the water purveyor and by the division.

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12VAC5-590-610. Containment policy.

- A. An approved backflow prevention device shall be installed at each service connection to a consumer's water system where, in the judgment of the water purveyor or the division, a health, pollution, or system hazard to the waterworks exists.
- B. When, as a matter of practicality, the backflow prevention device cannot be installed at the service connection, the device may be located downstream of the service connection but prior to any unprotected takeoffs.

Limits to the Authority

- 12VAC5-590-600. Responsibilities.
- 3. The purveyor shall have thorough inspections and operational tests made at least annually of backflow prevention devices which are required and installed at the service connection.

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VDH Regulatory Changes effective 1 Jan 2022

The following examples are for educational purposes and can not be considered law until the changes are published and become effective.

- Definitions The term "Device" will read more of Devices, Assemblies and Methods
- Hazards Moderate will be removed and there will only be Low and
- Testers Will be mandated that they are State Certified through DPOR

VDH Regulatory Changes effective 1 Jan 2022

- Possible change to the installation criteria of Double Check Valve Assemblies DC
 - With regard to the definition of a low hazard and the piping that is used for
 - · Piping would have to be listed for potable use

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VDH Regulatory Changes effective 1 Jan 2022

- Lawn Irrigation Systems
 - · High Hazard
 - AVB, PVB or RP for use with the installation criteria for each.
 - There was some thoughts as to replacing the testing requirements with a public education program only but that did not happen.
 - Enforcement of Residential Lawn Irrigation can still be interpreted as a voluntary basis for the less attentive authorities



DPOR is an executive branch agency that oversees 18 regulatory boards and programs.

DPOR issues professional credentials—licenses, certificates or registrations—in the least intrusive, least burdensome and most efficient way.

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§ 54.1-1128. Definitions.

"Backflow prevention device worker" means any individual who engages in, or offers to engage in, the maintenance, repair, testing, or periodic inspection of cross connection control devices, including but not limited to reduced pressure principle backflow preventors, double check-valve assemblies, double-detector check-valve assemblies, pressure type vacuum breaker assemblies, and other such devices designed, installed, and maintained in such a manner so as to prevent the contamination of the potable water supply by the introduction of nonpotable liquids, solids, or gases, thus ensuring that the potable water supply remains unaltered and free from impurities, odor, discoloration, bacteria, and other contaminants which would make the potable water supply unfit or unsafe for consumption and use.

§ 54.1-1128. Definitions.

"Tradesman" means any individual who engages in, or offers to engage in, work for the general public for compensation in the trades of electrical, plumbing and heating, ventilation and air conditioning.

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§ 54.1-1129. Necessity for licensure.

B. Beginning July 1, 1998, no individual shall present himself as a certified backflow prevention device worker as defined in § 54.1-1128 unless he has been certified under the provisions of this article. Individuals certified as backflow prevention device workers shall not be required to hold any other professional or occupational license or certification; however, nothing in this subsection shall prohibit an individual from holding more than one professional or occupational license or certification. The certification program set forth in this article concerning backflow prevention device workers shall be voluntary and shall not be construed to prevent or affect the practice of backflow prevention device workers by those not certified by the Board, so long as any requirements of the applicable local governing body's programs relating to backflow prevention device workers are met. All local governing bodies shall accept certification by the Board of backflow prevention device workers as proof of experience and training without requiring additional examination.

§ 54.1-1135. Prohibited acts.

B. No person shall represent himself as a certified backflow prevention device worker unless he has been certified by the Board. Any person engaging or offering to engage in backflow prevention device worker activities within the meaning of this chapter who, through verbal claim, sign, advertisement, or letterhead, represents himself as a certified backflow prevention device worker without holding such a certificate from the Board shall be guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.

Class 1 misdemeanors are the most serious misdemeanors in Virginia. A Class 1 misdemeanor is punishable by up to 12 months in jail, a fine of up to \$2,500, or both.

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DPOR

- Has not provided any guidance as per the VDH proposed regulatory change
- DPOR has recently addressed the minimum number of hours required for tester certification and has reduced the number of hours to 32
- There are several jurisdictions that have taken a proactive approach to the State required level of certification
- Activily placing personnel in training courses that will support being eligible for the DPOR licensing

Conclusion

- The Virginia backflow world did get a seat at the table for the regulatory change
- We may not have gotten everything we wanted but we did make gains with no losses that are known
- Every little bit helps in the education of our legislatures so be active with your local jurisdictions as well as state level

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