



# Plumbing Newsflash

## BACKFLOW PREVENTION DEVICES

### Purpose

To clarify the legislative requirements for local governments and plumbers in relation to backflow prevention devices.

### Installing backflow prevention devices

An appropriate backflow prevention device must be installed if the plumbing on the premises has polluted or could pollute either the water supply in premises or the water service provider's water service. AS/NZS 3500.1:2003 provides information about the specific backflow prevention devices for particular applications (s. 36 SPDR).

Local governments have the power to require the owner or occupier of premises to install, register, inspect, test, repair or replace a backflow prevention device where the local government reasonably believes plumbing on the premises could pollute either the water supply in premises or the water service provider's water service to premises (s. 117 PDA).

### Inspection and testing of backflow prevention devices

A local government may, at any time (s. 117(2)(c) PDA), require the owner of a backflow prevention device to have the device inspected, tested, repaired or replaced by a licensed person entitled to do that work (s. 37 SPDR). A person who inspects or tests a backflow prevention device (s. 117(2)(c) PDA), must give the local government written results of the inspection or test within 10 business days after inspecting or testing the device.

### Testable backflow prevention devices

A testable backflow prevention device must not be installed without local government approval. Local governments must implement and maintain a program for the registration, maintenance and testing of testable backflow prevention devices installed in their local government area (s. 38 SPDR). A testable backflow prevention device that is not regularly tested and maintained may not provide the protection necessary to prevent contamination of water in the water service provider's water supply system.

An owner of an installed testable backflow prevention device must:

- (a) Register the device with the local government; and
- (b) Have the device inspected or tested for operational functioning at least once each year by a person who is licensed to carry out the work (s. 38(3) SPDR).

A person who inspects or tests a testable backflow prevention device must give the local government written results of the inspection or test in the approved form (Form 9) within 10 business days after the inspection or testing the device (s. 38(4) SPDR).

### **Contact Officer**

For further information in relation to this Newsflash, please contact Michael McGuinness on (07) 3247 3618 or email [michael.mcguinness@dglpsr.qld.gov.au](mailto:michael.mcguinness@dglpsr.qld.gov.au).

***DISCLAIMER:** The information contained in this Newsflash is provided by the State of Queensland in good faith. The material is general in nature and before relying on the material in any important matter, users should carefully evaluate its accuracy, currency, completeness and relevance for their purpose. It is not intended as a substitute for consulting the relevant legislation or for obtaining appropriate professional advice relevant to your particular circumstances. The State of Queensland cannot accept responsibility or liability for any loss, damage, cost or expense you might incur as a result of the use of or reliance on information contained in this Newsflash. It is not intended to be, and should not be relied upon as the ultimate and/or complete source of information.*