

**ABC Need-to-Know Criteria
for Backflow Prevention Assembly Testers**
(Excerpted from *Backflow Prevention Assembly Tester Certification Program Standards*)



ABC

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Job Analysis

Duty 1. Basic concepts

- 1.1 Explain hydraulic concepts of backsiphonage, backpressure, and pressure drop
- 1.2 Identify acceptable/unacceptable backflow prevention installations
- 1.3 Describe backflow prevention assemblies
- 1.4 Describe backflow prevention devices
- 1.5 Explain the difference between backflow prevention assemblies and devices

Duty 2. Compliance with public health principles

- 2.1 Describe the public health principles, laws, and regulations

Duty 3. Operating characteristics of backflow prevention assemblies and devices

- 3.1 Recognize indicators of normal and abnormal conditions
- 3.2 Identify causes of abnormal conditions using proper troubleshooting techniques
- 3.3 Identify and describe all components of each type of backflow prevention assembly
- 3.4 Identify operational characteristics of all testable assemblies and non-testable devices
- 3.5 Describe operation of backflow assembly/components
- 3.6 Conform to standards, laws, and regulations

Duty 4. Field test equipment

- 4.1 Recognize need for calibration
- 4.2 Use manufacturer's instructions
- 4.3 Identify storage and handling requirements
- 4.4 Describe operational characteristics of each type
- 4.5 Conform to standards, laws, rules and regulations

Duty 5. Field Test Procedures

- 5.1 Perform notification procedures (advance notification)
- 5.2 Identify type of assembly
- 5.3 Record physical identification of assembly
- 5.4 Identify direction of flow
- 5.5 Perform preliminary steps prior to testing
- 5.6 Perform test procedures
- 5.7 Evaluate test results
- 5.8 Explain reasons for using proper procedures
- 5.9 Record necessary information on all required reports
- 5.10 Provide test results to appropriate parties
- 5.11 Use necessary tools/test equipment/reference manuals
- 5.12 Conform to safety procedures
- 5.13 Identify safety hazards
- 5.14 Conform to standards, laws, and regulations

Performance Exam “Need-to-Know” Criteria

All of the following are considered critical.

1. Perform notification procedures (advance notification)
 - Describe purpose of advance notification
 - Describe reasons for prompt arrival time
 - Explain need for identification at a reception desk prior to entering the facility or site
 - Explain need for accompaniment of facility personnel
2. Identify type of assembly
3. Record physical identification of assembly on approved test sheets
4. Have necessary tools, test adapters, approved test equipment, reference manuals, etc. on hand and use
5. Maintain test kit in proper working condition
6. Identify improper installations of assemblies
7. Perform preliminary test procedures prior to testing using approved procedures:
 - Obtain direction of flow
 - Number the test cocks
 - Assemble test adapters and blow out
 - Request permission to shut down
 - Shut down
 - Evaluate assembly several moments following shut-down (RP only)
8. Perform test using approved procedures
9. Explain reasons for using proper procedures
10. Evaluate test results
11. Explain what the test results indicate in relation to the proper or improper operation of the assembly
12. Record necessary information on all required reports
 - Obtain signature of witness on the reports
 - ◆ If passed, notify facility personnel and return assembly to flow condition
 - ◆ If failed, notify facility personnel that repair or replacement of the device is required
 - Distribute copies of the report
13. Conform to safety procedures
14. Identify safety hazards
15. Conform to standards, laws and regulations