

# American Backflow Prevention Association

## Voluntary Certification Program

### Backflow Prevention Assembly Tester

#### What Is It?

The ABPA maintains a voluntary certification program for those individuals meeting all of the requirements of the RULES governing the program. A Backflow Prevention Assembly Tester is certified to field test any type or manufacturer of backflow prevention assembly.

#### Where Is The ABPA Certification Accepted?

Most States or Provinces do not have mandated Tester programs, therefore, you will find that different areas may have very different requirements. In many jurisdictions where there are no local certification programs, the ABPA Tester Certification may be recognized. Check with your local water or health departments to determine if the ABPA Tester Certification is recognized in your area.

#### Do I Really Need to be Certified?

Yes! Certification means that you have met minimum performance requirements as a backflow prevention assembly tester.

#### How Do I Get ABPA Certified?

You must either get the proper training or have prior experience, or a suitable combination of both.

**Training** - Training in the theory, design, field testing of backflow prevention assemblies.

**Experience** - Show at least two (2) years of experience in the testing of backflow prevention assemblies within a recognized certification program.\*

(\* Training, closed book written and performance exam where student demonstrated their ability to test and troubleshoot backflow prevention assemblies)

#### How Much Does the ABPA Tester Certification Cost?

Effective 1/1/2003, Application Fee is \$60

#### Do I Have to Take a Test?

**Yes.** There is a two-part test. First, a closed book written examination must be successfully completed, then an individual hands-on performance exam. The performance exam requires that you successfully demonstrate the field test procedures for the:

RP - *Reduced pressure principle assembly*

DC - *Double check valve assembly*

PVB - *Pressure vacuum breaker assembly*

Effective 1/1/2004 - SVB will be added

SVB - *Spill Resistant pressure vacuum breaker*

#### What's on the Test?

**Part 1 - Written Exam** - The written exam is a multiple choice type of exam covering subjects contained on the ABPA Need-to-Know Criteria, such as:

- Hydraulic and Backflow Principles
  - Theory of Backflow and Cross-connections
  - Codes and Regulations
  - Agency Responsibilities
  - Mechanical Equipment
- (Design, operation, component breakdown, application, installation requirements, field test procedures, reporting)

**Part 2 - Performance Exam** - The hands-on performance exam requires that the applicant demonstrate the field test procedures to an ABPA proctor. The applicant is expected to be capable of diagnosing the condition of the assemblies when they work properly, as well as when there is a malfunction, such as:

RP  
Leaking 1st check valve  
Leaking 2nd check valve  
Malfunctioning RV  
Leaking #2 shutoff valve  
(Dir of flow & backpressure)

PVB  
Leaking check valve  
Malfunctioning air inlet  
Leaking #1 shutoff valve  
Leaking #2 shutoff valve

DC  
Leaking 1st check valve  
Leaking 2nd check valve  
Leaking #1 shutoff valve  
Leaking #2 shutoff valve

SVB (effective 1/1/2004)  
Leaking check valve  
Malfunctioning air inlet  
Leaking #1 shutoff valve  
Leaking #2 shutoff valve

#### What Field Test Procedure Do I Need to Know?

The ABPA field test procedures are available at no charge from the Administrator or National Office.

(The field test procedures have been adopted from the USC Manual of Cross-Connection Control -9th Ed.)

#### How do I sign up?

**Get Application** - Phone, fax, or email the Administrator or National Office to request an application. Also available for download from the ABPA web site: [www.abpa.org](http://www.abpa.org).

**Submit Application** - Fill out an application for Tester certification and submit it, with \$60 *check, money order*, or *credit card* (MasterCard, Visa, Discover, American Express) payment to the Administrator at least thirty (30) days prior to the examinations.

#### Where & When are Tests Offered?

Contact the Administrator for schedule of exams. Exams are generally offered at various times throughout North America. Some training facilities arrange to have the ABPA Tester examinations administered at the conclusion of their training program. Check with your local training provider to see if the ABPA Tester Certification will be offered.

#### What do I get ?

A qualified applicant which successfully completes both the written and performance will receive a wall certificate containing your name, date of certification, and certification number. A wallet card is also provided.

#### How long does my ABPA Certification last?

The Tester Certification is valid for a period of three (3) years. Six months before your certification expires, you will receive a notice that it is time to *recertify*. You will need to submit a \$60 Recertification Fee, and arrange to take the recertification examination.

#### Do I need to take another test?

Yes. To make sure that you maintain your proficiency as a Tester, you will be required to take a recertification examination. The recertification examination is similar to the original examination, you must successfully complete both a written and performance examination.

#### What happens on 1 January 2004?

The SVB will be added to the examination process for both new applicants and recertifying testers starting 1 January 2004

#### What if I have additional questions?

Contact the Administrator or National Office by phone, fax, or email.



## ***Contacts:***

### **Administrator**

Ernest Havlina  
P.O. Box 91082  
Los Angeles, CA 90009  
Phone & FAX (323) 776-2764  
Email: ehavlinaxc@aol.com

### **ABPA National Office**

ABPA  
P.O. Box 3051  
Bryan, TX 77805-3051  
(979) 846-7606  
FAX (979) 846-7607  
Email: shaneo1@aol.com

**Web Page:** [www.abpa.org](http://www.abpa.org)

*Backflow Prevention Assembly  
Tester Certification Program*

**American Backflow Prevention Association**  
P.O. Box 3051  
Bryan, TX 77805-3051



# **BACKFLOW PREVENTION ASSEMBLY TESTER CERTIFICATION PROGRAM**

*Frequently  
Asked Questions*



# **AMERICAN BACKFLOW PREVENTION ASSOCIATION**

1 January 2003