

# Backflow Prevention Assembly Tester Certification/Recertification SOP/Protocol

## Certification

The Backflow Prevention Assembly Tester certification class is a five day course that instructs students in how backflow can occur and how cross connections can be addressed and/or eliminated. Time is spent in the classroom and wet lab. Students receive hands-on and practical instruction on how to test backflow assemblies. Upon successful completion of a hands-on test in the lab and a written exam, students are approved to test backflow prevention assemblies on the PWC water system. This certification will be valid for 2 (two) years, then an evaluation will be required to continue as a tester. The cost of this training is \$150.00 per person, limited to 12 people per class. Students are required to attend at least 90% of training in order to pass. The course will be held at the System Protection Office located at the Cross Creek Water Reclamation Facility, 601 North Eastern Blvd. Fayetteville, NC 28301.



## Recertification

The Backflow Prevention Assembly Tester re-certification is structured so that PWC can assure that testers are competent. Upon notification, testers are required to show their testing skills in a hands on evaluation by testing a Double Check Valve Assembly, a Reduced Pressure Backflow Assembly, and a Pressure Vacuum Breaker before a PWC representative. The tester will test each assembly without written documentation and will be evaluated by a grade sheet. Each tester must successfully test each assembly 70% correctly in order to be recertified. This certification will be valid for 2 (two) years, then an evaluation will be required to continue as a tester. The cost of this training is \$50.00 per person. The qualifications to be seated for initial training are still required to continue as a tester. The evaluation will be held at the System Protection Office located at the Cross Creek Water Reclamation Facility, 601 North Eastern Blvd. Fayetteville, NC 28301.

## Notification of Training:

PWC will mail a “notification of class” letter out within 30 days prior to class. For the certification class, a letter will be sent to all current testers. For the re-certification class, a letter will be sent only to the testers whose certification is due for renewal.

## Qualifications to be seated for training:

Anyone interested in attending PWC’s Backflow Prevention Assembly Tester Course must meet the following prerequisites in order to be seated for the class; each individual must be a certified plumber, or working underneath a plumber’s plumbing license, or have a contractor’s license, or working underneath a contractor’s license. Individuals applying for the course may be required to show proof of employment. The certification classes and the re-certifications are restricted to local companies and individuals.

## Request for training:

For questions regarding class availability, registration, and/or payment options please contact Salvina Rogers at (910) 223-4207. If you have any other questions concerning this matter please feel free to contact Brian Morrison at (910) 223-4704. You can mail your check or money order to PWC. Make checks payable to the Public Works Commission, 955 Old Wilmington HWY, Fayetteville, NC 28301, Attention: Salvina Rogers. PWC will take payment no earlier than 60 days prior to class and up to 7 days before class starts. PWC cannot take credit or debit cards for payment. All classes are filled on a first come first serve basis. Certification classes are limited to 12 students and pre-registration will be terminated 7 days before class starts.

### **Frequency of training:**

PWC will attempt to schedule a certification class and a recertification evaluation in the spring and in the fall of each year. Certification classes will be scheduled based on demand. PWC reserves the right to cancel classes if there are not enough enrollees to make the class viable.

### **Failure to recertify:**

All testers will be given the opportunity to recertify their tester status through evaluation. Each tester will be given a 30 day notice with the date and time of their evaluation. In the event that the tester cannot recertify but still wishes to continue his or her certification, the tester must explain why in writing no later than 7 days prior to their scheduled evaluation. Certain emergencies will be considered if this cannot be done. Testers that are approved to skip their recertification will be issued an extension on their certification. Testers that do not follow through with their recertification after their extension must complete a full certification class in order to be placed back on tester status.

### **Tester list requirements:**

When letters are sent out to customers who need their backflow prevention assembly(s) tested, PWC sends out a list of companies that employ certified testers along with the letter. This list is organized in alphabetical order. To qualify to be placed on this list, the following requirements must be met; you must be a company that employ certified testers, or you must be a certified tester. As an individual you must be employed, have a valid phone number and contact information, and own approved backflow prevention assembly test equipment that has a current accuracy certification. All information will be verified before you are added to the list. This list will be evaluated and changed accordingly in the fall and in the spring every year.

### **Change of Employment**

It is the testers responsibility to notify PWC within ten (10) business days of an employment change. Failure to do so may result in the revocation of their tester certification.

### **Frequently asked question:**

1. When are classes held? Spring and Fall, depending on the demand.
2. Does PWC offer night classes? No
3. Will PWC allow testers who were certified at another school to re-certify through PWC? If a tester received his certification through a credible school that PWC approves PWC will allow that tester to re-certify through PWC if they are a Cumberland County resident.
4. How long does the full certification class last? Approximately 36 hours over a five day period
5. Is there a written exam for the full certification class? Yes
6. How long is the re-certification class? There is no class time. PWC will allow testers to practice in the PWC wet lab and then they will be allowed 1 hour to complete the hands on exam.