

AWWA Manual M14

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Several methods may be used to test backflow prevention assemblies. To insure that test results obtained from certified testers are reliable, standardized testing procedures should be used. The acceptable procedures should be specified by the state or provincial health departments and the water purveyor.

The following are some of the publications or sources that provide test procedures for the reduced pressure backflow assembly, double check valve assembly, and pressure vacuum breaker assemblies (PVBA and/or SVBA):

- Manufacturers' literature for differential pressure gauges
- Manufacturers' literature for backflow prevention assemblies
- *Cross Connection Control Manual*, 6th ed., Appendix F, Pacific Northwest Section of AWWA
- *Cross Connection Control Manual*, 1989, USEPA publication 570/9-89-007
- *Backflow Prevention Assemblies – Series 5000*, 2000, American Society of Sanitary Engineering
- Field Test Procedures (Position paper), New England Water Works Association

And finally....

- *Manual of Cross-Connection Control*, 9th ed., Foundation for Cross-Connection Control and Hydraulic Research, University of Southern California. (Now the 10th edition as of January 2010)

Many test procedures have certain idiosyncrasies that can render the data generated inaccurate.

Be sure to review the many different test procedures to determine that one that provides the most accurate data most frequently.