

How to Become a Certified Backflow Prevention Assembly Tester

- Jeff Flynt, So. Cal ABPA
- Bob Mattson, CA-NV AWWA
- Ron Ventura, Ventura County DHS

Tester Certifications

- American Backflow Prevention Association (ABPA)
- California Nevada Section – American Water Works Association (CA-NV AWWA)
- Ventura County
- Los Angeles County
- Orange County
- Riverside County
- San Bernardino County

ABPA Tester Certification Program

- Voluntary Program
- Started January 23, 1994
- It is up to the local administrative authority to recognize a certificate is valid in their area of jurisdiction

ABPA Tester Requirements

- Training – in the theory, design, and field testing of backflow prevention assemblies.
- AND/OR**
- Experience – at least 2 years of experience in the testing of backflow prevention assemblies within a recognized certification program.

ABPA Tester Certification



- Application fee is currently \$60
- **Will increase to \$85 in 2008**

Exam Requirements

- Written Exam – 100 questions (Closed Book 70 % passing score)
- Hydraulic and Backflow Principles
- Theory of Backflow and Cross-connections
- Codes and Regulations
- Agency Responsibilities
- Mechanical Equipment - design, operation, component breakdown, application, installation requirements, reporting, and field test procedures (USC manual of Cross-Connection Control 9th Edition)

Exam Requirements

- Performance Exam - RP, DC, PVB, SVB
- 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. The field test procedures have been adopted from the USC Manual of Cross-Connection Control (9th Edition)

Program Administrator

- For more information, contact Ernest Havlina at (323) 776-2764 or ABPA National Office at (979) 846-7606
- <http://www.abpa.org>
- <http://www.socalabpa.org>

AWWA Tester Fees



- \$120 (member)
- \$140 (Non Member)

General Requirements

- Be Able to carry out all duties and responsibilities associated with the Backflow Prevention Assembly Tester Program that has been approved by the regulatory agency having jurisdiction
- Be able to speak and comprehend the English language to the extent that effective communications can be had with co-workers and the public

General Requirements

- Have attained his or her 18th birthday
- Education – graduation from high school or G.E.D. education
- Successfully complete a course of instruction covering the Backflow Prevention Assembly Tester Expected Range of Knowledge; or show 2 years of experience in the field testing of backflow prevention assemblies (certificate issued by agency having local jurisdiction)

Written Exam

- 2 parts
- 100 general & 25 trouble shooting questions (New)
- 50 general & 25 trouble shooting questions (recert)
- (70% passing score on each one)

Performance Exam

- RP, DC, PVB, SVB
- The hands-on performance exam requires that the applicant demonstrate the field test procedures to an AWWA 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. The field test procedures have been adopted from the USC Manual of Cross-Connection Control (9th Edition)

Cal-Nevada AWWA Specialist Cert.

- Initial fee is \$100 for members & \$120 for non-member
- Written Exam – 100 questions (70% passing score)
- Renewal (Every 2 years)
- Requires 12 contact hours at renewal

AWWA Contacts

- For more information, contact:
- Bob Mattson at (909) 481-7200
- E-mail: Backflowbob@hotmail.com
- <http://www.ca-nv-awwa.org>

Ventura County

- Fee - \$45 (3 year cert)
- Gage
- Proof of completion and passing of an approved cross-connection course
- Hands on performance exam
- For more info contact:
- Ron Ventura (805) 654-2436
- E-mail: ron.ventura@ventura.org

Los Angeles County Tester Cert.

- 2 year certification
- Fee is \$ 282
- Wednesday examinations only
- C36 License required or work for someone who does have one
- Performance exam only RP,DC,PVB,SVB and DC with air inlet
- For more information, contact: Carlos Borja, Los Angeles County Dept. of Health Services at (626) 430-5290.



Orange County Tester Cert.

- 2 Year certification
- Fee is \$138.00 +
- Optional Listing \$92+
- Written exam – 100 questions (80%)
- Performance Exam – RP, DC, PVB, SVB
- For more information, contact: Martin Frieber, Orange County Health Agency, (714) 433-6286



Riverside County Tester Cert.

- Fee is \$96.00 New / \$89 Recert.
- (They asked me for \$105)
- Listing fee \$11 annually
- Written exam for new testers & those who let certification expire
- 2 hour time limit
- 100 questions (70%)

Riverside Performance Exam

- Performance Exam – RP, DC, PVB,
 - 1 hour time limit
 - Must have gauge calibration
 - Must have ¼" fine control needle valves
 - NO BALL VALVES
- Know trouble shooting!!!

Riverside County Certificate

- Certificate issued after review and approval by the Riverside County Board of Examiners for backflow and cross connection control which meets in January, April, July and October
- For more information, contact: Michael Mendoza, County of Riverside at (951) 955-8980

San Bernardino County Tester Cert.

- Fee is \$ 99.00 + \$44 Annual Maint. fee
- Written exam – 60-70 questions (70%)
- Performance Exam – RP, DC, PVB
- For more information, contact: Mike Ferrell, San Bernardino County Public Health at (909) 387-4666

For more information

- <http://www.abpa.org>
- <http://www.socalabpa.org>
- <http://www.ca-nv-awwa.org>
- <http://www.ventura.org/rma/envhealth/programs.htm>
- <http://www.ochealthinfo.com>
- <http://rivcoeh.org>
- <http://www.sbcounty.gov/dehs>
- <http://www.lapublichealth.org>