

*******IMPORTANT*******

New Low-Lead Regulations Affecting Backflow Prevention Devices

A new law regarding the percent of lead content in plumbing fixtures that convey potable water for human consumption went into effect on January 1, 2010. **California Assembly Bill No. AB 1953** stipulates that any plumbing fixtures that convey potable water for human consumption (including backflow prevention devices) must contain no more than .25% total lead content. It also makes it “illegal” (punishable by fines) to install any plumbing fixture that does not meet these new low-lead standards.

The Alameda County Water District’s Cross Connection Control Unit is requiring that all new installations or replacements of backflow prevention devices, including repair kits, be in compliance with this new law.

It is **YOUR** responsibility to comply with this new law and **NOT** install any backflow preventers or repair kits that are not approved as low-lead. There are many approved backflow prevention devices that comply with the new law – see the USC-FCCCHR approved backflow prevention devices listing. In addition, it is also now illegal to sell any plumbing fixture, including a backflow prevention device that does not meet the new law.

Plumbing supply houses and distributors are well aware of the new requirements and will not sell a backflow preventer or repair kit to you if its application is for backflow protection on a potable water line for human consumption. It is **YOUR** responsibility to inform your supplier or distributor that the backflow devices or repair kits you are purchasing are for potable human consumption and to **VERIFY**, through on-site investigation, that the backflow prevention device protects potable water, landscape water, or both.

Exceptions to AB 1053

Any landscape meter or dedicated fire system requiring backflow protection is not affected by this new law and can still be protected by an approved backflow preventer or repaired with a non-low lead repair kit with the higher lead content.

Enforcement:

As of January 1, 2010, the Alameda County Water District’s Cross Connection Unit will be enforcing **AB 1953** requirements on any new or replaced backflow prevention devices or repair kits that are required as system protection in accordance with the District’s **Cross Connection Control Ordinance 1999-01** and serve potable water for human consumption.

In addition, please be aware that if a new installation, replacement or repair that was completed on or after January 1, 2010 was **NOT** in compliance with **AB 1953**, it will not be accepted and will be treated as though compliance had not taken place.

Should you have any questions concerning this, please contact me at robert.ells@acwd.com or my office phone (510) 668-6590 and we will discuss any unforeseen issues you may be experiencing with this new law.

Thanks for your cooperation in this matter and for providing our customers with the top notch service!