Purpose
To clarify the legislative requirements for local governments and plumbers in relation to backflow prevention devices.

Installing backflow prevention devices
An appropriate backflow prevention device must be installed if the plumbing on the premises has polluted or could pollute either the water supply in premises or the water service provider’s water service. AS/NZS 3500.1:2003 provides information about the specific backflow prevention devices for particular applications (s. 36 SPDR).

Local governments have the power to require the owner or occupier of premises to install, register, inspect, test, repair or replace a backflow prevention device where the local government reasonably believes plumbing on the premises could pollute either the water supply in premises or the water service provider’s water service to premises (s. 117 PDA).

Inspection and testing of backflow prevention devices
A local government may, at any time (s. 117(2)(c) PDA), require the owner of a backflow prevention device to have the device inspected, tested, repaired or replaced by a licensed person entitled to do that work (s. 37 SPDR). A person who inspects or tests a backflow prevention device (s. 117(2)(c) PDA), must give the local government written results of the inspection or test within 10 business days after inspecting or testing the device.

Testable backflow prevention devices
A testable backflow prevention device must not be installed without local government approval. Local governments must implement and maintain a program for the registration, maintenance and testing of testable backflow prevention devices installed in their local government area (s. 38 SPDR). A testable backflow prevention device that is not regularly tested and maintained may not provide the protection necessary to prevent contamination of water in the water service provider’s water supply system.

An owner of an installed testable backflow prevention device must:
(a) Register the device with the local government; and
(b) Have the device inspected or tested for operational functioning at least once each year by a person who is licensed to carry out the work (s. 38(3) SPDR).
A person who inspects or tests a testable backflow prevention device must give the local
government written results of the inspection or test in the approved form (Form 9) within 10
business days after the inspection or testing the device (s. 38(4) SPDR).

Contact Officer

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