

DATE: December 29, 2025

TO: Kathleen Buchli, Code Reviser

FROM: Tami Thompson, Regulatory Affairs
Manager



SUBJECT: Rescind Policy Statement | Backflow Assembly Tester Professional
Growth Period Filed as WSR 20-24-012


This memo serves as notice that the Department of Health (department) is rescinding a policy statement titled “Backflow Assembly Tester Professional Growth Period” filed November 19, 2020, and published as WSR 20-24-012.

This policy permitted a one-time, one-year extension of the 3-year professional growth period for backflow assembly testers, due to the novel coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. The department is rescinding this policy because the COVID-19 pandemic is over and it is no longer necessary.

Individuals requiring additional information on this should contact Mike Means, Water Quality, Policy, and Certification Manager for the Office of Drinking Water at mike.means@doh.wa.gov.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

cc: Mike Means, Water Quality, Policy, and Certification Manager



OFFICE OF THE CODE REVISER
STATE OF WASHINGTON
FILED

DATE: January 27, 2026
TIME: 2:50 PM

WSR 26-04-056



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Olympia, Washington 98504-7890

NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF A POLICY STATEMENT

Title of Policy Statement: Backflow Assembly Tester Professional Growth Period.
Policy Number: K.03

Issuing Entity: Division of Environmental Public Health, Office of Drinking Water

Subject Matter: Due to the novel coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, this policy provides a one-time, one-year extension of the 3-year professional growth period for backflow assembly testers (BATs). As such, BATs are unable meet their professional growth requirement in 2020 because the required in-person testing has been suspended to comply with social distancing and safety protocols.

Effective Date: January 1, 2021

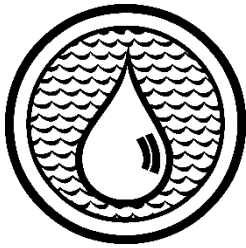
Contact Person: William Bernier, Waterworks Operator Certification Program Manager
Phone: (360) 236-3562
Email: William.bernier@doh.wa.gov

OFFICE OF THE CODE REVISER
STATE OF WASHINGTON
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DATE: November 19, 2020

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WSR 20-24-012



*Department of Health
Office of Drinking Water*

Policy Statement

<i>Title:</i>	Backflow Assembly Tester Professional Growth Period	<i>Number:</i> K.03
<i>Procedure:</i>	None	
<i>References:</i>	RCW 70A.120.100 and WAC 246-292-095	
<i>Applies to:</i>	Washington State Certified Backflow Assembly Testers	
<i>Contact:</i>	William Bernier, Section Manager	
<i>Phone:</i>	(360) 236-3562	
<i>Email:</i>	William.bernier@doh.wa.gov	
<i>Effective Date:</i>	January 1, 2021	
<i>Supersedes:</i>	NA	
<i>Approved:</i>	Emily Sanford, Acting Director	

This policy provides a one-time, one-year extension of the 3-year professional growth period for backflow assembly testers (BATs) due to the coronavirus 2019 (COVID)-19 pandemic. BATs are unable to meet their professional growth requirement in 2020 because the required in-person testing has been suspended to comply with social distancing and safety protocols. The new professional growth reporting period for BATs will end December 31, 2022. Subsequent professional growth periods will continue on a 3-year cycle moving forward (2025, 2028, etc.).

The Department of Health's (department) mission is to provide safe and reliable drinking water to the people in Washington State. The department is responsible for regulating professional growth of BATs under WAC 246-292-095(2). BATs are critical for the protection of public drinking water distribution systems and the safe and reliable operation of backflow assemblies.

Every 3-years the department requires all certified operators to meet a professional growth requirement to maintain their certifications, including BATs. The current professional growth period ends December 31, 2021. Every reporting period:

- Certified waterworks operators must obtain 3.0 CEU of classroom training (or pass a "next level" certification exam).
- Certified backflow assembly testers (BAT) must take a hands-on practical exam to prove proficiency.

Third-party training partners have increased the number of remote training opportunities for waterworks operators. Waterworks operators will be able to meet their professional growth requirement without any additional consideration.

Because of the period of suspension for in-person BAT professional exams since the COVID-19 shutdown, the department has made the decision to alter BAT professional growth reporting periods as follows:

- The professional growth reporting period for BATs will now end December 31, 2022.
- Subsequent professional growth periods for BATs will continue on a 3-year cycle moving forward (2025, 2028, etc.).

This policy provides a one-time, one-year extension of the 3-year professional growth period for backflow assembly testers (BATs) due to the COVID-19 pandemic. BATS are unable meet their professional growth requirement in 2020 because the required in-person testing has been suspended to comply with social distancing and safety protocols. The new professional growth reporting period for BATs will end December 31, 2022. Subsequent professional growth periods will continue on a 3-year cycle moving forward (2025, 2028, etc.).