



Circular No. LWU 17
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Backflow Prevention

This Circular has been prepared to remind NSW local water utilities of the continuing need for Backflow Prevention in urban water supply systems in regional NSW.

Each local water utility may require the installation of backflow prevention devices. Backflow occurs when water from a customer's property flows into the water utility's water mains or service connections. Such backflow may contaminate the public water supply and be harmful to public health.

Suitable backflow prevention devices are listed in Column 1 of Table 4.1 of *AS/NZS 3500.1: Plumbing and Drainage Part 1-Water Services*.

On 1 July 2012, NSW Fair Trading became the State's plumbing and drainage regulator. From this date, NSW adopted the Plumbing Code of Australia (PCA) as the single code of practice for all plumbers across the State. The PCA replaces the NSW Code of Practice for Plumbing and Drainage (2006).

The PCA does not impose a requirement for backflow prevention. However, all NSW local water utilities should continue to enforce requirements for installation, repair, maintenance, testing or commissioning of backflow prevention devices to safeguard their public water supply systems.

Further information on this matter is available from the NSW Office of Water by contacting Mr Kandiah Mahadeva (Maha), Developer Charges and Water Security Coordinator on 02 8281 7319 or kandiah.mahadeva@water.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'David Harriss'.

David Harriss
Commissioner, NSW Office of Water