

October 24, 2023

I'm requesting that backflow courses be awarded CEUs for not only water but also wastewater.

Specifically, 1) backflow and cross connection are part of the ABC need-to-know criteria for collections and treatment plant operators, 2) The ORS state that all wastewater treatment plants, as well as lift and pump station, require backflow assemblies that are tested annually by wastewater treatment plant and collection system operators and 3) cross-connection and backflow content is routinely on ABC level 1-IV collection and treatment certification exams.

Cross connection and backflow are one in the same. As stated in the ABC need-to-know criteria, for wastewater collections, operators are required as part of their job skills to operate backflow prevention devices. The term backflow or cross connection is referenced 4 times in the need-to-know criteria for collection system operators. The ABC need-to-know criteria for wastewater operators require them to monitor lift stations and treatment plants to ensure equipment is operating properly (these locations require backflow equipment to be maintained and operated).

OAR 333-061-0070 Cross Connection Control Requirements Table 42 (pg. 287) states that all wastewater treatment plants and lift and pump stations are considered high hazards and need backflow protection.

We routinely get wastewater treatment and collection system operators who as part of their job duties (See ABC need to know criteria) are required to test and maintain all backflow assemblies on-site. They are required to get CEUs and keep their backflow certifications current so they can test the assemblies that are required to protect public health. I am requesting that they be awarded CEUs in wastewater as well as drinking water.

Managers of the plants send their collections, treatment, and or maintenance crews to backflow training as part of their job requirements. Unfortunately, these operators are being sent for backflow instruction yet cannot receive wastewater CEUs for this mandatory job requirement. I am requesting that these individuals be granted CEUS for wastewater.

Finally, on Level 1-4 collections or wastewater ABC certification exams, there are backflow and cross-connection intermediate knowledge level questions. If a collection or treatment plant operator wants to pass their certification exams they need knowledge about backflow and cross connection that they would receive through this training opportunity.

Thanks,

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