ISSC 2023
Committee Report

Committee Name : Backflow Prevention
Chairperson: Eric Hickey
Date of Meeting: 2020-2022 **Approved By:**_____
Recorder: **Printed Name:** Eric Hickey

Committee Members Present:

☒Eric Hickey (Chairperson)	☒Kim Coulbourne	☒Miranda Ries	☒Raymond Burditt (FDA Advisor)
☒Barney Hollinger	☒Lauren Gauthier	☒Shawn Nelson	☒Bill Kramer (EPA)
☒Andrew Bell	☒Bob Rheault	☒Chris Brooks (FDA Delegate)	
	☒Barry Hurt		

Charges

Charge 1: Proposal 19-227: Proper Use of Devices to Prevent Backflow and Back Siphonage

Findings/Conclusions:
Proposal was reviewed and types of blackflow prevention and back siphonage devices were discussed as well as the range of uses and costs associated with those devices. The cost information in the proposal is outdated.

Recommendations:

The committee recommends adoption of the proposal as submitted with cost information updated as below:

Cost Information

Hose bib vacuum breakers may continue to be used, provided they are not subjected to continuous pressure. For example, a simple hose attached to a hose bib, which is in turn connected to a faucet is acceptable. Cost is approximately $6- 20 on average and up to $80 depending on the quality of the device and where it is purchased.. If, however, a shut-off spray nozzle is added, the hose bib should be removed and a device capable of protecting against backflow and back siphonage under pressure should be installed upstream of the faucet valve. Cost per replacement device varies. For example, a ¾" Watts® LF7R lead free dual check valve backflow preventer, capable of protecting against backflow and back siphonage under continuous pressure in potable water systems, whether mounted vertically or horizontally, will cost approximately $4060-80. Addition of an atmospheric vent to the dual check valve assembly will increase the cost. A lead free ¾" dual check valve with atmospheric vent made by MATCO-NORCA is approximately $43. A Watts dual check valve backflow preventer with intermediate atmospheric vent costs $100-160. Additionally, the average rate for a licensed commercial plumber nationally is $100-150/hr. Consequently, the estimated cost to install a Watts lead-free dual check valve backflow preventer would be between $250 ($50 for the valve and two hours of labor at $100) to about $610 for a a Watts lead-free dual check valve backflow preventer with intermediate atmospheric vent ($160 for the valve and three hours of labor at $150). Replacement costs could increase if a dealer opts to install a heavier duty valve or if there are existing plumbing issues that need to be corrected prior to installation of the proper valve. Cost estimates for devices provided by Amazon.com, Google Shopping, Plumbing-deals.com, and Pexuniverse.com. Plumbing labor rates provided by Angi.com, Homeadviser.com, and Fixr.com. The costs cited in this section are accurate as of February 23, 2023.