Clarification On The Two-Feet Copper Requirement

(Cross-Connection Control Program Manual Chapter II, 2.1.6 & 2.1.7 - page 5)

There has been much debate on exactly what is meant by the Program Manual's Specification of having two-feet of copper pipe on the inlet and outlet side of a backflow prevention assembly. In order to clarify any misconception or misunderstanding regarding this requirement, the following information should be considered:

The 2-feet requirement was implemented in 1992 to ensure the rigid, stable installation of a backflow prevention assembly, whether installed above ground or in a below ground enclosure. In the case of a 2-inch or smaller DCVA, the 2-feet of copper pipe on the inlet and outlet sides allow the "mouse holes" of the enclosure to rest on piping material considerably more stable than PVC or similar pipe. The transition from PVC pipe to copper pipe must be made at least 2-feet from the inlet side of a DCVA, and the transition from copper pipe to PVC pipe must be made at least 2-feet from the outlet side of a DCVA in a below ground enclosure.

When an above ground DCVA or RP is installed, the same requirements will apply. However, in addition to the horizontal, buried 2-feet of copper pipe on the inlet side (described in the paragraph above), the remaining piping material including the 90-degree bend, the vertical-up pipe on the inlet side of the assembly, the vertical-down pipe on the outlet side of the assembly, the 90-degree bend and 2-feet more of horizontal, buried pipe on the outlet side must also be copper pipe before transitioning back to PVC of similar pipe.

Clarification On Installation

(Cross-Connection Control Program Manual Initial Installation, Item 6 - page 2 & Chapter IV, 4.2 – page 10)

Installers are required to **CALL** CPW to report the installation and provide the make, model, size, serial number and location of the assembly. Frequently, we receive a Field Test And Maintenance Report for a new installation or a changeout installation several days after the fact. CPW expects a telephone call from the Installer with the installation and/or changeout details.

Clarification On Testing After Repairs

(Cross-Connection Control Program Manual Chapter III, 3.5 - page 9)

CPW requires all backflow prevention assemblies to be tested after **REPAIRS OF ANY TYPE** are made to the assembly or if water service is interrupted or shut off, even temporarily for maintenance. This includes but is not limited to replacing test cocks, replacing a disc, etc.

Clarification On Assemblies Found To Be In Non-Compliance

(Cross-Connection Control Program Manual Chapter IV, 4.1 - page 9)

Whenever an existing assembly (which does not meet the current provisions of the Manual) fail the annual test, and it becomes necessary to replace the assembly, it must be replaced and installed in a manner consistent with the Program Manual requirements in effect at that time. CPW Approved Testers are expected to notify CPW at any time they encounter ANY assembly installed in a manner that does not comply with existing CPW Cross-Connection Control Program Manual on Backflow Prevention. CPW will not identify that tester during communications with the affected customer account found to be in non-compliance.