

City of Lake Charles, LA

Ordinance: 19630

An ordinance amending Chapter 21, Sec. 21-9 of Article 1 “Cross contamination prevention - Backflow preventer installation and inspection requirements” of the Code of Ordinances for the City of Lake Charles, Louisiana.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAKE CHARLES, LOUISIANA in regular session convened, that:

SECTION 1: Sec. 21-9 of Chapter 21 of the Code of Ordinances is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

“Sec. 21-9. Cross contamination prevention-Backflow preventer installation and inspection requirements.

The city has an obligation to provide safe, clean drinking water to its residents and to take every precaution to prevent contaminants from entering the water system. Specific requirements concerning the water system are promulgated in LAC 51: Part XII, Chapter 3 and are managed by the Louisiana Office of Public Health. Section 344 of the Sanitary Code states that "each water supplier shall develop and implement a written backflow prevention plan.

Section 21-9, along with the city's "Backflow Prevention and Cross Control Program" policy published on the city's website, address this requirement. A copy of this policy can be obtained from the Lake Charles Water Division.

(a) Applicability. These requirements apply to:

(1) All residential or commercial developers or customers/owners who pose a possible cross contamination risk. See the city's "Backflow Prevention and Cross Control Program" policy for further detail.

(b) Definitions. See the "Backflow Prevention and Cross Control Program" policy on the city's website and/or the International Plumbing Code.

(c) Requirements.

(1) It is the customer/owner's duty to be fully aware of all applicable requirements of the International Plumbing Code and to be in full compliance with them. See the "Backflow Prevention and Cross Control Program" policy on the city's website for a summary of some of the key provisions of the plumbing code.

(2) All water services meeting the requirements of subsection (a) shall have a testable backflow prevention device installed downstream of the meter or service tap.

(3) The backflow preventer assembly shall be tested upon installation and on a yearly basis by an approved backflow prevention assembly technician. See the "Backflow Prevention and Cross Control Program" policy on the City's website for more information.

(4) Initial test results on installation, and subsequent required yearly testing results, shall be supplied to the City Water Division via the newly instated Cross Connection Control Program platform.

(d) Annual testing procedure.

(1) All customers/owners meeting the requirements of subsection (a) shall test their backflow preventers by the end of each calendar year through the City's established protocols.

(2) If no test results are received by the city by the end of the calendar year:

a. A \$200.00 fine shall be assessed and added to the customer/owner's water bill effective January 1st, of the following year;

b. If the test results are not received by the last day of February, an additional penalty of \$250.00 shall be assessed and added to the customer's water bill effective March 1st.

c. If documentation of installation or testing of device is not received by March 31st, water service will be terminated.

(e) Responsibilities.

(1) The customer/owner shall install and maintain backflow prevention methods or devices as prescribed by this section, and as directed by city plumbing officials within that part of the water system owned and maintained by the customer. This includes the piping downstream of the water meter or downstream of any unmetered connection. All backflow prevention devices shall be "testable" on at least an annual basis.

(2) The customer/owner shall immediately notify the city of any backflow incident and take steps to confine the contamination of pollution. After inspection by the city or its designee, water service may be terminated until corrective action is taken and approved.

(3) The customer/owner shall inform the city or its designee of any proposed or modified cross connection and also any existing cross connection of which the customer is aware but has not been found by the city or designee.

(4) The customer/owner is responsible for the annual maintenance and testing of any required backflow prevention device which is required under this section. All records of annual testing shall be provided to the city or its designee, and shall be kept by the owner or the backflow prevention device for at least five years.

(5) The customer/owner shall be solely responsible for any costs associated with testing, repairs, overhauls, or replacement of any backflow prevention device required under this section and in accordance with the International Plumbing Code.

(f) Other provisions.

(1) City inspectors or their designated representatives have the authority to inspect backflow preventers governed by these requirements.

(2) Should an inspection reveal a hazard or a risk to public drinking water supply, the city shall notify the water system developer or customer/owner. The developer or customer/owner of the water system shall immediately remedy the hazard or risk, or the service may be terminated until corrective actions are made.

(3) The water service may be discontinued in the case of noncompliance. Noncompliance includes, but is not limited to, the following:

a. Refusal to allow the city or its designee access to the property to inspect for cross-connection.

b. Removal of a backflow prevention assembly or method which has been required by the city or its designee.

c. Bypassing of a backflow prevention assembly or method which has been required by the city or its designee.

d. Providing inadequate backflow prevention when potential or actual cross connections exist.

e. Failure to install a backflow prevention assembly or method which has been required by the city or its designee.

f. Failure to test and/or properly repair a backflow prevention assembly or method as required by the city or its designee.

g. Failure to comply with the requirements of this section. "

SECTION 2: All other paragraphs, subsections, subparagraphs, clauses, phrases and words of this section, not specifically amended by this ordinance, are to remain the same.

I, Lynn F. Thibodeaux, Clerk of the Council, certify that this is a true copy of Ordinance number 19630 passed by the City Council on 6/21/2023.