**State Guidance for**

**Certificate of Competency for Testing and Evaluating Backflow**

**Prevention Assemblies**

The information listed below is guidance concerning Certificate of Competencies:

* Anyone testing backflow prevention assemblies for the purposes outlined in the utility Cross-Connection Control policy must have a valid Certificate of Competency in Testing and Evaluation of Backflow Prevention Assemblies issued by the Division of Water Supply.
* A valid certificate is defined as a Certificate (Basic or Renewal) issued by the state of Tennessee that has not surpassed the three-year time limit from issuance. After certificates have been granted by the State of Tennessee, a Certificate No. is assigned to the applicant. Certificates are valid for three (3) years after certificates are granted. All Certificates are no longer valid, if the Renewal Certificate is not attained within three (3) years from the date the certificate was issued. A one (1) year grace period is allow to attend the renewal class however, the person must not be allowed to test after the 3-year expiration.
* The applicant must complete and satisfy all requirement set forth by the Division of Water Supply to attain and renew the Certificate of Competency.
* Applicant must successfully complete a State-approved Basic Cross-Connection Control training session, written exam, and practical exam to attain an initial Certificate of Competency. The student must successfully complete a State-approved Renewal Cross-Connection Control training session and practical exam to renew the Certificate of Competency.
* Certificate of Competency must be valid in order to perform assembly evaluations.
* In order to renew the Certificate of Competency, a Renewal Course and Exam must be taken within three years after the issuance date to remain valid.
* If the Certificate of Competency is not renewed three years after issuance, the certificate is no longer valid, but does not expire.
* A one-year grace period to renew the Certificate of Competency is allowed once the three-year time limit has passed.
* The utility will not accept a test report from a tester whose certificate is in the grace period or has expired
* If the tester does not renew during the one- year grace period, the certificate expires and the tester must take the Basic Course and Basic Exam in order to attain the Certificate of Competency.
* The Certificate of Competency is not transferable and no one may work “under” the certificate
* A Plumber Certificate in Testing and Evaluating Backflow Prevention Devices issued by Division of Water Supply cannot be substituted and will not be accepted in place of the Certificate of Competency.
* Certificates of Competency in Testing and Evaluation of Backflow Prevention Assemblies from other states or entities will only be accepted if approved by the Division of Water Supply. No entities or states presently have an approved Certificate of Competency.

**Minimum Requirements in Policy**

Anyone testing backflow prevention assemblies for the purposes outlined in the utility Cross-Connection Control Policy must possess a valid Certificate of Competency in Testing Evaluation of Backflow Prevention Assemblies issued only by the Division of Water Supply.