CALIFORNIA Water Boards

Frequently Asked Questions

Water System FAQ for the Cross-Connection Control Policy Handbook (CCCPH)

Certifying Organizations – When do they need to have ANSI accreditation?

Ceritfying organizations, who certify backflow prevention assembly testers and cross-connection control specialists, do not need to have a certification from an ANSI accredited organization until July 1, 2027. While they can have a certification from an organization with ANSI accreditation before then, it is not a requirement. Between July 1, 2025, and July 1, 2027 (when ANSI Accreditation is required), the State Water Board will recognize organizations that plan to have ANSI accreditation but do not yet have it and which meet the requirements listed in the CCCPH. CCCPH requirements for testers and specialists do not start until July 1, 2025.

Do Public Water Systems (PWS) have to perform hazard assessments on residential connections?

Yes. Per Title 17, PWSs have always been required to conduct hazard assessments at residential connections. However, that does not mean that a physical, in-person assessment must be performed at every residential connection. Hazard assessments can be conducted using alternative methods such as GIS, building records, customer surveys, etc. If the findings from any of those methods are inconclusive or show a potential hazard, then a physical hazard assessment may be necessary.

How long do PWSs have to complete initial hazard assessment? What duration is allowed between hazard assessments?

Due to the vast size variations in water systems across the state, except for noncommunity systems, the handbook does not specify an exact completion date for initial hazard assessments for community water systems. Community water systems must determine their ability to complete hazard assessments in a timely manner based on their available resources, number of connections, and complexity within their service area.

Some may be able to complete them in a manner of months, some systems will need a number of years to complete the hazard assessment, but each community water system will need to determine and justify their proposed timeline. Noncommunity water systems must complete their initial hazard assessment no later than July 1, 2027.

Similarly, the handbook does not specify a time between hazard assessments but does specify criteria under which another hazard assessment must be completed. These criteria are listed in the handbook in section 3.2.1(e), which includes periodically. meaning for service connections that have not had another hazard assessment triggered by one of the criteria listed in 3.2.1(e), then the water system must state a frequency in their plan

Is there a format or style for Cross-Connection Control (CCC) Plans that PWS need to follow or can use?

There are no format or style requirements in the CCCPH, just content requirements. A CCC Plan may be a collection of documents, files, or plans that water systems already have, are yet to be developed, or a combination of both. However, the CCC Plan needs to be presented in a clear and organized format. Given the various size, complexity, and legal structure of water systems across the state, Division of Drinking Water (DDW) has not developed a functional template for community water system plans yet.

What are the CCCPH plan requirements for a new PWS?

DDW cannot issue a permit for a new PWS on or after July 1, 2024 until the PWS has presented and has a CCC Plan approved by DDW.

Additional Resources

More information on this can be found on the CCCPH website.

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/cccph.html

(*This FAQ was last updated on July 1, 2024*)