

**REVISED LEGISLATIVE DIGEST**  
(Amended in Committee, 1/13/2020)

[Plumbing Code - Cross-Connection Controls]

**Ordinance amending the Plumbing Code to delete the local amendment to the California Plumbing Code referring to the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission's Rules and Regulations in the section on cross-connection control, and to add local cross-connection controls for beverage dispensers and industrial water chillers and a testing requirement for backflow prevention assemblies or devices; affirming the Planning Department's determination under the California Environmental Quality Act; and directing the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors to forward this Ordinance to the California Building Standards Commission upon final passage.**

Existing Law

Plumbing Code Section 603.3 adds a second paragraph to the California Plumbing Code's requirements for backflow prevention assemblies, referencing the SFPUC's Rules and Regulations for additional requirements.

Amendments to Current Law

The proposed amendments replace the cross-reference to SFPUC Rules and Regulations with specific more stringent requirements for (1) testing of backflow prevention assemblies or devices and (2) backflow preventers in beverage dispensers and industrial water chillers.

Background Information

San Francisco has many tall buildings, among the tallest in California. Because of the higher pressures generated in a building that is tall and/or elevated well above the street-level service connection, a backflow preventer failure has a greater potential to allow backflow into the public water system and create health hazards. Carbonated beverage dispensers with upstream copper pipe pose a risk of health hazard from leached copper in the event of backpressure. Unlike the vast majority of backflow preventers in San Francisco, ASSE 1022 devices are not testable. Because of the higher consequences of failure due to the City's topography, these devices are inappropriate for use in systems with upstream copper pipe.

Cross-connection control requirements in the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission Rules and Regulations are more stringent than those in the Plumbing Code. Deleting the cross-reference and adding the more stringent requirements to the Plumbing Code will allow the Department of Building Inspection to enforce them and eliminate any potential confusion among the public about what the City's requirements are.

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