



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONS

Public Safety Services



V. J. BELLA
STATE FIRE MARSHAL

M. J. "MIKE" FOSTER, JR.
GOVERNOR

MEMORANDUM

TO: Architects, Engineers, Contractors and
Sprinkler Contractors

FROM: Jerry W. Jones *[Signature]*
Deputy Assistant Secretary/Chief Architect

RE: Installation of Backflow Preventers and Full Flow
Meters Within Fire Pump Suction Piping

DATE: March 16, 1998

This memorandum is intended to establish a new policy regarding the installation of backflow preventers and free flow water meters installed on the fire pump suction piping. As you may know, the 1996 edition of NFPA 20 has established guidelines for the installation of backflow preventers. Their use is mandated. Although the 1996 edition of NFPA 20 has not been adopted, this office will now allow this arrangement provided the installations comply with NFPA 20 (1996). The following is a brief description of the stipulations:

BACKFLOW PREVENTERS

The State Fire Marshal's Office will permit backflow preventers to be installed in the pump suction piping provided the professional of record can document compliance with all the following requirements, as per 1996 NFPA 20:2-9.9 and 2-21:

1. The backflow preventer is required by other authorities (Health Dept., Water Company, etc.).
2. The backflow preventer is listed for fire protection service.
3. A backflow preventer incorporating a relief valve shall comply with 1996 NFPA 20:2-21.2.
4. The backflow preventer is located a minimum of 10 pipe diameters from the pump suction flange
5. The final arrangement provides effective pump performance with a minimum suction pressure of 0 psi at the gauge at 150% of rated pump capacity. Pump performance shall be documented, by engineering calculations and/or tests, to this office.

4064

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BACKFLOW

MEMORANDUM

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March 16, 1998

Pg. 2

6. Backflow preventer shall be maintained and tested in strict accordance with NFPA 25.

FREE FLOW METERS

The State Fire Marshal's Office will permit full flow water meters to be installed in the pump suction piping provided the installation complies with the following:

1. The meter is required by other authorities.
2. The meter is listed for fire protection service.
3. The meter is located a minimum of 10 pipe diameters from the pump suction flange.
4. The final arrangement provides effective pump performance ... (same as first page).
5. The meter shall be tested in accordance with 1995 NFPA 25:5-1.5.

JWJ/adg

4063