

COUNCIL REPORT

TO: CITY MANAGER **DATE:** 2008 JANUARY 15

FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING

SUBJECT: CROSS CONNECTION CONTROL PROGRAM

PURPOSE: To seek Council's authorization to amend the Waterworks and Plumbing Bylaws.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **THAT** Council authorize the preparation of bylaws amending the Waterworks and Plumbing Bylaws pursuant to Section 2.0 of this report.

REPORT**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

Since 1993, the City's Cross Connection Control Program has been an important component in the protection of the potable water supply and the health and safety of citizens and visitors to Burnaby.

Cross connection control devices, or backflow preventers, prevent the introduction of non-potable fluids and contaminants into the water distribution system. Such devices are typically installed at the water connection to all commercial, industrial, institutional and multi-family sites. Devices are also installed to protect the water supply from high risk sources such as photo processing machines, laboratories, hospitals, agricultural facilities and irrigation equipment. The City's Cross Connection Control Program ensures that appropriate devices are installed on all new construction, that existing plumbing systems are adequately protected and that all installed devices are maintained and tested annually. There are approximately 6,200 devices recorded by the City. The Program is self funding.

2.0 BYLAW REVISIONS

The authority for the City's Cross Connection Control Program is found in the British Columbia Building Code (the Code), the Waterworks Bylaw and the Plumbing Bylaw.

Previous editions of the British Columbia Building Code (the Code) referenced an installation and maintenance standard for backflow prevention devices; the current Waterworks Bylaw contains requirements for owners to protect the water supply from contamination, provisions for enforcement (including shutting off of the water supply) and annual testing and fees; the Plumbing Bylaw references a technical installation standard.

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The current edition of the Code came into effect 2006 December 15. While previous editions of the Code referenced an installation and maintenance standard for backflow prevention devices in the body of the Code, the current Code only references the installation standard in the body of the document and the maintenance standard in an appendix. A Code appendix is an unenforceable reference document.

The installation and maintenance standard in the current Plumbing Bylaw differs from the ones referenced in the new Code.

The proposed bylaw revisions will:

1. Amend the Plumbing Bylaw to reference the same Canadian installation and maintenance standards as found in the new Code;
2. Consolidate the City's technical requirements for backflow prevention in the Plumbing Bylaw, and
3. Clarify language in both the Waterworks and Plumbing Bylaws to facilitate administration of the Program and to promote a better understanding of Bylaw and Program requirements.

The proposed changes will not change the scope or intent of the existing bylaws or program.

3.0 CONCLUSION

The City of Burnaby Cross Connection Control Program is an important component in protecting the integrity and quality of the water supply. The proposed amendments will clarify program requirements, align current practices with Code standards and provides for more effective administration and understanding of the program.



B. Luksun
Director Planning and Building



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cc: Director Engineering
City Solicitor
Chief Building Inspector
Assistant Chief Building Inspector – Bylaw Enforcement/Policy Planning
Supervisor, Plumbing & Gas Inspections
Cross Connection Control Inspector