

# BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

A joint committee with members representing  
AIBC, APEGBC, BOABC, POABC

File No: 12-0050

INTERPRETATION

Page 1 of 1

Interpretation Date:	February 17, 2015
Building Code Edition:	BC Plumbing Code 2012
Subject:	Potable Water Cross Connection - Premise Isolation
Keywords:	Cross Connection, Potable Water, Premise Isolation
Building Code Reference(s):	2.6.2.6.(1), Appendix A, Intent Statement

## Question:

1. Is the intent of Sentence 2.6.2.6.(1) to require premise isolation when a potentially severe health hazard may be caused by backflow from a fixture or device?
2. If a building contains a trap primer, which is classified as a severe hazard, and this trap primer is protected by an air gap, would Sentence 2.6.2.6.(1) still require the potable water system to be provided with premise isolation by the installation of a reduced pressure principle backflow preventer (RPBP)?

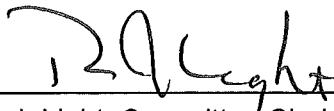
## Interpretation:

1. No

Sentence 2.6.2.6.(1) states, in part, "for buildings or facilities where a potentially severe health hazard may be caused by backflow, the potable water system shall be provided with premise isolation by the installation of a reduced pressure principle backflow preventer". This means that there are identified buildings or facilities which require premise isolation, (examples of these building types are given in Appendix A – A-2.6.2.6.(1)), not solely because a severe health hazard exists at a fixture or device. For example, a building that contains a boiler with a snow melt system presents a potentially severe hazard, but the protection provided by the RPBP on the potable water connection to the boiler would be adequate. On the other hand, a hospital which contains operating, mortuary or laboratory facilities would require premise isolation in addition to the required device(s) at the individual connection(s) to equipment or fixtures.

The key part of Sentence 2.6.2.6.(1) is that it relates to "buildings or facilities where a potentially severe health hazard may be caused by backflow". This interpretation is further supported by the Intent Statement which reads "To limit the probability that an inability to isolate portions of potable water systems in **such buildings or facilities** will lead to the spread of contaminated water beyond the premise of origin, which could lead to the spread of a potentially severe health hazard, which could lead to harm to persons".

2. No (see answer above)



R. J. Light, Committee Chair

The views expressed are the consensus of the joint committee with members representing AIBC, APEGBC, BOABC, and POABC, which form the BC Building Code Interpretation Committee. The purpose of the committee is to encourage uniform province wide interpretation of the BC Building Code. These views should not be considered as the official interpretation of legislated requirements based on the BC Building Code, as final responsibility for an interpretation rests with the local *Authority Having Jurisdiction*. The views of the joint committee should not be construed as legal advice.