

ASSE International

Performance Requirements for

**Backflow Prevention
Devices for Hand-Held
Showers**

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Mokena, Illinois
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Foreword

This foreword shall not be considered a part of the standard; however, it is offered to provide background information.

ASSE standards are developed in the interest of consumer health and safety.

Hand showers, sometimes identified as “telephone showers”, provide a desirable means for bathing as well as some therapeutic services. The ASSE has recognized that these devices, due to their mobility in service, can create unsanitary conditions in the potable water lines unless preventative means are provided in the installation.

Loss of water supply pressure can create a condition in which contaminated water can be caused to backflow into the potable water lines. This could occur when a hand-held shower is submersed in non-potable water; and therefore it is essential that adequate means to protect against backflow be provided.

Loss of water pressure is not a frequent occurrence, but it is a possibility. Many plumbing codes mandate that all hand-held shower installations be provided with means of protecting against backsiphonage and backpressure conditions.

This performance standard has been developed around well established and extensively field tested principles for backflow prevention devices of this class. The updates included in the 2005 edition of ASSE 1014 are intended to refine the scope and application to backflow prevention devices that are separately attached or integral to hand-held showers, while relying on ASME A112.18.1 *Plumbing Fixture Fittings* for the remaining performance requirements. Other devices such as those complying with ASSE Standard #1001 and ASSE Standard #1011, when installed in a properly designed system, can provide equivalent protection from backsiphonage and/or backpressure.

Recognition is made of the time volunteered by members of this working group and of the support of the manufacturers who also participated in the meetings for this standard.

The standard does not imply ASSE’s endorsement of a product which conforms with these requirements.

Compliance with this standard does not imply acceptance by any code body.

It is recommended that these devices be installed consistent with local codes.

This standard was promulgated in accordance with procedures developed by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI).

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