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In This Issue...

Falsifying Applications

Contact Information

Test Report Remarks

Financial Award

Quick Links:

[BAT Home](#)

[BAT Certification Status](#)

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BATalk - is an electronic newsletter sharing important certification program information with Washington's Backflow Assembly Testers (BAT).

IMPORTANT UPDATE

Falsifying Exam Applications

Individuals applying for a Backflow Assembly Tester (BAT) certification or professional growth examination are required to complete the online application themselves. Employers or other individuals are not authorized to complete or submit an application for you.

Washington Certification Services is receiving numerous applications that appear to have been completed by someone other than the individual applying for an examination. For example, instead of your personal email address, an employer's is listed. A high school graduation or GED completion date may vary on applications submitted for the same person, or a middle initial is not entered on the form.

Remember! Even if you have an agreement with your employer to pay an examination fee with a company credit card, it DOES NOT authorize them to complete an application on your behalf.

During the online application process you must declare that you are personally applying for the examination. Department of Health allows this as a substitution to your signature that was required on the previous "paper and pencil" application. The online application form states:

I certify that I am the applicant, that I am personally applying for this examination, and that I have reviewed all applicable [certification examination policies](#). I understand that:

- Third parties, such as employers, are prohibited from applying for an examination on my behalf.
- It is my responsibility to provide accurate information on the application.
- Falsification of information on this application may result in disciplinary action.

Department of Health has authorized Washington Certification Services to begin notifying individuals when it appears that an application has been completed by a third party and when other falsification of information on an application is suspected.

Avoid potential disciplinary action by ALWAYS completing your own BAT examination application.

DO WE HAVE YOUR CURRENT CONTACT INFORMATION?

Have you moved or changed your email address in the last year? Washington Certification Services needs your current mailing and email addresses to ensure that you receive renewal notices, validation cards, and other important BAT certification program information.

Remember! Certified BATs will NOT receive a 2018 first renewal notice via U. S. Postal Service mail. Watch for your renewal by email in November.

Annual renewal notices will be distributed in November via email only to eligible certified Backflow Assembly Testers (BAT). Make sure you receive yours! Report any changes to your contact information by submitting a [Change of Information Form](#) to Washington Certification Services.

DOCUMENTING "REMARKS" ON A TEST REPORT FORM

Backflow Assembly Testers (BAT) should always use the "Remarks" section of a field test report form to document anything that might have occurred outside of typical test procedures during the test of an assembly. Examples of unusual situations that should be reported are improper installations, difficult access, flooded vaults, needing a wrench to operate valves, etc.

A recent complaint reviewed by Department of Health alleged that a BAT didn't actually test the reported assembly. Evidence reported by the utility's Cross Connection Control (CCS) program was that both shut-off valve handles were rusted away, therefore making it impossible to test the assembly. In this case the BAT used a wrench to open and close the valves. Had he provided this additional information in the "Remarks" section of the field test report the complaint could have been prevented.

The information recorded on a field test report form establishes a paper trail that shifts the responsibility from the BAT to the CCS program.

Information that the tester documents on the field test report provides liability protection for the BAT by informing the CCS program of unique circumstances. So remember - the "Remarks" section on the field test report form is your friend!

BAT GLASS HAMMER AWARD GOES TO...

In January four women were selected to receive a financial award offered to promote women's involvement in the backflow field. Washington Certification Services launched the new award in support of Washington Waterworks Operator Certification Program's workforce development initiative. The Backflow Assembly Tester (BAT) Certification Glass Hammer Award covers the cost of the practical portion of the BAT certification examination.

Ms. Ursulla Ronscavage was one of the first recipients of the Glass Hammer Award. She successfully applied her award and is now a certified Washington State BAT.



Ms. Ronscavage works for the City of Bonney Lake where she is also a certified Cross Connection Control Specialist. She plans to use her BAT certification to advance her career and improve the community where she works.

Are you eligible for a BAT Glass Hammer or Glass Ceiling Award, or do you know someone who is? Applications for both [financial awards](#) will be accepted beginning in November.

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