



Division of Agricultural Resources

# The Idaho

# Chemigator

## Chemigation Approved Backflow Prevention Assemblies for Domestic and Municipal Water Supplies

Revised November 2015

Idaho's Chemigation Program started with the passage of the Chemigation Law in 1989. The Chemigation Program is authorized by the Idaho Pesticides and Chemigation Law (Chapter 34, Title 22, *Idaho Code*) and the Idaho Rules Governing Pesticide and Chemigation Use and Application, IDAPA 02.03.03.

**Chemigation** is the injection of chemicals (fertilizers or pesticides) into an irrigation system. The chemigation program is designed to license, educate and regulate the injection of pesticides and fertilizers into agricultural, domestic or municipal irrigation systems. The Chemigation Program ensures that proper equipment is installed in irrigation systems to prevent the

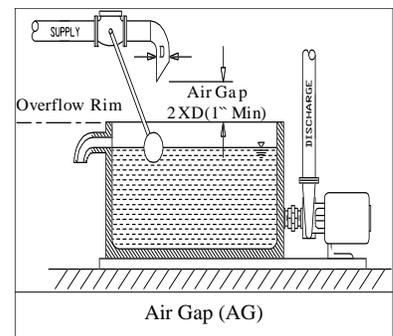
backflow of chemicals into the water source. Backflow may occur due to either "backsiphonage" or "backpressure".

**Licensing:** A private or professional applicator may obtain the chemigation category on their license by passing the chemigation exam. The Idaho Chemigation Study Manual, available for purchase from the ISDA office in Boise, is the recommended study material.

**Equipment:** Irrigation systems, such as those used in greenhouses, supplied by domestic or municipal water require either an Air Gap (AG) or a Reduced Pressure Backflow Assembly (RP). An interlock is also required.

### Air Gap (AG)

An approved Air Gap (AG) is a physical separation between the free flowing discharge end of a potable water supply pipe-line, and the overflow rim of a storage tank. This separation distance must be at least 2 times the discharge pipe diameter to the tank, with a minimum of at least 1 inch.



### Reduced Pressure Backflow Assembly (RP)

A Reduced Pressure Backflow Assembly (RP) is designed to prevent backflow. The RP consists of two independent spring loaded check valves separated by a spring loaded differential pressure relief valve, two shutoff valves and four test cocks.



Reduced Pressure Backflow Assembly (RP)

## Approved Reduced Pressure Backflow Assemblies (RP's)

Chemigation systems inter-connected or cross-connected to municipal or domestic water supplies must, in order to protect the water supply, incorporate a Reduced Pressure Backflow Assembly (RP Assembly) that has been tested and approved by the University of Southern California (USC) Foundation for Cross-Connection Control and Hydraulic Research.

USC lists all RP assemblies tested and approved for backflow prevention and this list is updated frequently. The USC web link for access to the list of RP assemblies is <http://www.usc.edu/dept/fccchr/list.html> The Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) does not maintain a list of USC approved RP assemblies but approves for chemigation, all RP assemblies listed on the most current USC RP assembly list.

The Idaho State Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) regulates inter-connections and cross-connections to municipal water systems through the *Idaho Rules for Public Drinking Water Systems* (IDAPA 58.01.08). The Idaho Plumbing Code requires annual RP valve testing. The list of licensed backflow testers (RP valve testers) may be accessed at <https://secure.ibol.idaho.gov/eIBOLPublic/LPRBrowser.aspx> RP valves that do not meet testing requirements must be repaired or replaced.

Please contact Olga Cuzmanov (DEQ) at (208) 373-0449 e-mail: <mailto:Olga.Cuzmanov@deq.idaho.gov> for information concerning approved RP assemblies and backflow prevention or Jim Childs (ISDA) at (208) 736-4790 (e-mail: <mailto:Jim.Childs@agri.idaho.gov>) for information concerning chemical injection into irrigation water, backflow prevention and chemigator licensing.

### Trouble Shooting Guide for Reduced Pressure Backflow Assemblies (RP's)

Problem	Cause	Solution
1.0 Valve spits periodically from the vent.	1.1 Fluctuating supply pressure. 1.2 Fluctuating downstream pressure.	1.1 Install a soft seated check valve immediately upstream of the device. 1.2 Install a soft seated check valve downstream of the device close as possible to the shutoff valve.
2.0 Valve drips continually from the vent.	2.1 Fouled first check. 2.2 Damaged or fouled relief valve seat. 2.3 Relief valve piston "O" ring not free to move due to pipe scale, dirt or build-up of mineral deposits. 2.4 Excessive backpressure, freezing or water hammer has distorted the second check. 2.5 Electrolysis of relief valve seat or first check seats. 2.6 Valve improperly reassembled.	2.1 Flush valve. If flushing does not resolve problem, disassemble valve and clean or replace the first check. 2.2 Clean or replace the relief valve seat. 2.3 Clean, grease or replace the piston "O" ring. 2.4 Eliminate source of excessive backpressure or water hammer in the system downstream of the device. Use a device specified by the manufacturer to dampen out backpressure and to eliminate water hammer. Replace defective second check assembly. In case of freezing; thaw, disassemble and inspect internal components. Replace as necessary. 2.5 Replace relief valve seat or inlet cover. Install dielectric unions. Electrically ground the piping system and/or electrically isolate the device with plastic pipe immediately upstream and downstream of the device. 2.6 If valve is disassembled during installation, caution must be exercised to install check springs in their proper location.
3.0 Valve exhibits high pressure drop.	3.1 Fouled strainer. 3.2 Valve too small for flows encountered.	3.1 Clean strainer element or replace. 3.2 Install proper size device based upon flow requirements.
4.0 No water flows downstream of valve.	4.1 Valve installed backwards.	4.1 Install valve in accordance with flow direction arrow.
5.0 Valve does not test properly.	5.1 Follow manufacturer's test procedure. 5.2 Leaky downstream gate valve.	5.1, 5.2 Clean or replace gate valve with full port ball valves or resilient wedge shutoff valves.
6.0 Valve quickly and repeatedly fouls following servicing.	6.1 Debris in pipe line is too fine to be trapped by strainer.	6.1 Install finer mesh strainer element in the strainer.
7.0 Winterization of backflow preventers.		7.1 Electric heat-tape wrap closely together around valve body. Build a small shelter around the valve with a large light bulb installed and left on at all times. If supply line is not used during the winter, removal of the complete body is the best. This would create an air gap to eliminate any possible backflow.

## Chemical Injection Devices

The chemical injection device draws chemical from the chemical tank and pumps it into the irrigation system. The components of the injection device must be resistant to the chemicals you plan to use. Consult the owners manual or the manufacturer of the device to assure compatibility of the device with chemicals used.

If the chemical injection device is a metering pump it must be capable of being fitted with a system interlock that shuts down the pump in the event of loss of system pressure. A Venturi-type injection device must be capable of being fitted with a functional, automatic quick closing check valve to prevent the flow of liquid back toward the chemical supply tank and either a functional hydraulically operated valve which opens only when the main water line is adequately pressurized. In bypass systems as an option to placing both valves in the line from the chemical supply tank, the check valve may be installed in the bypass immediately upstream of the Venturi water inlet and either the normally closed solenoid or hydraulically operated valve may be installed immediately downstream of the Venturi water outlet.

Please consult ISDA Rules Governing Pesticide and Chemigation Use and Application before installing and using chemigation systems.

### Approved Chemical Injection Devices

Manufacturer	Model
<b>Dosmatic U.S.A.</b>	Advantage Series (A10, A12, A20, A30, A40, A80, DP30, T100), Doselec
<b>Dosatron</b>	D Series (All)
<b>Smith Precision Products</b>	R-1, R-3, R-4, R-6, R-8
<b>H. E. Anderson Co.</b>	Andy Series (DD100, DD200, DD400, DD1000, DD1200), Andy Jr. Series (DB100, D200, DB400, DB1000, DB1200, DB100PB, DB100P, DB1000PB, DB1000P), J Plus Series (JD31, JD32, JD52, JD104, JD104-2, JD103, JD103-3, JD164, JD164-2, JD164-4), S Series (SDN2-BA, SDN2-BAR)
<b>Chemilizer Products, Inc.</b>	HN55 Series, CP33 Series

Chemical injection devices used for injection of chemicals into irrigation systems that operate from municipal or domestic water supplies. These devices are commonly used in greenhouses, golf courses, lawns and landscapes.



## Lawn and Landscape Chemical Injection Devices

Chemical injectors that are commonly used for injection of fertilizers and pesticides onto lawns and landscapes must meet the same ISDA certification and installation requirements as other approved injectors when using domestic or municipal water as the water source. Lawn and landscape injectors typically operate on a pressure differential principle or an electrical metering pump.

Pressure differential injectors work much like a Venturi system and must meet the same installation requirements as the Venturi-type injectors as listed on page 4.

Installation of an electrical metering pump requires installation of a system interlock that shuts down the metering pump when chemical distribution is adversely affected due to a drop or discontinuance of water pressure.

All installations must include an ISDA approved Reduced Pressure Backflow Assembly (RP) as listed in this brochure as well as a system interlock.

Chemigation (injection of fertilizers or pesticides into irrigation water) in Idaho requires the chemigator to be a licensed professional or private applicator with the Chemigation (CH) category.

Please consult ISDA Rules Governing Pesticide and Chemigation Use and Application before installing and using chemigation systems.

## Approved Lawn and Landscape Chemical Injection Devices

<b>Manufacturer</b>	<b>Model</b>
<b>EZ-FLO</b>	EZ001, EZ003, EZ005, EZ010, EZ020, EZ030
<b>Yard Feeder, LLC</b>	0602YF, 0835YF, 0805YF, 1010YF, 1215YF
<b>Skeet-R-Gone</b>	SRG2006



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**Idaho's Chemigation Web Site:**

<http://www.agri.idaho.gov/Categories/Pesticides/chemigation/indexChemigationmain.php>

**Idaho State Department of Agriculture Web Site:**

<http://www.agri.idaho.gov/>

Even though a specific model has met required specifications during initial product review, each valve must meet the specifications when inspected on site. If an individual valve does not meet the specifications when inspected, it must be repaired or replaced prior to using the chemigation process.

The listed chemigation equipment has met the test criteria as specified in the Pesticides and Chemigation Law, Section 22-3407B, Idaho Code and the Rules Governing Pesticide and Chemigation Use and Application, IDAPA 02.03.03.966 and is approved for use in Idaho.

Costs associated with this publication are from Idaho State Department of Agriculture in accordance with Section 60-202, Idaho Code. 3/2015