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CIPH and CSA Group to Meet with Provincial/Territorial Policy Advisory Committee on Codes (PTPACC)

CIPH President and General Manager Ralph Suppa along with CSA Group John Walter, Vice President, Standards Development have been able to secure a meeting with the Provincial/Territorial Policy Advisory Committee on Codes to present a Standards Solution for Training Plumbing Inspectors across Canada at their May 29, 2008 meeting in Fredericton, NB.

At their Annual Meeting in August 2006, regulators on the Canadian Advisory Council on Plumbing (CACP) shared a number of key challenges they believe are impeding plumbing regulators' efforts to ensure national plumbing inspection personnel provide the required level of quality as it relates to inspection, enforcement, and installation processes, (this was validated through a comprehensive survey conducted by the Canadian Institute of Plumbing and Heating) including:

- Interpretation and application of codes, standards, and regulatory requirements;
- Deficiencies in the management of counterfeit or non-approved plumbing products;
- Inefficiencies in the inspection process, derived from a lack of time to perform proper inspections and inconsistencies in the methodologies used; and
- Lack of assurances regarding the capabilities of inspection and enforcement personnel.

CSA has proposed a training program to meet the needs of plumbing inspectors and address identified gaps in knowledge, interpretation, and application of codes, standards, and regulations. The program would be based on the objective-based National Plumbing Code and related plumbing standards referenced in the Code. It would be restricted to the types of installations and inspections covered by these documents and address the need for regulators to be able to determine equivalency of acceptable alternative solutions that may comply with the objectives of the codes.

An initial CSA training module program outline would include:

- The training modules can be modified to accommodate building and fire inspectors' training needs as well, and provide continuous training to keep inspectors abreast of what's changed and what's new when new codes and standards are released;
- The training will provide improved consistency and better quality inspections;
- Trained inspectors will prevent many unapproved, uncertified and counterfeit plumbing products from making it into Canadian homes, institutions and businesses. This ultimately translates into safer and healthier indoor environments for Canadians.

While there are comprehensive codes and standards available to aid in the plumbing inspection process, gaps in understanding and interpretation of these guidance documents and a lack of assurances as to the quality of the inspection work in the field, suggests that a more comprehensive solution, building on the existing body of work to support plumbing inspectors, is needed to ensure a higher degree of quality in the field. The proper application of codes and standards can be supported by this training tool.

About PTPACC:

"Members of the Provincial/Territorial Policy Advisory Committee (PTPACC) articulate provincial/territorial views on the content and development of the model National Building Code (NBC), National Fire Code (NFC) and National Plumbing Code (NPC), and other national model codes, advisory and progeny documents. The PTPACC provides a forum for the provinces and territories to discuss policy and share information on the administration of these codes.

"The PTPACC communicates its members' views on policy and priorities to the Canadian Commission on Building and Fire Codes (CCBFC). The CCBFC establishes the technical content of these codes, considering this advice. The National Research Council Canada (NRC) provides research and logistic support to the CCBFC and the PTPACC and publishes the national model code documents in the name of the CCBFC for use by the provinces and territories."



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