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BC Code & Safety Works with CIPH to Issue Update to Advocacy Link of October 20, 2010

Following the release of information related to Water Closet Attachment, CIPH had further discussions with Mr. Doug Vance, President of the Plumbing Officials Association of BC and Mr. James Nyhus, Chairman of the Lower Mainland Plumbing Code Committee. CIPH was able to get more detailed information relating to the issue and Mr. Vance stated, "We believe that this cooperative approach will foster a good working relationship with industry moving forward and for future updates." CIPH will continue to work with all building and plumbing officials and urges members to conduct local enquiries on this issue as the BC concerns may also apply in other Canadian jurisdictions.

1. Non-compliance of certain installations

It is now clear that the non-compliance of certain installations is not a case where the code is being interpreted by a single inspector or authority. The POABC has had province-wide discussions and is united in their opinion that certain HET's that use 2 brackets to mount the unit to the floor do not comply with Sentence 2.3.3.8.(4) of the National Plumbing Code (2005) or Sentence 7.3.3.8.(4) of the British Columbia Building Code (2006). The intent of this Sentence would seem to be to positively secure the floor flange to the trap flange of the fixture thereby maintaining a water-tight and gas-tight seal.

CIPH Recommendation:

There are different manufacturers that use this type of installation, so if you are considering the installation of an HET that is installed with two floor-mounted brackets, we strongly suggest that you check with local officials prior to specifying, purchasing or installing such units.

2. Applying for an 'Alternative Solution'

Code users may propose alternative solutions, or alternative ways of meeting BC Building Code requirements and these proposals require local authority approval. These do not apply on a product-wide basis, but each application is considered separately for individual site-specific installations. Here are links to applications or information for some Greater Vancouver municipalities.

<http://www.surrey.ca/files/ASBulletin.pdf>

<http://www.city.burnaby.bc.ca/shared/assets/Article - Alternative Solutions4889.pdf>

<http://vancouver.ca/commsvcs/licandinsp/bulletins/2000/2000-063.pdf>

CIPH Recommendation:

Check with your local officials for more detail on applying for an Alternative Solution.

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3. Certification Marks

The fact that a product has a certification mark means that it meets the prescribed requirements of product quality, performance or safety. It does not necessarily guarantee that it will meet all Building Code requirements. There are several different Certification Bodies that test and list plumbing products and it is important for you to understand what the various marks from these CB's mean. These include BNQ, CSA, IAPMO, Intertek, NSF, QAI, UL/ULC and WQA. View a CIPH information bulletin at this link.

<http://ciph.com/Downloads/informationBulletins/Information%20Bulletin%20-Wholesale.pdf>

CIPH Recommendation:

Review the bulletin from CIPH and for more detail on individual marks, we suggest that you contact the Certification Body in question.

The Canadian Institute of Plumbing & Heating is a not-for-profit trade association. Founded in 1933, the Institute is a vibrant organization committed to providing members with the tools for success in today's competitive environment. More than 250 companies are members of this influential Canadian industry association. They are the manufacturers, wholesaler distributors, master distributors, manufacturers' agents and allied companies who manufacture and distribute plumbing, hydronic heating, industrial, waterworks and other mechanical products. CIPH wholesalers operate more than 700 warehouses and showrooms across Canada. Total industry sales exceed \$5 billion annually.



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