



CIPH Information Bulletin

Distribution and Installation of Plumbing Product That Does Not Meet Applicable Standards

Information Bulletin to the Canadian Retailer Distributor Industry

Background

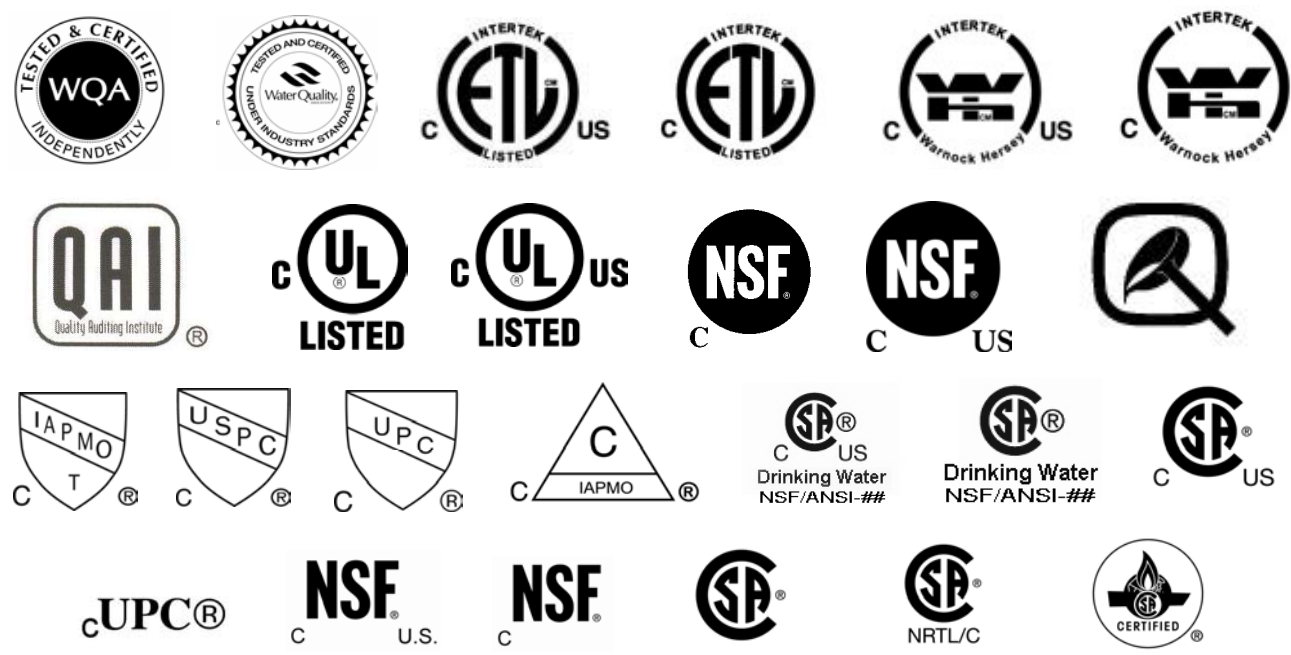
The Canadian Institute of Plumbing and Heating (CIPH), in conjunction with provincial/territorial plumbing inspectors, feels it is necessary to provide an industry bulletin on the distribution and installation of uncertified plumbing products. Uncertified products are being inappropriately sold and installed in all jurisdictions of Canada. In many instances, this is creating health and safety issues.

Myth	Reality
All plumbing product sold through the retail chain is suitable for sale and installation.	If a product has a Canadian or a harmonized U.S. - Canadian standard that it can be certified to and it is not certified, it may cause health and safety concerns, including damage to the building it is being installed in. There are certain plumbing products (i.e. certain water treatment devices) that may not have a standard to which it can be certified. These products are an exception to the rule and are permitted for sale and installation.
Installing uncertified plumbing product does not violate any provincial/territorial regulations.	CIPH is not aware of a single jurisdiction in Canada that allows uncertified product to knowingly be installed. In fact, Alberta and Quebec both have legislation against the sale of such product (again, noting the exception of products that do not have a standard to be certified to).

Common Questions and Answers

How do I know if a product is certified?

There are several certification organizations that are accredited to certify product in North America. The certifying body is required to ensure their mark is placed on product it certifies. Here are the marks that are acceptable in Canada:





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What's the harm in stocking and selling uncertified fixtures/fittings?

In Alberta and Quebec, it is a crime and is enforceable by law. In other jurisdictions of Canada, it may not be considered criminal activity to sell the product, but provincial regulations forbid their installation. This means that if you stock and sell these products, you can expect to have a high percentage of them disallowed by provincial/municipal inspectors and returned to you. Also, there is no assurance that uncertified fixtures/fittings meet Canadian recognized standards or where standards do not exist, meet reasonable expectations for performance, health and safety.

What if fixture manufacturer "x" has their product certified, but has not marked the product?

Certified product is required to bear the certification mark. Some fixture manufacturers acknowledge that customers want an aesthetic that is mark-free and choose to mark their product with a permanent adhesive label (which is designed to be removed after inspection and is also designed to self-destruct so that it can not be placed on another product). If the permanent adhesive label is accidentally removed prior to inspection, the inspector has no choice but to assume the product is uncertified and request its removal. Therefore, your retail operation needs to educate your customers to keep proof of the products' certification compliance on the product (in addition to the carton, installation instructions, warranty and homeowners manual and specification sheet) until AFTER inspection.

If I see a mark that I think is questionable, how do I verify if the product is acceptable?

All of the accredited certification organizations in North America have a webpage that can be accessed to verify if a particular product is listed with them as certified product. They are:

BNQ: http://www-es.criq.gc.ca/pls/owa_es/bnqw_entr_enr.crit_rech?p_lang=en&p_type_bnq=NC

CSA: <http://directories.csa-international.org/>

IAPMO: <http://pld.iapmo.org/>

Intertek: http://www.intertek-etlsemko.com/portal/page/cust_portal/ITK_PGR/PRODUCT_DIRECTORIES_PG/WH_MARK_PG

NSF: http://www.nsf.org/business/search_listings/

QAI: <http://www.qai.org/directory.html>

UL & ULC: <http://www.ul.com/regulators/2007CanadianWhiteBook.pdf>

Water Quality Association: <http://www.wqa.org/sitelogic.cfm?id=1165§ion=3>

The organizations' scopes of accreditation and their certification marks can also be accessed on their accreditation body's website, the Standards Council of Canada (SCC): http://www.scc.ca/en/programs/product_cert/accredited_clients.shtml

What are the advantages to using certified product?

- They are more reliable and have been produced using a demonstrated quality program;
- They have been evaluated to ensure they will perform properly (i.e. ensuring the threads are the correct type so you can connect the product easily, as one example);
- They are regularly checked for compliance by accredited certification organizations to ensure products continue to be manufactured in accordance with national standards; and
- Where required, they have been evaluated for toxicological concerns.

Who should I contact if I have further questions on uncertified plumbing product?

If you need to talk to a building official for guidance, CIPH has a list by region on their website: <http://www.ciph.com/Downloads/codesAndStandards/cacpRegulators.php> or visit the Standards Council of Canada's Website: <http://www.scc.ca/>

www.ciph.com
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