

Canadian Advisory Council on Plumbing (CACCP) UPDATE

The Canadian Advisory Council on Plumbing, provides a forum for industry, regulators, and product certification organizations to share new concepts and ideas, to discuss policy and programs, and to review innovations and new technologies that affect plumbing standards, and the certification and testing of plumbing products.

The CACCP met in Victoria for its Annual Meeting on August 18, 2009. Meeting highlights:

Uniformity of Codes

There is growing demand for water conservation and energy efficiency to be mandated by local jurisdictions. Presently, local jurisdictions do not necessarily approach these issues in a consistent manner. This may result in the fragmentation of codes in Canada, leading to higher costs and potentially, confusion in the marketplace. PIAC has recommended to PTPACC that in order to promote uniformity it may be necessary to create basic guidelines that could be followed by each jurisdiction.

Water Efficiency Labeling

In order to eliminate duplication of requirements, the plumbing industry has committed to work with WaterSense, EPA, and the standards development organizations to ensure that water efficiency labeling requirements are incorporated within accredited, consensus-based plumbing standards.

North American Lead regulations

California recently published their lead requirements (August 14), with the intention of moving forward with certification. In Canada, Health Canada is currently performing a risk assessment on lead in water which will be out for public consultation towards the end of the year. This can be accessed via the Health Canada website once it becomes available.

Joint CSA/CIPH Plumbing Inspector Training

A framework for the curriculum has been prepared and an RFP for a sub-contractor has been sent out. The next steps are to develop and pilot test the training (planned to commence in November 2009). This new training is expected to be available in late winter, 2010.

Health Canada Bill C-52

A report on Health Canada Bill C-52 was presented, covering the following topics:

- Bill C-6 includes all consumer products, but will not include services or installations.
- Bill C-6 is still at Senate and its estimated time to royal ascent is late fall of 2009 with enforcement commencing in January 2010.
- Health Canada have not had any reported incidents related to plumbing products to date and is currently more focused on Children's products
- Health Canada wants to ensure that the implementation is simple and straight forward for manufacturers, while ensuring that the duplicated efforts in reporting is eliminated by having manufacturers report to one entity.
- In order to minimize the overlap that exists between Provincial/ Territorial authorities, Health Canada is chairing a NPSAC Steering Group that is looking at developing a national coordinated approach to electrical, gas, and plumbing products.
- Reporting requirements depend on severity of injury. If incident is serious or causes death (or has the potential to), the incident must be reported to Health Canada within 10 days

Water reclamation/reuse guidelines

Alberta has established an inter-departmental committee consisting of Alberta Environment, Alberta Health and Wellness and the Alberta Health Services Board, Alberta Municipal Affairs, and Alberta Transportation. Their mandate is to explore the potential benefits and risks associated with reusing rain water and treated household and municipal wastewater. To address the need for both a water quality and reclaimed water standard, Alberta is a member on the CSA B128.3 technical committee which is a new standard that will have its first committee meeting towards the end of September 2009. This initiative supports Alberta's Water for Life Strategy with the goal of improving the overall efficiency and productivity of water use by 30% by 2015.

Solar Domestic Hot Water Heaters in Canada

In Canada, solar domestic hot water heaters (SDHW) are being promoted by the Government as being an environmentally friendly technology that helps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, yet there are concerns that current code and regulatory requirements are outdated, and adding additional costs to these systems. The Chair of PTSPC agreed to present these concerns, and their potential policy implications to PTPACC.

For more information on how you can become involved in CACP, please contact:

Jason Bourque, CAE
Program Manager
Canadian Institute of Plumbing and Heating
295 The West Mall, Suite 330
Toronto, ON M9C 4Z4
PH: (416) 695-0447
Fax: (416) 695-0450
Email: j.bourque@ciph.com
website: www.ciph.com

Lauro Pilla, P.Eng.
Project Manager | CACP Secretariat
Canadian Standards Association
5060 Spectrum Way, Suite 100
Mississauga, ON
PH: (416) 747-4205
Fax:(416) 401-6799
Email: lauro.pilla@csa.ca
website: www.csa.ca