

**DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT****DIVISION OF CODES AND STANDARDS**

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**December 14, 2000****INFORMATION BULLETIN #00-05 (SHL, FBH)**

**TO: City And County Building Officials  
State Housing Law Interested Parties  
Factory-Built Housing Manufacturers/Third-Party Agencies**

**SUBJECT: November 2000 Changes to The California Plumbing Code Concerning Use  
of Chlorinated Polyvinyl Chloride (CPVC) Pipe**

**This Information Bulletin summarizes the recent changes to the California Plumbing Code relating to the use of CPVC plumbing materials. This summary is provided for information purposes only, and does not represent to be a comprehensive recitation or analysis of the new Code provisions. The complete text of the new Code provisions is attached for your information.**

On November 14, 2000, the California Building Standards Commission approved amendments to the California Plumbing Code, which are effective immediately, to permit the limited use of chlorinated polyvinyl chloride (CPVC) pipe in residential plumbing systems in California. Although these amendments will be added immediately to the text of the California Plumbing Code, CPVC may not be used until new worker safety guidelines are approved by the Department of Industrial Relations. (See Section 604.1b(f)(3)) Under the approved regulations, a contractor must provide a written certificate that the worker safety training elements of their Injury and Illness Prevention Plan meets the Department of Industrial Relation's guidelines, which will be developed shortly. The new Code provisions represent the settlement of a longstanding dispute over the use of CPVC plumbing materials in California, and permit the use of CPVC plumbing materials in residential plumbing systems in certain circumstances and the installation and use of these materials are subject to certain health and safety protections.

The new Code provisions allow local building officials to approve the use of CPVC pipe in residential plumbing systems if they determine that there has been or will be the premature failure of metallic pipe due to existing water and/or soil conditions and provided the other conditions for CPVC approval set forth in new California Plumbing Code section 604.1(b) are met.

Under the new Code provisions, the local building official's approval of CPVC plumbing materials must be subject to the following conditions:

1. Prior to issuing a building permit authorizing use of CPVC, the contractor must certify in writing to the building official issuing the building permit that:
  2. The contractor is aware of the health and safety hazards associated with CPVC plumbing installations;
  3. The contractor's Illness and Injury Prevention Plan meets the Department of Industrial Relations' worker training safety guidelines and includes information about the hazards associated with CPVC plumbing pipe installations; and
  4. The contractor will comply with the health and safety measures described in the new Code provisions relating to the use of gloves, adequate ventilation, and flushing procedures (see attached text of new Code provisions).
5. Final permit approval cannot be given unless the material has been installed in compliance with the requirements of the California Plumbing Code, which includes the mitigation measures incorporated in the new code language.
6. A contractor not complying with the required mitigation measures would be subject to additional penalties in Health and Safety Code 17980, et seq., with enforcement by the local building official. Contractors also would be subject to citation for worker safety measure violations.

Details of installation requirements are shown in the attached new code language (see section 604.1b and Appendix I, Installation Standards for Installation Standards for CPVC Solvent Cemented Hot and Cold Water Distribution Systems, section 301.0). A sample removable tag to comply with section 301.0.1 ( Flushing Procedures ) and a sample certification form are attached for your reference and for use by contractors and local building officials.

Questions regarding the above-amended laws should be directed to the Department's State Housing Law Program at (916) 445-9471.

Norman Sorensen  
Deputy Director

Attachments