

Canadian Advisory Council on Plumbing (CACAP) UPDATE

The CACAP acts in an advisory capacity to participating accredited organizations on matters pertaining to standards and conformity assessment programs affecting plumbing. It 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 CACAP met in Vancouver, British Columbia for its Annual Meeting on August 18, 2015. Meeting highlights are as follows:

Water Reclamation/Reuse Challenges

CSA B128.3 for the Performance of Non-Potable Water Treatment Systems specifies water systems requirements for treating greywater or waste water for reuse in other applications. Regulators would like to see products certified to the requirements of B128.3, but manufacturers are not doing so even though CBs have set up a certification program. As a result, PIAC agreed to survey their membership to determine who intends to certify product. Regulators are also considering referencing CSA B128.3 into the 2020 NPC as an option.

North American Lead Regulations

Health Canada indicated that work is ongoing in terms of including the low lead requirements in the necessary standards. A plan is in place for those standards that have not already included the requirements. It was indicated that a task force has been set up by the CSA 125 TC to develop a standard for manually operated shut off valves, and that the standard could include valves greater than 1". It was noted that EPA is investigating whether to allow self-declaration of products specifically for the new low lead requirements. The concern is that there could be additional marks adding further confusion to the marketplace. It was noted that PIAC is currently investigating which NPC referenced standards contain the new lead requirements and which standards still need the requirements to be added. In addition, CIPH hosted a webinar on low lead to provide an update on the status of the low lead requirements and their inclusion in CSA plumbing standards as well as the implications on plumbing product certification. More information can be found here: <https://community.csagroup.org/message/12071#12071>

CSA B126 Series-13

Regulators would like to see products certified to the requirements of B126, but manufacturers are not doing so even though CBs have set up a certification program. As a result, PIAC agreed to survey their membership to determine who intends to certify product. In addition, Regulators are considering referencing the CSA B126 standard into the 2020 code, but want to determine the best approach to ensure product are being certified.

CSA/ICC B805 Rainwater Harvesting Standard

The new CSA/ICC B805 Rainwater Harvesting standard was released for public comment in September 2015. It is being developed as a North American Standard meeting both SCC and ANSI requirements. It has been challenging due to the unique requirements across North America, and is expected to publish in the late part of 2016.

SCC Update on ORD Policy Revision

Some of the key items as proposed by the working group lead by SCC are as follows:

- The SCC document will identify when an ORD is required and how to deal with expired/withdrawn ORDs
- The regulatory authority advisory body (RAAB) will be responsible for approving the need for the ORD via an electronic ballot
- SCC will maintain the repository for all ORDs
- Authoring CBs, SDOs, and Regulators are responsible for adhering to the process

The ORD Policy revision has been published.

Regulatory Items

- Water hammer arresters - Each jurisdiction will interpret the plumbing code regarding conformance for applications requiring water hammer arrestors
- Oil interceptors – ULC 5656 Jurisdictions are looking at referencing ULC 656 standards for oil interceptors for the 2015 code adoption schedule

- Atmospheric vacuum breakers - ASME A112.18.1/CSA B125.1 task force has proposed to revise the standard to prevent the unauthorized removal of the atmospheric vacuum from faucet
- Radon gas – Introduction of discussion regarding plumbing pipes being utilized for radon mitigation and installations being completed by plumbers as a challenge to apply building code requirements for authorities within the plumbing discipline. Additional concerns have been raised regarding the critical importance to identify radon piping and avoid misuse for future plumbing work.
- Drain Water Heat Recovery Units – agreement from regulators that water supply from drain water heat recovery units need to go to the hot water tank inlet and not the cold supply side of a faucet.
- Vents in outside walls - Concerns with conflicts regarding plumbing vents being acceptable under the plumbing code in outside walls and failing to meet energy efficiency requirements within the building discipline.

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