

National Plumbing Code 2015

There is confusion in the industry on the review of requirements in article 3.1.5.2 'Minor Combustible Components of the National Building Code' and articles 2.2.10.7 'Water Temperature Control and 2.6.3.3 Static Pressure / 2.2.10.12 Reducing Valves of the National Plumbing Code of Canada'. A short presentation was presented to PMAC regarding the verbiage and implementation of the NBC / NPC 2015 of Canada

1. **Article 2.2.10.17 – Water Temperature Control**

The NPC requires use of automatic compensating valves certified to CSA B 125.3 as one of the conditions to satisfy the requirements under this article. Before the harmonization efforts, some provinces like Ontario allowed master thermostatic-mixing valve conforming to CSA B125.3 standard to be used in lieu of automatic compensating valves. However, due to the harmonization efforts, Ontario revoked their prior ruling on use of master thermostatic-mixing valves and updated the Ontario Plumbing Code to mirror the language in NPC. Since both type of valves are certified to the same standard CSA B 125.3, the industry continues to specify and approve the installation of master mixers.

2. **Article 2.2.10.12 – Reducing Valves**

Section 3 of the NPC requires pressure reducing valves to be installed where the static pressure at any fixture may exceed 550 kPa. Article 2.2.10.12 provides some direction to satisfy this requirement. However, the verbiage is not clear thereby encouraging the industry to specify and install uncertified products.

3. **DWV Pipe**

Cast Iron Pipe Institute (CISPI) and various manufactures of cast iron recommend that cast iron pipe be restrained for pipe size of 5" and above. This is becoming very critical in wake of current challenges presented by climate change. However, the contractors are not following this directive unless it is a specified requirement from the responsible engineer.

4. **Article 3.1.5.2 – Minor Combustible Components**

3.1.5.2 (g) allows for wood blocking within wall assemblies intended for the attachment of handrails, fixtures, and similar items mounted on the surface of the wall. Mannan noticed that the industry under the cover of this article is using a large amount of scrap wood within the wall assembles in non-combustible construction. Mannan felt that this could be a safety concern as the scrap wood could produce large amount of smoke and can actually assist in the propagation of fire.