



CANADIAN INSTITUTE OF PLUMBING & HEATING
L'INSTITUT CANADIEN DE PLOMBERIE ET DE CHAUFFAGE

A National Voice With Regional Roots | Une histoire régionale, une voix nationale

CIPH Position Statement

March 31, 2011

Contact: Ken Tomihiro
Program Manager
k.tomihiro@ciph.com

Adoption of Alternative Water-Use and Energy-Efficiency Guidelines

Manufacturer members of the Canadian Institute of Plumbing & Heating reaffirm their support for maintaining uniform national standards for water-use and energy-efficiency of plumbing products as provided by current regulations. From diverse perspectives, we also fully support conservation efforts while maintaining expected levels of performance, comfort and safety for end-users.

In Canada, most plumbing products must be certified for compliance to appropriate standards of safety and performance and additionally, their installation is governed by jurisdictional building and plumbing codes. All proposed water-use and energy-efficiency measures must consider the regulatory environment in which these products are made, sold and installed.

Only consensus-based technical standards developed by certification bodies that are accredited by the Standards Council of Canada can be referenced in Model National Building and Plumbing Codes. In many cases, the alternative water-use and energy-efficiency guidelines promoted by other organizations may have performance specifications that exceed the nationally recognized technical standards.

In the pursuit of recognition by the alternative programs, products that meet the performance goals may not always be properly certified or conform to the installation regulations for use in a given jurisdiction. This applies to many water-consuming fixtures such as water closets, urinals, faucets and showerheads that are covered by national standards and regulated in building and plumbing codes.

CIPH cautions against localized permit processes or development rules that specify performance or credentials that differ from the normally accepted building or plumbing codes and their referenced technical standards. The goals of individual programs may not always be achievable with products that are currently certified, readily-available and reasonably-priced. Furthermore, cost implications to the end-user can be severe if installed units must be removed or altered due to non-compliance with jurisdictional regulations.

CIPH encourages permit issuers, designers, architects and engineers to ensure that only products that are certified and permitted for use in the selected jurisdiction are specified and installed in all building projects. The National or Provincial Building and Plumbing Codes should be followed wherever possible and when there are requirements for higher performance, CIPH suggests that authorities having jurisdiction be pre-consulted to avoid potential enforcement issues.

CIPH will continue to work with regulators at all levels to ensure that all Canadians have equal access to products that meet the safety and performance requirements of today and the future.



295 The West Mall, Suite 330, Toronto, Ontario M9C 4Z4.

info@ciph.com, Fax. 416-695-0450, www.ciph.com, Tel. 1-888-ASK-CIPH (275-2474), 416-695-0447.