



WASHINGTON DC CHAPTER ASPE NEWS

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AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PLUMBING ENGINEERS

CHAPTERS ARE NOT AUTHORIZED TO SPEAK FOR THE SOCIETY

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President's Message



Matt Lane
President



Guess What I Saw???

I get a kick out of what I see in the field sometimes. Sometimes it's the engineers fault and sometimes it's the contractor's, but either way, it can be strange and bizarre.

The first to come to mind was way back in the old days when I have a drafting board and the only people who had a computer may have the admin staff. One of the first projects I worked on as a young draftsman was a big hotel in DC and I was fortunate to be taken out for a site visit with the plumbing designer. Walking through one of the lower level corridors we come across a 3" waste or storm pipe penetrating straight through a large supply duct. The contractor did a great job of sealing around the penetrations though.

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Does NSF 61 govern the lead free laws?

I have received a questions regarding NSF 61 and if this requires products used in a domestic water systems to be lead free in any of the surround jurisdictions(Maryland, Virginia or the District of Columbia).

The simple answer is no these products do not currently need to be lead free but they must comply with NSF/ANSI 61. This certification states that the products must meet the following test, which states that these product may not leech lead above a certain amount into the water stream.

NSF/ANSI Standard 61 requires all metallic products and components to be evaluated for the leaching of lead as well as other metal contaminants. [Annex G](#) of NSF 61 contains an optional lead content verification method. Metallic pipe, fittings, valves, and other mechanical devices are all tested with two specially formulated waters. One is pH 5 and another pH 10. The pH 5 test water is especially aggressive for copper, chromium, nickel, and antimony. The pH 10 test water is especially aggressive for lead, arsenic, barium, beryllium, boron, cadmium, mercury, selenium, and thallium. Products are exposed to these test waters for 16 days where the device is filled with fresh test water each day. On the 17th day water is held in the device for 16 hours. The resulting contaminant concentrations are analyzed and mathematically normalized to reflect the concentrations expected from actual product when it is installed in the field. These normalized concentrations are then compared to the pass/fail results of NSF/ANSI Standard 61, which is 15 ppb for lead. This pass/fail criteria of 15 ppb is scheduled to be reduced to 5 ppb per [Annex F](#) of NSF 61.

Faucets, drinking fountains, and endpoint devices that dispense drinking water are tested and evaluated in a different manner. NSF/ANSI Standard 61 requires that these products be tested over a 19 day time period using a specially formulated pH 8 test water. Samples for lead are taken at 9 sample days throughout the 19 day test. Other metal contaminants are measured on the last day of the test. A minimum of 3 devices must be tested for lead and a statistical calculation is made based on the geometric mean of the lead leach concentrations, the standard deviation of the concentrations and a probability factor which is based on the number of products tested. A statistical Q value is derived from this calculation to represent the lead dose of the product. An endpoint device must have a Q value less than or equal to 11 ug of lead to meet the requirements of the standard. The Q value of 11 ug is scheduled to be reduced to 5 ug for endpoint devices and 3 ug for stop valves and flexible connectors per [Annex F](#) of NSF 61.

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NSF 61 standard also states that it must meet The U.S. Safe Drinking Water Act of 1986 restricted the lead content in plumbing products to less than 8 percent. It also governs rubbers, plastics and other type of materials and the safety of the end user.

NSF/ANSI Standard 61, Annex G governs the amount of lead allow in products used in the Domestic water systems I.E. "Lead free". Annex G states any pipe, pipe or plumbing fitting, or fixture intended to convey or dispense water for drinking or cooking. For these products, "lead free" means not more than a weighted average lead content of 0.25 percent. The weighted average is determined by multiplying the lead content of each wetted component times the proportion of the total wetted surface area represented by that component and summing up the results.

Currently the only states that have made NSF/ANSI Annex G law are California(also known as AB 1953) and Vermont. Annex G was developed specifically to meet the requirements of California's AB 1953. California and Vermont laws took effect on Jan 1, 2010.

Below are the certification marks for the different standards., which will be found on approved products.

General Questions regarding NSF 61

http://www.nsf.org/business/water_distribution/faq.asp?program=WaterDistributionSys#lead

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President's Message Continued...

On a more recent site visit at a college dorm, I witnessed something a bit more alarming than just a pipe penetrating a duct. Walking through the corridors of this high-rise I noticed how nice the concealed sprinklers were installed. After a little closer inspection my jaw dropped. The contractor had come back after the sprinklers were installed and caulked the covers to the gyp board to make it look pretty. Part of me wonders what would have happen if when occupied with college kids if I fire would have occurred. I am glad I won't have to worry about it since this was caught and corrected.

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Friends,

Even in a down economy, the ASPE DC Chapter has once again enjoyed growth in our ranks. Please take a few moments at our next function to recognize the following new members who joined in the months of June and July.

Stephanie Rittler
Samuel Allen Brunetto P.E.
Gregory E. Cathell
William Harrison Rawls
John Michael Apperson
Robert Edward Beavers
Stephen Everett Brown
Bryan Keith Soulier G.E.

We would also like to recognize the anniversaries of the following members.

Raleigh D. Galloway 5 Years
Jonathan D. Sargeant 15 Years
Carl Y. Wehmueller 15 Years
James L. Spencer 15 Years
Lawrence H. Jones 20 Years
Gene W. Wilkes 20 Years
Lawrence S. Galowin Ph.D 25 Years



Thanks to American Hometec for their presentation in September on Instantaneous Water Heaters.

Come Join us in October for an informative presentation on Rain Water Harvesting. Presented by Benjamin Sojka of Rainwater Management Systems. He will be discussing applications, calculations and design.

The Table Top presenter will be Garreth Koogle of STH.

FUN STUFF -



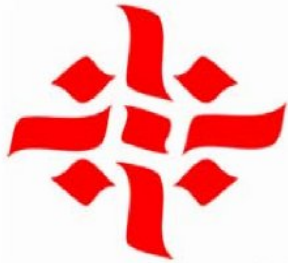
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Chapter Meeting Location

Washington Chapter meetings are currently being held at the Olive Garden located on Route 7 (8133 Leesburg Pike) in Tyson's Corner. Please join us for our General Meeting October 20th, 2010
Call for directions: (703) 893-3175



All Reservations for dinner are requested by:
Noon, Tuesday October 19th, 2010

RSVP to the evite
Email Chris Barnard <mailto:cbarnardsr@yahoo.com> to be added
to mailing list.

Dinner:	Member:	\$28.00
	Non-Member	\$30.00



Please take a minute to notice
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