

# **BUILDING STANDARDS BULLETIN 09-03**

**DATE:** August 20, 2009

**TO:** INTERESTED PARTIES

**SUBJECT:** STATE PEX EXCLUSION REMOVED EFFECTIVE AUGUST 1, 2009

This information bulletin is being issued to highlight an action taken by the California Building Standards Commission (commission) on January 22, 2009, concerning cross-linked polyethylene flexible plastic pipe, commonly referred to as "PEX." The action taken was to remove the state's amendment that excluded the adoption of PEX from the California Plumbing Code (California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 5), which went into effect on August 1, 2009. The commission's action allows the statewide use of PEX in hospitals, clinics, schools, residences and commercial structures.

The California Plumbing Code had previously contained an amendment that excluded the use of PEX. However, the commission's approval took place following certification of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) that carefully reviewed the PEX material to ensure the health and safety of its implementation for long-term use. In addition, the EIR approved by the commission concluded that the use of PEX as outlined was an "environmentally superior alternative," meaning that the inclusion of PEX in the California Plumbing Code was a "greener" alternative to leaving PEX out of Title 24.

Publication of the changes to the California Plumbing Code is available from the publisher at [www.iapmo.org](http://www.iapmo.org), depository libraries around the state, and bookstores carrying technical publications. Also, the changes are available on the commission's website at [www.bsc.ca.gov](http://www.bsc.ca.gov).

In addition to the above, California Building Standards Law requires that each local jurisdiction, including charter cities, obtain and maintain with all revisions on a current basis, at least one copy of the building standards and other regulations relating to buildings published in Titles 8, 19, 20, 24 and 25 of the California Code of Regulations. The law mandates that these codes are to be maintained in the office of the building official responsible for administration and enforcement of California Building Standards Law.

The law allows local jurisdictions to make modifications to Title 24 for reasons of local conditions, namely climate, topography, and/or geology. This provision may have an impact on the use of PEX in any particular local jurisdiction.