



August 22, 2008

State of California
State and Consumer Services Agency
California Building Standards Commission
2525 Natomas Park Dr., Suite 130
Sacramento, Ca 95833
Email: BSC@dgs.ca.gov

RE: Support of PEX Water Piping Approval in California

To: California Building Standards Commission

NSF supports the addition of PEX Water Piping to the California Plumbing Code. NSF does have editorial suggestions to the current proposed language within 604.1 which we believe will clarify the intent.

All PEX pipe, tube, and fittings carrying water in potable water systems intended to supply drinking water for human consumption to fixtures and appliances shall also receive NSF certification pursuant to approved test protocols. Certification based on the approved test protocols by NSF shall satisfy the requirement of having normalized concentrations ~~that any leached concentrations~~ of methyl-tert-butyl ether (MTBE), tertiary butyl alcohol (TBA), or California Proposition 65 chemicals identified as potential extractants based on a formulation review of PEX pipe, tube or fittings that are below the relevant California Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL), secondary MCL, notification, or Safe Harbor level or other applicable Proposition 65 level for those chemicals. The tubing shall be physically marked in a manner that indicates the pipe is NSF certified to be in compliance with this section. ~~for human consumption uses in California.~~

The first proposed modification refers to an approved protocol and defines the requirements of the protocol. The term "normalized concentration" is the more relevant to California drinking water criteria than "leached concentration". The leached concentration may vary greatly depending upon the test conditions. The normalized concentration is the value leached concentration that has been adjusted to reflect the potential contaminant concentration at the tap.

The second change clarifies how the applicable Proposition 65 chemicals will be identified and appropriately focuses the certification to the potential contaminants from PEX and materials within PEX systems.

Lastly, the marking should demonstrate compliance with the specific code requirement rather than the broad concept of human consumption which might imply end uses not addressed by the plumbing code such as beverage dispensing, food dispensing or direct consumption.

Please contact me if you have any questions on these comments.

Regards,

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