



PLUMBING SYSTEMS

PEX APPROVED IN CALIFORNIA PLUMBING CODE

INFORMATION SHEET

PEX Approved in California Plumbing Code

On Jan. 22, 2009, the California Building Standards Commission (CBSC) certified the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) on crosslinked polyethylene (PEX) tubing and unanimously adopted regulations approving PEX water distribution systems into the California Plumbing Code, set to take effect Aug. 1, 2009.

Now contractors and consumers finally have access to an environmentally superior product that will provide a durable solution that stands up to the state's water conditions, while meeting California's high standards for drinking-water quality.

The new regulations take effect Aug. 1, 2009. Prior to that, local jurisdictions have the ability to adopt the code to use PEX in new and remodel home construction before statewide adoption.

Conducted from October 2007 through December 2008, the EIR evaluated PEX tubing on its impact on air quality, water quality and performance, as well as PEX tubing

installation, use and disposability and manufacturing processes in the areas of waste, recycling, energy consumption and natural resources.

The EIR concluded the adoption of PEX tubing into the California Plumbing Code with proposed regulations would be "an environmentally superior action

with respect to public health and hazards, water quality and air quality."

In fact, 180 of the more than 530 municipalities and counties within the state have already approved the use of PEX tubing, which means millions of feet of PEX are currently in service in plumbing applications throughout California.

Hydrostatic Temperature and Pressure Ratings

- 200°F (93.3°C) at 80 psi
- 180°F (82.2°C) at 100 psi
- 73.4°F (23°C) at 160 psi
- 120°F (48.9°C) at 130 psi (½", ¾" and 1" AquaPEX® only)

Manufacturing Standards

- ASTM F876 • ASTM F877
- ASTM F2023 • ASTM F1960
- UL 1821 • ULC-ORD C199P
- ANSI/NSF Standard 14
- ANSI/NSF Standard 61
- CAN/CSA B137.5

Product Listings

- IAPMO • CSA
- HUD • UL
- NSF • ITS
- ICC

Applicable Codes

- IPC • UPC
- NSP • IMC
- UMC • NPC of Canada
- NBC of Canada

Warnock Hersey Plenum Rating

- 25 flame spread/50 smoke developed (plenum rated) to ASTM E84
- CAN/ULC S102.2

Fire-rated Assemblies

United States

- G573 — Two-hour Hambro floor/ceiling assembly
- K913 — Two-hour concrete floor/ceiling assembly
- L557 — One-hour wood frame floor/ceiling assembly
- U372 — One-hour wood frame wall assembly
- V444 — One-hour steel stud wall assembly

Canada

- G573 — Two-hour Hambro floor/ceiling assembly
- UW/WA 60-01 — One-hour steel stud wall assembly
- UW/WA 60-02 — One-hour wood frame wall assembly
- WC/FCA 60-01 — One-hour wood frame floor/ceiling assembly
- WC/FCA 120-01 — Two-hour concrete floor/ceiling assembly
- WC/FCA 120-02 — Two-hour concrete floor/ceiling assembly



California PEX Plumbing FAQs



What does the EIR say about PEX?

The EIR states that the adoption of PEX tubing into the California Plumbing Code with proposed regulations would be “an environmentally superior action with respect to public health and hazards, water quality and air quality.” The EIR was a full study conducted from October 2007 through December 2008 on PEX tubing and its impact of air quality, water quality, performance, waste, recycling, energy consumption and natural resources in regard to manufacturing processes, installation, use and disposability.

How long has it taken to get PEX tubing approved for use in California?

Uponor has been actively pursuing the adoption of PEX in the California Plumbing Code since 2000. Three years of litigation resulted in a decision by the California Building Standards Commission to conduct the full Environmental Impact Report (EIR) on PEX tubing.

Has PEX tubing ever been used in California?

Currently, 180 of the more than 530 municipalities and counties within the state have approved the use the PEX tubing as an alternate material to copper and other materials used for plumbing. In fact, millions of feet of Uponor PEX-a tubing is in use in residential and commercial applications throughout California, and more than 12 billion feet is installed worldwide.

Does including PEX tubing to the California Plumbing Code mean it can automatically be used everywhere in the state?

Local jurisdictions may try to amend PEX out during the 180-day period

before it goes into law on Aug. 1, 2009. However, a jurisdiction must have valid justification and submit its proposed amendments to the CBSC. Any proposed amendments must be put into effect before Aug. 1 to be valid.

Who regulates the use of PEX tubing in California once the new state plumbing code takes effect Aug. 1, 2009?

The following agencies will adopt regulations for the use of PEX tubing in the types of construction under their jurisdictions:

- Housing and Community Development (HCD) — Residential construction, hotels, motels, etc.
- Division of State Architect — Structural Safety (DSA-SS) — State-owned buildings, universities, etc.
- Building Standards Commission (BSC) — Commercial construction not state-owned (retail)
- Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD) — Hospitals, health care facilities, etc.

Why would builders and plumbers use PEX tubing instead of other water distribution piping materials, such as copper or CPVC?

In regards to plastic plumbing products, both PEX and CPVC are listed to their own respective ASTM standards for use in plumbing systems. However, CPVC lags PEX not only in market share (PEX has approximately 40%; CPVC has about 18%), but also in regards to features and installation characteristics.

- Both copper and CPVC are rigid piping products, requiring a connection with every direction change. Connections are usually created by bonding the pipe

and fittings together with either solvents (CPVC) or torches (copper).

- Uponor PEX features the ProPEX® fitting system that requires one simple tool for fast, easy connections without the use of solvents, glues, torches or gauges. Additionally, the ProPEX system cannot be dry fit, so there’s never a question whether the fitting is properly made.

For further information about the ProPEX system, go to www.uponor-usa.com/propex.

Does PEX tubing meet California’s new lead-free legislation?

Uponor is unveiling a complete line of lead-free brass transition fittings and valves that will meet California lead-free legislation and exceed the requirements of the United States Safe Drinking Water Act. Combining these fittings with our PEX tubing, our extensive engineered plastic (EP) offering and our innovative ProPEX Out-of-the-Wall Support System will provide a complete lead-free plumbing solution from the inlet to the faucet.



Who should I contact at Uponor for more information?

For more information, please contact the following:

Rich Houle, Associate Product Manager, Commercial Plumbing
Rich.Houle@uponor-usa.com
800.321.4739 ext. 4297

Dale Stroud, Senior Manager, New Business Development
Dale.Stroud@uponor-usa.com
800.321.4739 ext. 4281

Uponor, Inc.
5925 148th Street West
Apple Valley, MN 55124 USA
Tel: (800) 321-4739
Fax: (952) 891-2008
Web: www.uponor-usa.com

Uponor Ltd.
2000 Argentia Rd., Plaza 1, Ste. 200
Mississauga, ON L5N 1W1 CANADA
Tel: (888) 994-7726
Fax: (800) 638-9517
Web: www.uponor.ca

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