

CSST Bonding Follow-Up

Since there appears to be continued confusion on bonding of gas piping, specifically Corrugated, Stainless-Steel Tubing (CSST), this article expands upon the Winter 2007 *Construction Code Communicator* article, "CSST Bonding – What is Required?" and Section 250.104(B), Other Metal Piping, of the 2005 National Electrical Code (NEC/2005).

Section G2411.1 of the 2006 International Residential Code (IRC/2006), Gas Pipe Bonding, which applies to Group R-5 occupancies, and Section 310.1 of the 2006 International Fuel Gas Code (IFGC/2006), Gas Pipe Bonding, which applies to all occupancies other than Group R-5, state the following:

Each above-ground portion of a gas piping system that is likely to become energized shall be electrically continuous and bonded to an effective ground-fault current path. Gas piping shall be considered to be bonded when it is connected to appliances that are connected to the equipment grounding conductor of the circuit supplying that appliance.

Referenced model codes supersede the manufacturer's recommendations. Therefore, contrary to some manufacturers' installation recommendations, the above sections prevail. No additional bonding is required where there is electrical connection to any gas appliance; the grounding conductor serves as the bonding means of a gas piping system. If the installation meets the manufacturer's recommendations for bonding, this would be considered above code requirements and acceptable.

If you have any further questions, you may contact us at (609) 984-7609.

Source: Rob Austin and Suzanne Borek
Code Specialists

Gas Water Heaters Recalled

In an April 3, 2008 release, the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), in cooperation with A. O. Smith and State, water heater manufacturers, has announced a voluntary recall of approximately fifteen hundred 75-gallon natural and propane gas water heaters. The flue gas temperatures on these water heaters can exceed safe limits and produce excessive temperature in the venting unit, which poses a fire hazard. Also, the exhaust from the water heater can leak into the surrounding room, which poses a carbon-monoxide hazard.

The recalled water heaters involve A. O. Smith Model No. FCG-75 300 and FCG-75 301, Serial Numbers L07A071460 through L07A144966, and State Model No. GS6 75 XRR S and GS6 75 CRR S, Serial Numbers M07A009387 through M07A072884. Model and serial numbers are printed on the water heater's rating plate. The recalled water heaters were sold by independent contractors and plumbers nationwide from November 2007 through January 2008.

The CPSC recommends that consumers immediately stop using the recalled water heaters and contact the manufacturer at (866) 880-4661, or visit the firm's website at <http://www.hotwater.com>, to arrange for a free repair.

This notice is just to inform code officials that if, for example, they are inspecting a furnace or boiler replacement, they may take notice of the existing water heater and, if any of the recalled water heaters are installed, advise the building owner that there is a recall on these heaters, and provide the owner with information on how to contact the company for a free repair. Of course, this is voluntary on your part.

Should you have any questions, you may contact me at (609) 984-7609.

Source: Thomas C. Pitcherello
Code Assistance Unit

The U.S. Census Bureau's Monthly Building Permits Survey: A Leading Economic Indicator of the Construction Industry

To monitor the health of our nation's economy, one of the most watched statistics is the Index of Leading Economic Indicators, published by The Conference Board. There are ten data series that are used to compile this index, one of which is building permits authorized for new privately-owned, residential construction.

The data provided to the Census Bureau, either through paper reports or electronic data submissions, are essential to the calculation of accurate estimates of new residential construction. In addition, these data are used to calculate local population estimates between censuses and are used by many others for a variety of purposes, such as companies deciding where to build their next plant or store, academic researchers, etc.

We would like to express our deep gratitude to the municipalities in New Jersey in providing these data.