PLUMBING BOARD: NOTICE OF FINAL INTERPRETATION

On February 11, 2013, the Minnesota Plumbing Board issued a Final Interpretation, which is printed below, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes §§ 326B.435, subdivision 2(a)(4), and 326B.127, subdivision 5. The submitter agreed that this Request for Interpretation would be heard by the Board at its January 15, 2013 meeting.

Any person aggrieved by this Final Interpretation may appeal it by filing a petition for a writ of certiorari with the Minnesota Court of Appeals pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 14.63.

As required by Minnesota Statutes § 326B.127, subd. 5, the Plumbing Board will consider this Final Interpretation for adoption as part of the Code. Questions may be directed to Patricia Munkel-Olson, phone: (651) 284-5128, *email*: patricia.munkel-olson@state.mn.us. TTY users may call (651) 297-4198.

FINAL INTERPRETATION

Inquiry:	PB0071
Subject:	Flexible piping and water distribution systems
Code Reference:	Minnesota Plumbing Code, Minnesota Rules Parts 4715.0520 and 4715.0330 (2011)
Submitted by:	Mr. Ron Green Brass Craft 39600 Orchard Hill Place Novi, MI 48375-5331
Approved by:	John Parizek, Board Chair
Date Received:	November 20, 2012
Issue Date:	February 11, 2013

Question One: Is a connection from the water supply to a water heater part of the water distribution system?

Answer: Yes.

Commentary: All parties were heard and had fair opportunity to present facts, thoughts, opinions, and challenges pertaining to the question of whether a connection from the water supply to a water heater is part of the water distribution system. The Board determined that a cold water distribution branch ends at the point of connection to the water heater and the hot water distribution system begins at the point of connection to the water heater. Therefore the pipe connecting at these points is considered water distribution pipe and must be listed as an approved material under 4715.0520.

Question Two: Does a flexible pipe certified to ANSI/ASME A112.18.6 meet the requirements of Minn. R. part 4715.0520 for water distribution pipe?

Answer: No. Minn. R. part 4715.0520 does not list pipe certified to ANSI/ASME A112.18.6 for use as water distribution pipe.

Commentary: All parties were heard and had fair opportunity to present facts, thoughts, opinions, and challenges pertaining to the question of whether flexible pipe certified to ANSI/ASME A112.18.6 meets the requirements of Minn. R. part 4715.0520 for water distribution pipe. The Board determined that Minn. R. part 4715.0520 does not list pipe certified to ANSI/ASME A112.18.6 as an approved material for use as water distribution pipe.

Question Three: Does the Minnesota Plumbing Code expressly prohibit flexible piping certified to ANSI/ASME A112.18.6?

Answer: No. The Minnesota Plumbing Code does not expressly prohibit flexible piping certified to ANSI/ASME A112.18.6.

Commentary: All parties were heard and had fair opportunity to present facts, thoughts, opinions, and challenges pertaining to the question of whether the Minnesota Plumbing Code expressly prohibits flexible piping certified to ANSI/ASME A112.18.6. The Board determined that does not specifically list flexible piping certified to ANSI/ASME A112.18.6 as prohibited.

Question Four: May an administrative authority approve flexible piping certified to ANSI/ASME A112.18.6 for use as water distribution pipe pursuant to Minn. R. part 4715.0330?

Answer: Yes.

Commentary: All parties were heard and had fair opportunity to present facts, thoughts, opinions, and challenges pertaining to the question of whether the Minnesota Plumbing Code authorizes an administrative authority to approve flexible piping certified to ANSI/ASME A112.18.6. The Board determined that an administrative authority may approve the use of materials consistent with the requirements of Minn. R. part 4715.0330, Subparts 1, 2 and 3. In this case, consideration should be given to 4715.3700, Subpart 8 to determine if friction loss through the material will adversely affect the distribution requirements.

Date: February 11, 2013

John Parizek, Chair
Minnesota Plumbing Board