

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: PB0072
Subject: Single-wall heat exchangers
Code Reference: Minnesota Plumbing Code, Minnesota Rules Part 4715.1941 (2011)
Submitted by: Mr. Bill Cutter
Rep Rite Burk & Associates
2369 Waters Drive
Mendota Heights, MN 55120
Approved by: John Parizek, Board Chair
Date Received: December 19, 2012
Issue Date: February 11, 2013

Question One: Does the Minnesota Plumbing Code permit single-wall heat exchangers?

Answer: Yes. Pursuant to Minn. R. part 4715.1941 a single-wall heat exchanger may be used if it satisfies *all of the conditions specified* in subp. 3, items A – C.

The conditions specified in subp. 3 are:

A. The heat transfer medium contains only substances which are recognized as safe or approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration for food contact as listed in Code of Federal Regulations, title 21, part 182 of the Food Additive Regulations.

B. Except where steam is used as the heat transfer medium, the pressure of the heat transfer medium must be less than the normal minimum operating pressure of the potable water system, and the system must be fitted with devices arranged to function automatically to maintain the pressure of the heat transfer medium entering the exchanger at a level below that of the potable water leaving the exchanger.

C. The equipment is permanently labeled to specify all constituents of the heat transfer medium, to indicate that only additives recognized as safe by the United States Food and Drug Administration may be used, and to show the hazards and reasons for not using another type of medium.

Commentary:

All parties present were heard and had fair opportunity to present facts, thoughts, opinions, and challenges pertaining to the question of whether the Minnesota Plumbing Code permits single-wall heat exchangers. The Board determined that Minn. R. part 4715.1941, permits single-wall heat exchangers that meet the requirements of subpart 3 if all of the conditions specified in items A-C are satisfied. As a clarification to item B, the heat transfer medium pressure cannot exceed the normal minimum potable water pressure in the heat exchanger. In addition, the heat transfer medium pressure must at all times be maintained at a pressure lower than the potable water pressure existing in the heat exchanger.

Date: February 11, 2013



John Parizek, Chair
Minnesota Plumbing Board