
THE PLUMBLINE

April 2008 Issue

Board of Health Makes Decision Regarding Air Admittance Valves

The State Committee of Plumbing Examiners has taken the position that Air Admittance Valves (AAV'S) have a place in a plumbing system provided the valve is installed with restrictions. The restrictions are intended to insure the devices are safe.

Proponents of AAV's, which are primarily vendors of the device, argue that AAV's are a viable product that should be allowed to be used as a complete substitute for conventional open air venting. The Committee has not been sold, however, and has maintained its position in spite of the repeated requests to lift the restrictions.

In October 2007, Mr. Jack Beuschel, President of Studor, Inc., appeared before the State Committee of Plumbing Examiners and once again argued his case. After listening to Mr. Beuschel's repetitive rationale for lifting the restrictions, the Committee once again voted no.

Realizing the Board of Health is over the Committee, Mr. Beuschel appealed the Committee's position to the Board of Health. As a result, the Board of Health appointed a three-person sub-committee of its members to hear the arguments. On January 17, the subcommittee heard all testimony, and concluded that the rules governing AAV's needed to be changed ... lifting the two (2) restrictions listed below:

- The current regulations require a professional engineer design all AAV systems. The subcommittee ruled this needed to be lifted for residential applications.
- The current regulations also require that no AAV's be allowed below the flood level of any fixture. The subcommittee ruled this needed to be lifted and that AAV's be acceptable for below fixture flood level.

These recommendations were presented to the board of Health during their regular meeting of January 24. The Board voted to proceed forth towards the adoption. It

was generally felt by the Board that without sufficient evidence to deny AAV's, there is no choice but to approve them without the previous restrictions; and there is no nationwide evidence that AAV's are failing.

As a result, the Plumbing Program staff will now start the rule adoption process to change the regulations regarding AAV's. The end result is to amend the code to read like the 2006 ICC plumbing code language regarding AAV's. The rule adoption process does require a public hearing for the plumbing industry to offer comments.

Notice of Public Hearing

The Arkansas Department of Health, Office Protective Health Codes will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday, May 28 beginning at 1 PM** in the Arkansas Department of Health Auditorium, at Little Rock, Arkansas. The purpose for this hearing is to allow interested persons to comment on the proposed adoption of rules and regulations pertaining to Arkansas State Plumbing Code, specifically minor wording changes regarding **PEX pipe sleeving**, and the removal of restrictions for **air admittance valves (AAV's)**.

The following is the gist of the proposed changes:

1. The language in the current 2006 code regarding PEX pipe sleeving is confusing. The intent of the rule change is to clarify section 305.5.1 of the code. The proposal is not intended to require mandatory sleeving of PEX under slab unless the manufacturer instructions call for it.
2. The language in the current 2006 code regarding AAV's requires that an (1) engineer design AAV piping systems, and (2) that an AAV is not allowed to be installed below the flood level rim of fixture. It is being proposed to lift these restrictions. Many sections of the code will be have to be changed, however, to accomplish this. Sections affected are Section 912.2; Section 913 has been added back to the code regarding island sink venting; Section 917; and the repeal of Appendix I.

2008-Plumbing Inspectors Training Schools and Locations

- JANUARY--- 09-10 LONOKE
A.R.W.A Building
240 Dee Dee Lane

- MARCH---- 13-14 PARAGOULD
3404 Linwood Dr

- APRIL--- 10-11 RUSSELLVILLE
TRI Co. Water 5306 HWY 7

- MAY--- 07-08 LONOKE
A.R.W.A Building
240 Dee Dee Lane

- AUGUST--- 19-20 EUREKA SPRINGS
Annual Short School Conference
Best Western 207 W. Van Buren St.

- SEPTEMBER--- 18-19 VAN BUREN
Adult ED. Center
605 Alma BLVD. Circle

- NOVEMBER----06-07 EL DORADO
Water Building
300 South Madison St

Licensing Renewals

Have you renewed for 2008? Our records show that many license holders have not renewed their 2008 licenses. Please check to see that you and your employees have renewed for this license year.

State Inspector Bill Rushing Retiring

After many years with the Plumbing Program, Bill Rushing is calling it quits the 1st of June. Bill is from the Rison area and serves as the inspectors for much of the southeast portion of the state. We thank Bill for his years of service and wish him a wonderful retirement. Bill will be missed.

Updated Licensee Information Request

The Health Department customer data base has grown so large that the agency can no longer query customer information on name and address alone. As a result, our office has requested Dates of Birth and Social Security numbers for all licenses holders. Many of you have provided this information while others are not. Please be advised that failure to provide this information could result in our inability to provide continued licensing service; and

you can rest assured, your personal information is secure and protected. Thanks!!!

State Committee of Plumbing Examiners Quarterly Report

<i>NAME</i>	<i>LIC. STATUS</i>	<i>FINE</i>	<i>CITY</i>
Jerry Detherow	Unlicensed	\$4,000.00	Little Rock
Bill Beasley	Unlicensed	\$3,000.00	Alexander
Orville Ledbetter	Current	\$300.00	Sherrill

Sam Leslie Promoted

Congratulations to Sam Leslie on his new role as Plumbing Inspector Supervisor. Sam replaces Jim Ward. He started with the Plumbing Program as a Plans Examiner and evolved to coordinating our plan review section.

Sam is originally from Texarkana and has spent 11 years in the plumbing industry before joining the program.

Sam is shown to become an essential part of the program and will continue to do so for years to come.

New Plumbing / Gas Codes

Recently, a notice was sent to the plumbing industry about how to go about getting new codes. Since then, there has been a bit of confusion.

Unfortunately, code costs have gone up over the past years. As a result, the Office of Protective Health Codes is unable to stock enough codes to go around...it is budgetarily impossible. Therefore, we are recommending that you place your code book orders through the ICC. We will try to keep a modest amount at the state office, but hardly enough to serve everyone.

We apologize for not being able to provide this service, but this is really a matter out of our control. For those of you that have ordered new codes from the ICC, they have informed us they should be shipping you the new codes in mid April.

Do You Wish To Continue To Receive The PlumbLine?

If you would like to access the *PlumbLine* for information from the Internet site, you may do so by logging onto <http://www.healthyarkansas.com/phc>. If you would like to offer comments, suggestions, or ideas for articles, please let us know.

If you would like to discontinue receiving the *PlumbLine*, please let us know by writing us at the Arkansas Department of Health, Division of Protective Health Codes, 4815 W. Markham St., Slot #24, Little Rock, Arkansas 72205-3867. We will remove your name from our mailing list.