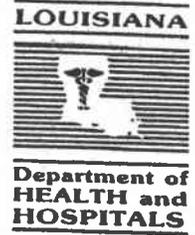




STATE OF LOUISIANA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HOSPITALS



M. J. "Mike" Foster, Jr.
GOVERNOR

David W. Hood
SECRETARY

April 17, 2003

Lionel "Boo" Chauvin, Sales Representative
Sunbelt Marketing, Inc.
% 121 Brinwood Circle
Houma, Louisiana 70360

Re: Uponor Wirsbo AQUAPEX® Potable Water Plumbing System
AQUAPEX (Engel) tubing
ProPEX® Brass / PLS (Amoco's Udel Polysulfone) Insert Fittings
ProPEX Type "L" Copper / PLS Manifolds
ProPEX Cold Expansion Fittings with PEX Reinforcing Rings

Dear Mr. Chauvin:

On March 10, 2003, Mr. Dale Gentry and yourself, both representing Sunbelt Marketing, Inc., discussed and demonstrated the above referenced potable water plumbing system. Present at the meeting representing the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of Public Health, were Sidney Becnel, Daniel MacDonald, and the undersigned. Mr. Denny Ingram representing IPS Corporation was also present at the meeting. Mr. Gentry and yourself requested this office review these plumbing products for use in Louisiana.

Pursuant to this office's review of the above referenced products, AQUAPEX (Engel) tubing, ProPEX Brass Insert Fittings, ProPEX Type "L" Copper Manifolds, as well as the use of cold flare fittings as a jointing method for PEX tubing, are in conformity with the current requirements of the *Louisiana State Plumbing Code, 2000 Edition (LSPC)*.

ProPEX insert fittings and manifolds made of PLS (polysulfone), as well as the use of PEX reinforcing rings on cold expansion fittings, are not addressed in the LSPC. Pursuant to Sunbelt Marketing, Inc.'s verbal request expressed at the meeting, a review of ProPEX insert fittings and manifolds made of PLS (polysulfone), as well as the use of PEX reinforcing rings on cold expansion fittings was conducted pursuant to Section 102.7 of the LSPC titled "Alternate Materials and Methods of Construction". Following the meeting, additional information on these products was provided as requested. This included facsimile transmissions of various standards and other information from Mr. Gentry as well as from a Mr. Scott Hellendrung and a Mr. Scott Rademacher of Uponor Wirsbo.

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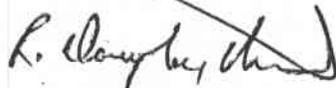
Re: Uponor Wirsbo AQUAPEX® Potable Water Plumbing System
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ProPEX Type "L" Copper / PLS Manifolds
ProPEX Cold Expansion Fittings with PEX Reinforcing Rings

A review of the information submitted has been completed. Based upon the assurances stated during the meeting, the demonstration of the products, as well as the additional information provided, this office has NO OBJECTION of the use of ProPEX insert fittings and manifolds made of PLS (polysulfone), as well as the use of PEX reinforcing rings on cold expansion fittings, in potable water plumbing applications in Louisiana. AQUAPEX potable water plumbing system components shall be installed in accord with the requirements of the LSPC and the manufacturer's installation requirements. If a conflict exists between the LSPC and the manufacturer's installation requirements, the requirements of the LSPC shall govern.

It is the intent of this office to include the following standard under the next plumbing code revision: ASTM F 1960 - 02b "Standard Specification for Cold Expansion Fittings with PEX Reinforcing Rings for Use with Cross-linked Polyethylene (PEX) Tubing". Such standard covers PEX reinforcing rings on cold expansion fittings of PEX tubing as well as the brass and PLS insert fittings which are approved for use in this jointing method.

This letter shall not be used for advertising purposes. This "no objection" does not take into account the requirements of any other regulatory agency. This "no objection" is given with the understanding that all applicable local codes and ordinances shall also be complied with.

Sincerely,



R. Douglas Vincent, Chief
Engineering Services

RDV/SGB/sgb

cc: Sidney Becnel, Engineering Services, Central Office, OPH
Daniel MacDonald, Engineering Services, Central Office, OPH
District/Regional Engineers, OPH
Don Traylor, Executive Director, State Plumbing Board of Louisiana

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ProPEX Cold Expansion Fittings with PEX Reinforcing Rings

cc (cont):

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Lithia Springs, GA 30122-2857

Scott Rademacher
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Code/Standards
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