



BEWARE OF CPVC PIPE USED IN COMBINATION WITH STEEL PIPE IN FIRE SPRINKLER SYSTEMS

UPDATE

This Client Alert updates our May 2007 Alert regarding the potential for failure of CPVC fire sprinkler pipe and fittings used in combination with steel pipe. Our previous Alert advised of possible incompatibility of CPVC with certain materials and components found in steel fire sprinkler pipe (such as some antimicrobial coatings) and substances and materials utilized in steel pipe installations (such as some pipe thread oils, protective films and other petroleum based products). We understand that the fire protection industry reacted to the situations giving rise to our prior Alert by removing certain products from the marketplace and issuing warnings regarding the use of others. We commend the industry for taking such actions.

Since issuing our prior Alert, we have also become aware of several situations where CPVC fire sprinkler pipe failed due to contact with external incompatible materials, such as fire caulk, insecticide and fungicide. Extreme caution is advised in the use of such materials on or in the vicinity of CPVC. Manufacturer's data and recommendations must be consulted to determine the appropriate fire caulk for firesafing penetrations of CPVC pipes through fire rated walls and floors and protective measures should be used to avoid contacting CPVC with fire caulk used to firesafe adjacent penetrations of other piping. Similarly, compatibility with CPVC must be confirmed before using any insecticide, fungicide or fumigant in walls, ceilings, soffits or other cavities containing CPVC, as many such agents contain substances which act as environmental stress crack agents on CPVC.

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