

# ASPE NEWS

American Society of Plumbing Engineers  
Eastern Michigan Chapter  
www.aspe.org/Eastern\_Michigan

Serving our membership since 1975

Vol. 8, Issue 8

## Plumbing Design Class

**Date:** Tuesday, April 26, 2005

**Time:** 5:30 - 9:00 PM  
Dinner & Class

**Cost:** ASPE & ASSE Members:  
No Charge  
Non-members: \$15.00

**Location:** PMC Detroit Offices  
14801 W. 8 Mile Rd.

**Topic:** Medical Gases/ Vacuum  
Pumps/ Anesthesia Gas  
Waste

**Speaker:** Colleen Anderson  
C.S. Anderson, Inc.

**Sponsors:** Nibco, Inc.  
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### Next Meeting

**Date:** Tuesday, May 24, 2005

**Topic:** To be announced

**PLEASE CONFIRM  
your attendance with**

**Wes Patton, VP Tech:**  
wpatton@ssoe.com  
(248) 643-6225 Fax

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

**Esteban Cabello, PE, CIPE**

If you would like to make a difference or just get involved with ASPE, now is your chance. Elections will be held at our May meeting. Whether you want to run for an office or help out in a committee, we could use your help. All you have to do is email one of us on the board and we'll take it from there. I'm glad that Colleen Anderson, who has over 30 years experience in medical gases, is coming back to speak on Medical Gases this month. We have had the privilege of having her speak before but it has been a while. Speaking of speakers, Dan Holohan is coming in a couple of weeks and space for his presentation is rapidly filling and will soon be sold out, so hurry and register. On a last note, please notify us of your attendance to our monthly meetings. We need to get an accurate count for our dinner server as we can not guess how many people will be attending, your help is appreciated.

*See you soon,  
Esteban*

## A Report on the International Plumbing Code Hearings

**Ron George, CIPE, CPD**



*Ron George sits on the IRC Code Committee.*

*Ron George is President of Ron George Design & Consulting Services in Newport, Michigan. Ron has been active in the Code Study and Development Committee of Southeastern Michigan for several years, participating in numerous ICC Code Hearings. Most recently, Ron was appointed to serve on the ICC Residential Code Committee for plumbing and mechanical code.*

The International Codes Council (ICC) hearings were held during the last week of February and the first week of March, 2005 in Cincinnati, Ohio.

The International Code Council has done an excellent job of conducting code hearings in a professional manner. One of the things that they are doing well is bringing the code hearings to you and making the hearings accessible to everyone. They are broadcasting the code hearings live on the internet during the code hearings. They are basically producing a TV show and it includes all of the lights, cameras, operators, and the behind the scenes directors cutting to the camera shots of whoever is testifying or speaking at the moment. It's

*continued on page 4  
See IPC Code Hearings*

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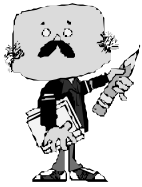
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# Professor Plumber sez...

## Bill Grayzar, CPD VP Education

### 2005 CPD Examination

For those interested in taking the 2005 CPD Examination, the test will be held on **October 30th, 2005** at the **Crown Plaza Hotel in Rosemont, Illinois**. The test will begin promptly at **2:00 PM** and will end promptly at **5:30 PM**. This will be part of the 2005 Technical Symposium to be held October 28-30 in Rosemont, Illinois.

To be eligible to take the CPD Examination, you must possess a minimum of four (4) years practical experience in a position of responsibility for the design of plumbing systems and possess a baccalaureate degree in a field related to engineering. In lieu of an accredited degree, a candidate may substitute up to four (4) years practical experience in the design of plumbing systems (for a total of eight (8) years) or be granted a credit of one-half year of practical experience for each one (1) full-year of education in an accredited curriculum related to plumbing engineering.

The **registration deadline** for the exam is **September 30th, 2005**. Registration is **\$375.00** for members and **\$575.00** for non-members and can be done online at [www.aspe.org](http://www.aspe.org). If you are also registering for the Technical Symposium in Rosemont, Illinois, the registration fees for the exam will be reduced to \$300.00 for members and \$525.00 for non-members.

The exam will, once again, be 100 multiple-choice questions covering the following five categories:

1. Gathering Information
2. Administration
3. Design
4. Specifications
5. Construction services

For more information about the CPD Exam, you can download the bulletin at the above mentioned web site or contact the ASPE office at (773) 693-2773.

*Bill*

All architecture is shelter, all great architecture is the design of space that contains, cuddles, exalts, or stimulates the persons in that space.

*Philip Johnson  
American Architect  
1906-2005*

## VP TECHNICAL REPORT

Wes Patton, GE

Hello, everyone. We want to thank Bill Hall from Leonard Valve and Ron George for an excellent presentation on ASSE 1016 and 1017 for the March class. This class gave the membership a snap shot of requirements of the new codes. Also, the icing to the cake was the product showing of different code applying valves. Our next class meeting, on April 26, will address Medical Gases, Vacuum Pumps and Anesthesia Gas Waste. The sponsors of this event will be Nibco, Inc., and Beacon Medical Products. Please remember to mark your calendars for Thursday, April 28, when Mr. Dan Holohan will address the topics of troubleshooting steam and heating hot water systems. Please contact Ron George to register for this class. Don't miss the fun! Get your tickets for Night at the Races. Please remember to pre-register for the classes.

*See you in April,  
Wes*

### Dan Holohan's

Troubleshooting Steam and  
Heating Hot Water Systems

Thursday - April 28, 2005

St. John's Banquet and Conference Center  
22001 Northwestern Hwy, Southfield, MI  
8:00 AM to 5:00 PM

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#### Cost to Members of Sponsoring Organizations:

Up to April 20, 2005 = \$60.00  
After April 20 & at Door = \$75.00

Subtract \$15 for each additional  
person from the same company.

#### Cost to non-members:

Up to April 20, 2005 = \$150.00  
After April 20 & at Door = \$175.00

Visit our website for a registration form at  
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Questions? Contact Ron George at  
[rongeorge@charter.net](mailto:rongeorge@charter.net) or (734) 586-2040

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## IPC Code Hearings *continued from page 1*

pretty impressive. I had the opportunity to attend in person and then a few days later I went online from home to listen to some additional code hearings on the energy code.

There are two, 18-month code change cycles for each 3 year publishing cycle of the International Codes. The recent hearings were the last code change hearings before the publication of the 2006 International Codes in late 2006.

### Canadian Standards

The Canadian Standards took a pretty hard hit this cycle. Many Canadian Standards were proposed to be added as additional product standards that various products could be listed to in

order to be approved by the International Plumbing Code. Most of the code change proposals that were proposed to list the Canadian Standards were denied. The problem seemed to be the Canadian Standards were not always viewed as equal to the standards that are currently listed in the International Codes. A few of these differences were discussed by opponents and some code committee members stated they received only very large electronic files of the standards and not hard copies of the standards for review. This made it difficult for them to review all of the differences in the standards. Testimony

seemed to reveal a concern that the Canadian Standards had different dimensions, tolerances or performance requirements than the standards currently referenced in the codes. Several committee members had questions about the Canadian Standards, but no one was there to speak on behalf of the proposed Canadian Standards. It seems to me that each standard was developed in its respective region of the world and now that we have a more global economy, the differences in the standards are becoming more significant. For example, one of the staff analysis comments indicated the Canadian Standards were developed for Canadian Products. On the other hand, the US standards were developed for US products. The International Codes are supposed to be used internationally, including in Canada. It became a struggle for the code committee because it seemed they would have to lower the bar in some instances in order to allow the Canadian Standards to be listed in the International Codes.

There has been an effort by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) and the American Society of Sanitary Engineering (ASSE) to have a standards harmonization group to try and harmonize the standards to a point where the standards are acceptable in the United States and in Canada. It appears the standards harmonization committee has a little more work to do. This begs the question: Are US and Canadian standards non-standardized standards?

### Someone may ask, why do we need Standards?

On February 7, 1904, a fire broke out in the basement of the John E. Hurst and Company in Baltimore, Maryland. Fire departments responded from Washington, Philadelphia, and New York; however, each city had its own unique threads for their fire hoses and they could not connect to Baltimore's hydrant system. Those fire departments were forced to watch as the fire progressed. Before it was over, the fire had burned for more than 30 hours and destroyed approximately 2,500 buildings in an 80-block area. As a result of this fire, a new standards organization called the National Bureau of Standards (NBS), now called the National Institute of Standards & Technology (NIST), began a study of fire hose couplings and over 600 couplings were collected and analyzed from across the country. Based on this research, a standard hose coupling and an interchangeable coupling device for non-standard hoses was adopted as a national model. That document continues today as NFPA 1963, Standard for Fire Hose Connections.



ICC Code Hearings: Pictured left to right are Gil Wilkinson, John Nussbaum, Barry Pines and Paul Bladdick.

A similar thing seems to be happening with the Canadian Standards organization. It's like they came to the fire with a different size fire hose thread. There is probably nothing wrong with their

standards just like the firemen from the surrounding communities around Baltimore, they could connect to their own hydrants and spray water from their hoses to fight fires in their own communities. The problem was, when they tried mixing their hose with neighboring fire department hoses, they did not match.

The US and Canadian Standards have different sizes, tolerances and minimum performance requirements. The arguments by proponents were, if the Canadian Standards were allowed in the International Codes then there can be mismatched products that would have to be approved by code officials if the standards are listed in the code. This is a significant issue and it will mean there needs to be a compromise as one or both standards need to be modified to a point where everyone agrees that we should all use one standard or the Standards should have the same minimum requirements.

### Bathtub Scald prevention

During the previous code change cycle in 2002, a very important code change was approved to place hot water temperature limits on bathtubs. At the time the previous code change was submitted, the American Society of Sanitary Engineering (ASSE) standard #1070 was still under development and the standard was purposely not referenced in the code change

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addressing bathtub temperature limits. The code change simply called for a temperature limit of a maximum of 120 degrees Fahrenheit from the fixture fitting. During the challenge hearings last year in Overland Park, Kansas, someone tried to add the newly developed ASSE 1070 standard and there was some confusing testimony so the membership denied the code change. That action eliminated any temperature limit protection for bathtubs until this code cycle where the water temperature limitation finally passed. Bathtubs will be required to have pressure balancing or thermostatic mixing valves and have a maximum temperature limit of 120 degrees Fahrenheit.

### **Gang Showers**

There was also a code change approved to allow mixing valves meeting the new ASSE #1069 standard for gang shower applications. There was also some confusing language in this code change because the title of the code was "Multiple (gang) showers supplied with a single tempered water supply pipe." A single tempered water pipe means the shower valve is either a push button metering faucet or a simple on/off shower valve with tempered water served by a thermostatic mixing valve meeting the ASSE 1069 Standard. The code change not only added ASSE 1069 thermostatic mixing valves, which are designed for this application, but it also went a little too far when it also included ASSE 1016 pressure balanced, thermostatic or combination balanced pressure/thermostatic mixing valves that must be end use devices and must be supplied with both hot and cold water. The code change passed with a modification, but I believe the language is still confusing and it may need to be cleaned up in the next code cycle. There needs to be two types of gang showers defined.

### **Legionella and Scalding Issues**

There was a code change that was disapproved that dealt with minimum hot water storage temperatures of 140 degrees Fahrenheit to prevent Legionella bacteria growth in water heater storage tanks. There was also a companion code change to require the maximum delivery temperature for hot water systems to be 120 degrees Fahrenheit. This would have required the use of thermostatic mixing valves on just about every hot water system. These code changes were denied because there was insufficient testimony to convince the code committee Legionella or scalding is significant a problem.

There was testimony from the Gas Appliance Manufacturers Association opposing any increase in hot water storage temperatures. The GAMA representative was simply reporting the position of the water heater manufacturers. Water heater manufacturers will probably never recommend setting a water heater above 120 to 125 degrees Fahrenheit, because of scalding issues and all the litigation they have to deal with.

I have always followed the recommendations outlined in an engineering report prepared by the ASPE Research Foundation in 1988, which was headed at the time by Alfred Steele, PE. The

report suggested storing hot water between 135 and 140 degrees Fahrenheit and delivering the hot water to the piping system through a thermostatic mixing valve set at a maximum of 120 degrees Fahrenheit. The report was sent to the ASPE Board in 1988 and the Board issued a position statement supporting this concept. Last year, a member of the ASPE board of directors, testified at the challenge hearings that the current ASPE board of directors has no position on the issue.

What I like about storing water at 140 degrees Fahrenheit and delivering at 120 degrees Fahrenheit is the thermostatic mixing valve buffers the significant temperature swings that are possible with uncirculated hot water tanks because of the stacking effect or the thermal layering that takes place in a water heater tank and it extends the capacity of the water heater while minimizing the Legionella issue. The attempts to specify a minimum storage temperature of hot water in the code and require a maximum delivery temperature using a thermostatic mixing valve were disapproved.

### **Multiple Shower Heads**

There were a couple of really interesting code changes dealing with showers with multiple shower heads. They were the result of a code change from the last code cycle where the proponent wanted to limit each shower to one shower head to conform to the Energy Policy Act of 1992 that limits the maximum flow rate from a shower head to 2.5 GPM. The proponent testified to the fact numerous companies are selling showers with multiple shower heads in violation of the Energy Policy Act which was designed to conserve water. Last year the committee denied the code change to limit showers to just one shower head per valve. This year the proponent proposed to have fixture unit adjustments for multiple-head showers and drain size adjustments for multiple-head showers. The committee denied these changes. The reasoning was that by having the requirements tied to the number of shower heads and body sprays it was unfair since not all shower heads and body sprays flow 2.5 gallons per minute or not all of them spray simultaneously.

### **Grease Interceptors**

The terminology throughout the code dealing with grease traps and grease interceptors was reworded to be consistent with the ASME Standards and eliminate the use of the term "grease trap." They will all be called grease interceptors.

### **The Next Step**

There next step in the process is the final action hearings which will be held at COBO Hall in Detroit, Michigan on September 25th through October 1st, 2005.

Public comments to the International Code Council code changes are due by mid June, 2005. The International Code Council's Annual Meeting is held during the last week of September in Detroit. The final action on all code changes will be voted on at the final action hearings.

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# ASPE NEWS

*American Society of Plumbing Engineers-Eastern Michigan Chapter*

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