PLUMBING SAFETY
Information Bulletin

STANDATA

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PRESSURE–BALANCED or THERMOSTATIC SHOWER VALVES

Subject: Alternative devices for Pressure Balanced Shower Valves

This bulletin has been developed by Safety Services and the Plumbing Technical Council to clarify the requirements for temperature control devices and valves for showers.

Pressure balanced, shower valves are required to prevent sudden changes in the temperature of the water coming from a shower head. An increase or decrease in temperature can be dangerous. Sudden changes in water temperature from a shower can **produce scalding** or it can **cause the user to fall while trying to escape contact with the hot or cold water**. The fall is often as injurious as the effect of the water, whether hot or cold.

Article 2.2.10.7 Shower Valves

1) Except as provided for in Sentence **(2)** and **(3)**, all shower valves supplying fixed-location shower heads shall be individual pressure-balanced or thermostatic-mixing valves conforming to CAN/CSA-B125, "Plumbing Fittings."
2) Individual pressure-balanced or thermostatic-mixing valves shall not be required for showers having a single tempered water supply that is controlled by a master thermostatic-mixing valve conforming to CAN/CSA-B125, "Plumbing Fittings."
3) Deck-mounted, hand-held, flexible-hose spray attachments are exempt from the requirements of **(1)**.
4) Pressure-balanced and thermostatic-mixing valves shall be
    a) designed such that the outlet temperature does not exceed **49° C** (120°F), or
    b) equipped with high-limit stops which shall be adjusted to a maximum hot water setting of **49°C** (120°F).

The Interpretation of **Article 2.2.10.7** for clarification: The objective of the **NPC** is to limit the probability that a person will be exposed an unacceptable risk of injury as the result of contact with hot water in excess of 49**°C** (120°F).

Devices inserted in the shower arm or shower head, which shut off the flow in the event of the water temperature exceeding a set point, do not satisfy the objective of the Code.

Alberta Municipal Affairs

Issue of this STANDATA is authorized by the Administrator

[Original signed]
Carey LaRose

SAFETY CODES COUNCIL