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CONTACT US

International Association
of Plumbing and Mechanical
Officials

4755 E. Philadelphia St.
Ontario, CA 91761 USA
Phone: 1-909-472-4100

Fax: 909-472-4150

E-mail: iapmo@iapmo.org
Website: www.iapmo.org

IAPMO's Codes & Services
Department toll-free phone
number:
1-800-85-IAPMO
1(800-854-2766)
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OFFICIAL MAGAZINE



IAPMO Celebrates 85 Years of Protecting Health and Safety

Talk about a potent cup o' joe.

When a group of Los Angeles plumbing inspectors on a coffee break in 1926 hatched the idea to form an association to deal with plumbing issues in the city, little could they have imagined 85 years later their brainchild would protect the health and safety of roughly half the planet's 6.8 billion people.

Formally founded on May 17, 1926, as the Los Angeles City Plumbing Inspectors Association, what is now the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO) develops and promotes a family of model codes that include the *Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC®)*, the provisions of which form the basis of plumbing codes across the globe.

These original 39 members, though initially focused solely upon their own city, left plenty of room in the mission of their first constitution to grow into the far-reaching international body IAPMO is today: "To advance the latest and most improved methods of sanitation; To promote the welfare of and the harmony between the owner, builder and the craftsman; To accomplish uniformity in the application of the provisions of the ordinances."

Since that time, The IAPMO Group has grown into a multinational operation with offices in 13 nations featuring services spanning from code development, training and education to product testing and certification. In addition to the UPC, IAPMO publishes the *Uniform Mechanical Code (UMC®)*, *Uniform Solar Energy Code (USEC®)* and *Uniform Swimming Pool, Spa and Hot Tube Code (USPC®)* — each of which has been designated an American National Standard by the American National Standards Institute.

"IAPMO's 85 years of protecting public safety through sound plumbing and mechanical practices and products have always been rooted in the selfless dedication and commitment of our members," said IAPMO President Dan Daniels, the 59th person to serve in that role. "Even as much as the association has accomplished in these eight and a half decades, I believe we're still only getting started."

IAPMO CEO GP Russ Chaney added: "We honor IAPMO's founders with each new person, city or nation protected by the Uniform Codes and IAPMO's product certification marks of conformity. We thank them for their foresight in establishing an association capable of reaching so far and so many."

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IAPMO Advances 2012 Uniform Codes at Technical Committee Meetings

Earlier this month IAPMO completed Technical Committee Meetings toward the development of the 2012 editions of the American National Standard designated *Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC®)* and *Uniform Mechanical Code (UMC®)*.

During the May 2-4 meetings at the Downtown Hilton at the Ballpark Hotel in St. Louis, the committees reviewed and moved to accept or reject public comments regarding proposed amendments to the 2009 editions of the Uniform Codes. Proposals address such issues as air admittance valves, manifold systems, vacuum waste drainage systems, concealed gas piping, gas purging and HVAC unit refrigerant port security.

In accordance with the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) accredited code development process, balloting through the *UPC* and *UMC* Technical Committees will begin on May 16 and conclude on June 8. Ballot results will be posted to the IAPMO Website on June 14. The Report on Comments (ROC) will be created from these balloted actions and distributed to committee members on Aug. 22.

All suggested code amendments/additions/deletions published in the ROC shall be reviewed before the public during the *UPC*, *UMC* Technical Meeting Convention at IAPMO's annual Education and Business Conference, Sept, 26-29, in San Antonio, Texas, and voted upon by eligible IAPMO members in attendance at that time.

IAPMO employs a consensus development process accredited by ANSI, gathering the largest assembly of plumbing and mechanical experts in the world at its annual Education and Business Conference and Technical Committee Meetings, enabling anyone — members and non-members alike — to have a voice and a vote on proposed changes to the code. The 2012 editions of the *UPC* and *UMC* will mark the fourth time these codes have been developed in this manner.

IAPMO urges its members and other interested parties to get involved in the code development process to ensure effectiveness in preserving the public health, safety and welfare through strict governance of the Uniform Codes. Installers, plumbing and mechanical officials, the construction industry, engineers and manufacturers all benefit from a cooperative effort in developing codes.

The entire 2012 code cycle timeline, as well as background on IAPMO's ANSI-accredited consensus development process, can be found at www.iapmo.org/Pages/CodeDevelopment.aspx.

For any further questions, please contact Lynne Simnick, IAPMO director of Code Development, at (909) 472-4110 or lynne.simnick@iapmo.org.

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IAPMO Hires New Director of Standards Development

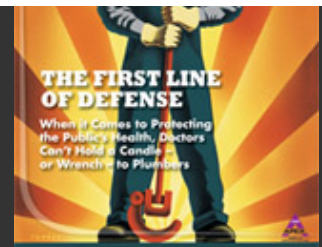
IAPMO has hired Abraham I. Murra as director of Standards Development.

A native of Cartagena, Colombia, Murra immigrated to Toronto, Canada, in 2000 to work as a construction industry consultant for two years before joining the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) as project manager, Sustainability Standards, where he managed 16 national and bi-national committees of more than 300 professional volunteers to develop and maintain technical standards for plumbing products. Recently Murra led committees developing standards on water conservation, water reuse and wastewater.

A Civil Engineering graduate of Universidad de los Andes in Bogotá, Murra also holds a Master of Engineering (Civil) degree from Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. Prior to emigrating from Colombia, Murra worked from 1990-2000 as a construction project manager and later general manager at Azahara Constructors in Bogotá.

"Abraham's considerable experience managing standards along with his familiarity with the applicable products and our industry as a whole are a perfect fit for IAPMO," said Ohannes Dembekjian, senior director of Continuous Compliance for IAPMO R&T. "IAPMO's standards are in capable hands."

Murra will oversee development and maintenance of IAPMO's full line of standards, including the ANSI accredited Z124 consensus standards for plastic plumbing products, Z1000 series for waste



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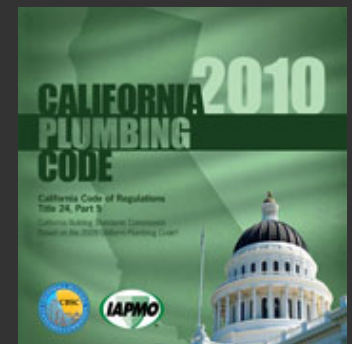
A subscription to Official is just one of the many benefits available to members of IAPMO, which include substantial discounts on most IAPMO publications and educational programs, the opportunity to update and improve the *UPC* and *UMC*, participation in local IAPMO chapters and an invitation to attend IAPMO's Annual Education and Business Conference. The conference offers superb educational seminars. Find out more at www.iapmo.org.

DW&BP MAGAZINE



Drinking Water & Backflow Prevention Magazine subscriptions: 1-888-FOR-DWBP (888-367-3927)

Subscriptions and/or advertising: 703-934-0115
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The 2010 California Code books

disposal products, IAPMO's Trailer, Material, Property and Installation standards and IAPMO Guide Criteria.

"I'm delighted to join IAPMO and be part of this amazing group of people," Murra said. "I'm looking forward to working with all of them and helping IAPMO further its success."

For more information on IAPMO Standards, direct your Web browser to www.iapmostandards.org or contact Murra at (909) 472-4106 or abraham.murra@iapmort.org.

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'Dirty Jobs' Host Testifies Before Senate About Need for Skilled Workers

Mike Rowe, the host of "Dirty Jobs" on the Discovery Channel, testified before the Senate Commerce Committee recently about the need for a national campaign to address the widening gap between the need for skilled plumbing and manufacturing workers and the pool of Americans able to perform those important jobs.

Rowe began his May 11 testimony by sharing a memory of helping his grandfather fix a plumbing problem when Rowe was 12 years old, and then, 30 years later while living in San Francisco, having a plumbing issue resolved and never even meeting the person who helped him.

"It occurred to me that I had become disconnected from a lot of things that used to fascinate me," he said. "I no longer thought about where my food came from, or how my electricity worked, or who fixed my pipes, or who made my clothes."

Thanks to the emphasis on higher education, vocational arts have "all but vanished" from high schools and skilled labor jobs tend to be seen as "vocational consolation prizes," he said. Society's attitude toward skilled labor has led to a skills gap despite high unemployment rates nationwide, Rowe said.

"Right now, American manufacturing is struggling to fill 200,000 vacant positions," he said. "There are 450,000 openings in trades, transportation and utilities. The skills gap is real, and it's getting wider. In Alabama, a third of all skilled tradesmen are over 55. They're retiring fast, and no one is there to replace them."

Rowe submitted written testimony that included several initiatives designed to close the gap, and also announced a Discovery Channel initiative called "Discover Your Skills" that is looking to change the public's perception.

"I encourage you to support these efforts, because closing The Skills Gap doesn't just benefit future tradesmen and the companies desperate to hire them. It benefits people like me, and anyone else who shares my addiction to paved roads, reliable bridges, heating, air conditioning, and indoor plumbing," he said.

[Click here](#) to read Rowe's complete testimony and for video and related links and articles.

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EPA Announces Next Step on Air Toxics Standards for Boilers and Certain Incinerators

Agency allows time to seek and review additional public input on new standards

As previously announced, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is seeking additional public feedback and gathering more information on the final standards for boilers and certain solid waste incinerators that were issued in February 2011. These additional opportunities for public input will ensure that any final standard will be informed by input and feedback from key stakeholders, including the public, industry, and public health communities.

Input through the public comment process already resulted in dramatic cuts in the cost of implementation, while maintaining maximum public health benefits, under the rule announced in February. As part of the reconsideration process, EPA will issue a stay postponing the effective date of the standards for major source boilers and commercial and industrial solid waste incinerators to allow the agency to continue to seek additional public comment before an updated rule is proposed. This process of careful consideration of public comments, and close attention to both costs and benefits, is consistent with the president's directives with respect to regulation, as set out in executive order 13563, issued on January 18.

Following the April 2010 proposals, the agency received more than 4,800 comments from businesses and communities, including a significant amount of information that industry had not provided prior to the proposals. Based on this input, EPA made extensive revisions to the standards, and in December

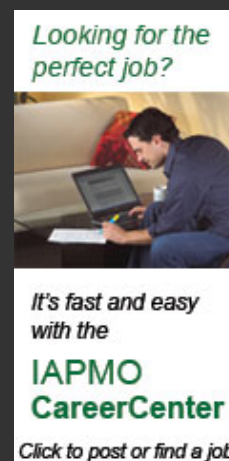
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2010 requested additional time for review to ensure the public's input was fully addressed. The court only granted EPA 30 days, resulting in the February 2011 final rules. The agency is reconsidering the standards because the public did not have sufficient opportunity to comment on these changes, and, as a result, further public review and feedback is needed.

EPA will accept additional data and information on these standards until July 15, 2011.

More information: <http://www.epa.gov/airquality/combustion>.

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EPA Releases Searchable Website for Drinking Water Violations

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has announced improvements to the availability and usability of drinking water data in the Enforcement and Compliance History Online (ECHO) tool. ECHO now allows the public to search to see whether drinking water in their community met the standards required under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), which is designed to safeguard the nation's drinking water and protect people's health. SDWA requires states to report drinking water information periodically to EPA. ECHO also includes a new feature identifying drinking water systems that have had serious noncompliance.

"Today's improvements to EPA's ECHO tool support President Obama's directive to make it easier for the public to search for and use the information we collect," said Cynthia Giles, assistant administrator for EPA's Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance. "Improved access to information about our nation's drinking water is critical for communities, nonprofit organizations, public water suppliers, regulators and industry that all have a stake in ensuring the water in our communities is safe and healthy to drink."

The new Safe Drinking Water Act information on EPA's website provides:

- Users with information about whether their drinking water has exceeded drinking water standards.
- A serious violators report that lists all water suppliers with serious noncompliance.
- EPA's 2009 National Public Water Systems Compliance Report, which is a national summary of compliance and enforcement at public drinking water systems.

The serious violators list identifies water systems that have had serious noncompliance due to a combination of unresolved violations. The data in ECHO shows that overall, the number of systems identified as serious violators continues to decrease due to lead agencies, in most cases the states, more efficiently addressing serious noncompliance. Currently, approximately 4 percent of all public water systems are considered serious violators. Through increased oversight and enforcement efforts, EPA will continue to work to reduce the rate of noncompliance and the number of public water systems that are serious violators.

Under the SDWA, water suppliers are required to promptly inform customers if drinking water has been contaminated by something that could cause immediate illness or impact people's health. If such a violation occurs, the water system will announce the violation and provide information about the potential health effects, steps the system is taking to correct the violation, and the need to use alternative water supplies (such as boiled or bottled water) until the problem is corrected. Systems inform customers about violations of less immediate concern in the first water bill sent after the violation, in a Consumer Confidence Report, or by mail.

EPA's enforcement goals for clean water include working with states and tribes to ensure clean drinking water for all communities and improving transparency by making facility compliance data available to the public. The release of drinking water violations data in ECHO advances these goals and creates additional incentives for government agencies to improve their reporting of drinking water violations and increase efforts to address those violations.

Safe Drinking Water Act search page: http://www.epa-echo.gov/echo/compliance_report_sdwa.html

Enforcement and Compliance History Online tool: <http://www.epa-echo.gov/echo/>.

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Architecture Billings Index Tumbles Nearly Three Points

Drops to lowest mark since October 2010

Source: www.aia.org

Following several months of relatively positive business conditions, the Architecture Billings Index

WATER FOR LIFE
2005-2015



(ABI) fell almost three points in April. As a leading economic indicator of construction activity, the ABI reflects the approximate nine to twelve month lag time between architecture billings and construction spending. The American Institute of Architects (AIA) reported the April ABI score was 47.6, a precipitous decrease from a reading of 50.5 the previous month. This score reflects a sharp decrease in demand for design services (any score above 50 indicates an increase in billings). The new projects inquiry index was 55.0, down from a mark of 58.7 in March, but still at a healthy level.

"The first question is whether this drop is a sign of an industry wide reversal in demand for design services or a bump in the road," said AIA Chief Economist, Kermit Baker, PhD, Hon. AIA. "The fact that most construction projects funded under the federal stimulus program have completed their design work, the anxiety around the possibility of a shutdown in the federal government in April, as well as the unusually severe weather in the Southeast had something to do with this falloff. However, the majority of firms are reporting at least one stalled project in-house because of the continued difficulty in obtaining financing. That issue continues to be the main roadblock to recovery."

Key April ABI highlights:

- Regional averages: Northeast (51.2), Midwest (51.1), South (48.3), West (47.7)
- Sector index breakdown: multi-family residential (53.9), commercial / industrial (49.9), institutional (45.9) mixed practice (45.2)
- Project inquiries index: 55.0

About the AIA Architecture Billings Index

The Architecture Billings Index (ABI), produced by the AIA Economics & Market Research Group, is a leading economic indicator that provides an approximately nine to twelve month glimpse into the future of nonresidential construction spending activity. The diffusion indexes contained in the full report are derived from a monthly "Work-on-the-Boards" survey that is sent to a panel of AIA member-owned firms. Participants are asked whether their billings increased, decreased, or stayed the same in the month that just ended as compared to the prior month, and the results are then compiled into the ABI. These monthly results are also seasonally adjusted to allow for comparison to prior months. The monthly ABI index scores are centered around 50, with scores above 50 indicating an aggregate increase in billings, and scores below 50 indicating a decline. The regional and sector data are formulated using a three-month moving average. More information on the ABI and the analysis of its relationship to construction activity can be found in the White Paper Architecture Billings as a Leading Indicator of Construction: Analysis of the Relationship Between a Billings Index and Construction Spending on the AIA web site.

About The American Institute of Architects

For over 150 years, members of the American Institute of Architects have worked with each other and their communities to create more valuable, healthy, secure, and sustainable buildings and cityscapes. Members adhere to a code of ethics and professional conduct to ensure the highest standards in professional practice. Embracing their responsibility to serve society, AIA members engage civic and government leaders and the public in helping find needed solutions to pressing issues facing our communities, institutions, nation and world. Visit www.aia.org.

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Deadline Approaching for IAPMO Essay Scholarship Contest

Essays need to be turned in by June 1!

Following up on the resounding success of last year's inaugural competition, the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO), a worldwide organization of dedicated professionals striving to make our planet a safer and healthier place in which to live, will again sponsor an essay competition awarding scholarships to five young people affiliated with IAPMO and many of its industry partners.

Participants in this year's contest will submit essays expressing their thoughts on "Why Should Access to Safe, Clean Drinking Water be a Basic Human Right?" As IAPMO's *Uniform Plumbing Code®* serves as the basis of codes that protect one half of the world's population through safe installation and governance of plumbing systems around the globe, the topic chosen by the IAPMO Board of Directors succinctly reflects IAPMO's 84-year-old mission.

"There is no more obvious or pressing need to humankind than that of potable water free of unhealthy contaminants and sickness-inducing pathogens," said Dan Daniels, president of IAPMO. "While this need is obvious, the question of what constitutes a human right seemed like fertile ground in which bright young minds could explore an issue that is integral to IAPMO and our industry."

IAPMO's chapters are strong and growing, its members are the leaders in industry and the government, and the association recently had a huge influx of student/apprentice members. But there are troubling signs on the horizon; chapters are getting collectively older. While there are new inspectors, contractors

and engineers joining the ranks, the vast majority of members who came out of the baby boom are now reaching retirement age.

It is with these thoughts in mind that the IAPMO Board of Directors has chosen to establish an Scholarship based on an Essay Competition to attract young people to IAPMO and reinforce the importance of plumbing and mechanical systems in our collective battle for sustainability.

The competition is open to members – and their children – of IAPMO, PHCC, MCAA, the UA, ASPE and ASSE who are currently enrolled in a high school, community college, trade school, four-year accredited college or university, or working in an apprentice program.

Submitted essays must be completely original and a minimum of 1,000 words. The essay entry deadline is June 1, 2011, via e-mail, fax or mail to IAPMO World Headquarters. The winning essay will be announced next September at the 2011 IAPMO Education and Business Conference in San Antonio. The essay awarded first prize will be published in the award-winning *Official* magazine and on the IAPMO Website and its author will receive \$500 and a one-year paid membership to IAPMO. Second and third place winners will receive \$250 and \$100, respectively, and also be published in *Official* and on the IAPMO Website.

Individuals who meet the qualifications to submit an essay to the competition should include your name, your school's name and yours or your parent's professional affiliation with one of the qualifying trade associations or union locals. All essays should be sent to Ms. Gabriella Davis at IAPMO by e-mail at gaby.davis@iapmo.org; by fax at (909) 472-4222; or by standard mail to her attention at IAPMO, 4755 E. Philadelphia St., Ontario, CA 91761.

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I-Connection Electronic Newsletter

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Industry Calendar

NFPA 2011 Conference & Expo
June 12-15, 2011
Boston, Massachusetts
www.nfpa.org

2011 ASHRAE Annual Conference
June 25-29, 2011
Montreal, Quebec Canada
www.ashrae.org

World Plumbing Conference
Sept. 7-11, 2011
Edinburgh, Scotland
www.wpc2011.co.uk

Plumbing + Hydronics Expo
Sept. 15-17, 2011
Baltimore, MD
www.PHExpo.com

82nd Annual Education and Business Conference
Sept. 25-29, 2011
San Antonio, Texas
www.iapmo.org/

Upcoming Seminars

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June 10, 2011	Missoula, MT	2009 Uniform Plumbing Code - Montana Amendments
June 18, 2011	Ames, IA	Plumbing and HVAC Continuing Education for State of Iowa License
June 27, 2011	Juneau, AK	2009 Uniform Plumbing Code - Code Changes
June 28, 2011	Juneau, AK	2009 IMC - Code Changes
August 25, 2011	Ontario, CA	2010 CPC & CMC - Code Overview
August 26, 2011	Ontario, CA	2010 CPC & CMC - Code Overview
August 29, 2011	Albuquerque, NM	2009 Uniform Plumbing Code - Code Changes
August 30, 2011	Albuquerque, NM	2009 Uniform Mechanical Code - Code Changes
September 17, 2011	Council Bluffs, IA	Plumbing and HVAC Continuing Education for State of Iowa License

September 25-29,
2011

San Antonio, TX

IAPMO 82nd Annual Education & Business Conference

IAPMO is an approved provider for Continuing Education by USGBC, IACET, AIA and many local organizations and jurisdictions. Contact the IAPMO Training staff to register at 1-877-427-6601, or go to our website <http://www.iapmo.org/Pages/Seminar.aspx> to register online. New training dates are added periodically!



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