



February 2016 | HEADLINES

- » IAPMO Assists Updating of OMB Circular; Uniform Codes Exceed Requirements in Revised Version
- » Assembly Consideration Session at IAPMO Conference
- » EPA Releases Update on Flint, MI. Response Activities
- » New Construction Starts in December Improve 4 Percent; Annual Total for 2015 Climbs 8 Percent to \$645.5 Billion
- » Michigan Hotel Evacuated After Guest Contracts Deadly Bacteria
- » IAPMO Enjoys Successful Showing at KBIS 2016, IBS Shows
- » IAPMO India Promotes Singh to Manager of Marketing and Business Development
- » Training & Industry Calendar

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:
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OFFICIAL MAGAZINE

IAPMO Assists Updating of OMB Circular; Uniform Codes Exceed Requirements in Revised Version

IAPMO® is proud to have submitted comments, participated in public hearings, and worked with the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) throughout the process of updating Circular A-119: Federal Participation in the Development and Use of Voluntary Consensus Standards and in Conformity Assessment Activities. The revised Circular can be found here: <http://cqrcengage.com/iapmo/IAPMOpolicyhub>

Not all code and standard bodies adhere to the strict open consensus process, but as an ANSI Audited Designator IAPMO's *Uniform Codes* exceed the consensus and balance requirements set by OMB throughout the entire code development process — from inception to final vote.

The policies of Circular A-119 are intended to encourage federal agencies to benefit from the expertise of the private sector, promote federal agency participation in standards bodies to support the creation of standards that are useable by federal agencies, and minimize reliance on government-unique standards where an existing standard would meet the federal government's objective. Circular A-119 was issued in 1993 and last revised in 1998.

Many voluntary consensus standards are appropriate or adaptable for the government's purposes. The use of such standards, whenever practicable and appropriate, is intended to achieve the following goals:

- a. Eliminate the cost to the government of developing its own standards and decrease

the cost of goods procured and the burden of complying with agency regulation.

- b. Provide incentives and opportunities to establish standards that serve national needs.
- c. Encourage long-term growth for U.S. enterprises and promote efficiency and economic competition through harmonization of standards.
- d. Further the policy of reliance upon the private sector to supply government needs for goods and services.

IAPMO and other industry partners recommended that OMB expand the Circular's requirements for openness, balance, due process, and an independent appeals process. In the previous Circular, these terms had neither an explanation nor definition.

"These revisions are a victory for all who follow and adhere to the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) process, particularly those who have obtained the ANSI Audited Designator Status," said Dain Hansen, Senior Vice President of Government Relations at The IAPMO Group. "The biggest beneficiary, however, is the American people, who will be further protected from substandard products and processes infiltrating the federal government as it works to promote the general welfare."

[<Return to top>](#)

Assembly Consideration Session at IAPMO Conference

One of the many benefits of the IAPMO consensus code development process is the ability for anyone and everyone to have a voice and a vote. This September, you may have that chance during the Assembly Consideration Session when the Assembly will discuss the Plumbing and Mechanical Technical Committees' actions on the proposals to the 2018 editions of the *Uniform Plumbing Code*[®] and *Uniform Mechanical Code*[®]. Members entitled to vote during this session, and on other IAPMO business matters during conference week, must be a voting member in accordance with the IAPMO Bylaws as of March 31, 2016.

The 2016 annual Education and Business Conference will be held Sept. 25-29 at The Hyatt Regency in Albuquerque, NM. The Assembly Consideration Session will take place on Tuesday, Sept. 27. For more information, please visit IAPMO's Website, www.iapmo.org or contact Lynne Simnick, director of Code Development, at (909) 472-4110 or at lynne.simnick@iapmo.org.

[<Return to top>](#)

EPA Releases Update on Flint, MI. Response Activities

EPA teams are collecting drinking water samples from Flint homeowners to better understand how lead is behaving in the plumbing in their homes and to ensure proper corrosion control is being restored in the drinking water system in order to lower lead levels. EPA community involvement and sampling teams continue to meet with residents to explain the sampling process and answer questions.

Samples will be sent to an EPA laboratory for analysis. The quality assured results of the samples collected by EPA will be shared with individual homeowners and the results will be posted on EPA's website. EPA will also ensure removal of any personal information from the results and will post the data as soon as it becomes available.

Last week, EPA issued a Safe Drinking Water Act Emergency Order to ensure the state



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BPPS MAGAZINE



Backflow Prevention & Plumbing Standards (BPPS) magazine is the only monthly trade publication dedicated to the backflow prevention and plumbing industries. BPPS is specifically designed to address each of our audiences - including contractors, plumbers, sprinkler fitters, irrigation personnel, backflow prevention assembly installers and testers, water utilities, water operators, inspectors and manufacturers - in each and every issue.

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and city immediately take actions necessary to protect public health. The Safe Drinking Water Act Emergency Order requires the state of Michigan and city of Flint to take a series of immediate steps to address the drinking water contamination in Flint.

EPA recommends that residents continue to use filters or drink bottled water. EPA also recommends that residents, if they have concerns, contact their local health provider to have themselves or their children tested for lead. EPA will continue to work with the city of Flint to monitor drinking water quality and to ensure the public is receiving up to date information.

EPA information is available at www.epa.gov/flint and Spanish language information is being provided online.

[<Return to top>](#)

New Construction Starts in December Improve 4 Percent; Annual Total for 2015 Climbs 8 Percent to \$645.5 Billion

New construction starts in December advanced 4% to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$591.6 billion, according to Dodge Data & Analytics. The December gain follows a 5% decline in November, and brings total construction activity back close to the amount that was reported in October. December showed moderate increases for each of the three main construction sectors – nonresidential building, residential building, and nonbuilding construction (public works and electric utilities). For 2015 as a whole, total construction starts climbed 8% to \$645.5 billion. This continues the pattern of moderate expansion for total construction starts registered during the previous three years – 2012, up 12%; 2013, up 11%; and 2014, up 9%.

The December statistics produced a reading of 125 for the Dodge Index (2000=100), compared to a revised 120 for November. For all of 2015, the Dodge Index averaged 137. "The construction start statistics reveal continued expansion for construction activity during 2015, although the path over the course of the year was not smooth," stated Robert A. Murray, chief economist for Dodge Data & Analytics. "A strong first half of 2015 was followed by a 20% loss of momentum in the third quarter and then a slight 1% rebound in the fourth quarter, as the expansion began to show that it was getting back on track. Several factors contributed to the early 2015 strength – more growth for the commercial and institutional segments of nonresidential building, gradual improvement for single family housing alongside the continued rise by multifamily housing, and a surge of electric utility and gas plant projects that featured the start of several massive liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminals in the Gulf Coast region."

"The third quarter of 2015 witnessed a steep 30% drop for nonresidential building, as the manufacturing building category and in particular energy-related projects fell sharply," Murray continued. "In addition, the commercial and institutional building segments of nonresidential building settled back, as earlier gains may have overshot their underlying growth trend while uncertainty in the economic and political environment dampened investment in general. Residential building slipped 3% in the third quarter, due to flattening activity for single family housing, while nonbuilding construction plunged 32% as the result of a sharp reduction by the electric utility and gas plant category. On the plus side, the fourth quarter of 2015 showed the commercial and institutional segments of nonresidential building beginning to pick up the pace once again, and supportive market fundamentals (occupancies and rents) should help renewed growth for these segments going into 2016. The public works portion of nonbuilding construction also began to pick up the pace towards the end of 2015, and should be aided by the December passage of fiscal 2016 federal appropriations as well as the new \$305 billion five-year federal transportation act (the Fixing America's

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Surface Transportation Act)."

Read the full release: <http://construction.com/about-us/press/New-Construction-Starts-in-December-Improve-4-Percent.asp>

[<Return to top>](#)

Michigan Hotel Evacuated After Guest Contracts Deadly Bacteria

Officials from Lac Vieux Desert Resort Casino in upstate Michigan say the Legionella bacterium, which causes Legionnaire's disease, has been found in the resort's hotel. After one guest contracted the illness, they evacuated the building. Water samples from the hotel tested positive for the bacteria. Officials say they have already begun sanitizing, and will not re-open until they are confident it's safe. Legionnaire's disease is a water-borne bacterium that transmits through mist. It's most commonly found in buildings with complex water systems, like hotels. It can't spread person-to-person. The outbreak could have serious economic repercussions for this small community. The closure could mean big losses for the resort as winter tourism brings in much of their business.

[<Return to top>](#)

IAPMO Enjoys Successful Showing at KBIS 2016, IBS Shows

IAPMO R&T, North America's premier third-party certification body for plumbing and mechanical products, IAPMO R&T Lab, IAPMO EGS, IAPMO's Uniform Evaluation Service (UES), and IAPMO's Institute of Building Technology (IBT) recently concluded the 2016 Kitchen and Bath Industry Show (KBIS) and the co-located NAHB International Builders' Show (IBS) in Las Vegas. KBIS is one of the largest trade events in the United States, bringing together kitchen and bath dealers, designers, architects, remodelers, wholesalers, and custom builders for residential and commercial kitchens and bathrooms.

The IAPMO Group booths, in the North and Central Halls, were busy as representatives promoted a comprehensive menu of product testing and conformity assessment services available throughout North America – the United States, Canada and Mexico – the only provider accredited to offer such coverage.

"As always, we have just concluded another successful year at the Kitchen and Bath Industry Show in Las Vegas with a tremendous outcome," said Dave Viola, IAPMO's Chief Operating Officer and Senior Vice President of Business Strategy. "IAPMO R&T's booth was very busy with plumbing industry professionals stopping by and inquiring about our *Uniform Plumbing Code*® (UPC) certification. Many manufacturers also took the opportunity to sign up with our UPC certification program. It was a great feeling to know that after many years in the plumbing industry, our UPC certification continues to be the certification mark of choice in the industry."

IAPMO UES, widely recognized as the most efficient and credible provider of code reports for building products, encountered great interest in its services for manufacturers seeking rapid speed to market for their innovative new building products.

"We were thrilled with the response UES received at the 2016 IBS, which far exceeded our expectations," Viola said. "Our reception couldn't have been better, and the booth traffic was the best we've ever seen at an IBS. It looks like 2016 is shaping up to be a wonderful year for the building industry."

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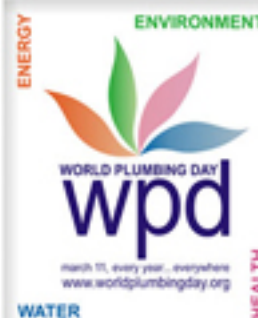
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The Institute of Building Technology (IBT), a division of IAPMO R&T Lab, generated great interest with its ability to provide testing services to a wide variety of building materials.

"This was the first time for IBT at KBIS/IBS, and the response was tremendous," Viola said.

KBIS 2017 and IBS will be held Jan. 10-12, 2017, at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, Fla. For more information, direct your web browser to www.kbis.com.

IAPMO's certification marks of conformity carry the organization's more than 70-year reputation for integrity and accountability and are readily recognized throughout North America. For more details about IAPMO's services, please visit www.iapmo.org.

[<Return to top>](#)

IAPMO India Promotes Singh to Manager of Marketing and Business Development

IAPMO India, the code development and product/personnel certification arm of The IAPMO Group in India, has promoted Anjali Singh to Manager of Marketing and Business Development.

Singh joined IAPMO India in July after having previously worked with the organization as a consultant the past two years.

"Anjali has always impressed me with her quick ability and her willingness to learn and improve on her knowledge and skills," said Neeta Sharma, Managing Director of IAPMO India. "She comes through with solutions based on strong, meaningful information and sound judgment to help in the preparation and implementation of projects. Her sincere, committed, and dedicated approach toward work leads her to this additional responsibility and position as Manager of Marketing and Business Development.

"I wish her the best and look forward to her working and growing with IAPMO for years to come."

[<Return to top>](#)

I-Connection Electronic Newsletter

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Industry Calendar

WE•Stand Technical Committee Meeting
April 5-6, 2016
Ontario, CA
www.iapmo.org

UPC & UMC Technical Committee Meeting
May 2-6, 2016
Denver, CO
www.iapmo.org

Fifth International Emerging Technology Symposium
May 10-11, 2016
Rosemont, IL
www.iapmo.org

87th Annual Education and Business Conference
September 25-29, 2016
Albuquerque, NM
www.iapmo.org

Upcoming Seminars

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ARIZONA SEMINARS		
March 7-11, 2016	Phoenix, AZ	Backflow Prevention Assembly Tester 40 hr Course and Exam
March 11, 2016	Phoenix, AZ	Cross Connection Control Recertification - 8 hr Course and Exam
April 11-15, 2016	Phoenix, AZ	Backflow Prevention Assembly Tester 40 hr Course and Exam
April 15, 2016	Phoenix, AZ	Cross Connection Control Recertification - 8 hr Course and Exam
CALIFORNIA SEMINARS		
Feb. 29 - Mar. 4, 2016	Ontario, CA	ASSE 5110 Backflow Tester 40 Hour Class and Exam
March 5, 2016	Ontario, CA	Cross Connection Control Recertification - 8 hr Course and Exam
March 7-11, 2016	Ontario, CA	ASSE 5110 Backflow Tester 40 Hour Class and Exam
COLORADO SEMINARS		
February 22-26, 2016	Alamosa, CO	ASSE 5110 Backflow Tester 40 Hour Class and Exam
February 25-26, 2016	Alamosa, CO	Cross Connection Control Recertification - 12 hr course and Exam
March 7-11, 2016	Longmont, CO	ASSE 5110 Backflow Tester 40 Hour Class and Exam
LOUISIANA SEMINARS		
February 22-26, 2016	Kinder, LA	ASSE 5110 Backflow Tester 40 Hour Class and Exam
MASSACHUSETTS SEMINARS		
Session 8 Training now available - click here for the schedule!		
MINNESOTA SEMINARS		
March 14-18, 2016	Moorhead, MN	ASSE 5110 Backflow Tester 40 Hour Class and Exam
April 18-22, 2016	Anoka, MN	ASSE 5110 Backflow Tester 40 Hour Class and Exam
NEW JERSEY SEMINARS		
February 6, 2016	Pennsauken, NJ	Cross Connection Control Recertification - 8 hr Course and Exam
February 15-19, 2016	Pennsauken, NJ	ASSE 5110 Backflow Tester 40 Hour Class and Exam
February 20, 2016	Pennsauken, NJ	Cross Connection Control Recertification - 8 hr Course and Exam
<p>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!</p>		
