

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Geoff Bilau  
(909) 472-4218  
geoff.bilau@iapmo.org

### **IAPMO Leads Plumbing Trade Colleagues in Formation of Water Efficiency Research Coalition**

**Washington, D.C. (Jan. 6, 2009)** – In a formal ceremony Tuesday at the headquarters of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, representatives from the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO) and four other plumbing trade associations signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to form a Water Efficiency Research Coalition.

The coalition, conceived by The IAPMO Group, seeks “to provide a mechanism for voluntary cooperation on plumbing-related research projects that pertain to water efficiency,” according to the MoU. It initiates a spirit of cooperation between charter and future coalition members “to find common ground to share technical, scientific, legislative and regulatory information that will result in an organized and systematic approach towards the development of comprehensive research programs.” The goal of such research would be the advancement of water efficient and sustainable plumbing products, systems and practices.

Joining IAPMO in the coalition are: the Alliance for Water Efficiency (AWE); the International Code Council (ICC); the Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors – National Association (PHCC); and the Plumbing Manufacturers Institute (PMI).

“We, like the other organizations represented here today, recognize that plumbing systems are complex,” said Pete DeMarco, IAPMO director of Special Programs. “To keep these systems working properly, decisions on further reductions in the amounts of water that we currently use today must be based on good science if we are to avoid problems that could tarnish and jeopardize the entire water efficiency movement.”

DeMarco explained that there comes a point when plumbing systems will fail due to lack of water in the system and that the research conducted by the coalition “will be structured to ensure that we do not unintentionally create performance problems as we seek to improve efficiency.”

EPA Administrator Stephen L. Johnson orchestrated the signing at the agency’s Pennsylvania Avenue offices, calling it an “historic day for water efficiency.” Johnson delivered the keynote address at last summer’s International Emerging Technologies Symposium, co-convened by IAPMO and the World Plumbing Council in Chicago. Also in attendance for the signing was EPA Assistant Administrator for Water Ben Grumbles. The EPA launched its own WaterSense program, promoting water efficiency and enhancing the market for water-efficient products, programs and practices, in 2006.

“We all need to thank IAPMO, not only for conceiving the idea, but for taking the initiative to move the idea forward,” said Mary Ann Dickinson, executive director of AWE. “AWE is pleased and excited to be the organization that will coordinate the coalition to make this important water efficiency research a reality.”

The non-binding MoU will be reviewed at least once a year in order to determine if it should be continued, modified or terminated. It was signed by: G.P. Russ Chaney, executive director of IAPMO; Dickinson, representing AWE; Jay Peters, executive director Plumbing, Mechanical and Fuel Gas for ICC; D.L. “Ike” Casey, executive vice president of PHCC; and Barbara C. Higgins, executive director of PMI.

“By pooling our resources, we believe we can generate a much better, more beneficial research program,” Chaney said. “Aligning industry efforts for the first time gets everybody pulling in the same direction; and that direction is the path to the most efficient, yet safe and healthy plumbing systems possible.”

###

*Sponsor of the Uniform Codes, IAPMO – The International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials – works in concert with government and industry for safe, sanitary plumbing and mechanical systems. Learn more about IAPMO at [www.iapmo.org](http://www.iapmo.org).*

Ph: 909.472.4100 • Fax: 909.472.4150 • [www.iapmo.org](http://www.iapmo.org)

**International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials**  
5001 East Philadelphia Street • Ontario, California – USA 91761-2816

