IAPMO Commends House Passage of WaterSense Legislation as part of H.R. 8, the North American Energy Security and Infrastructure Act of 2015

IAPMO® applauds the U.S. House of Representatives for passage of H.R. 8, the North American Energy Security and Infrastructure Act of 2015. The House voted, 249-174, in favor of this comprehensive energy package including many provisions relating to the electric grid, energy-efficiency provisions, heating and cooling standards, as well as WaterSense® authorization.

The legislation can be read in its entirety here.

While WaterSense has been an extremely successful program with heavy private-sector support for nearly a decade, this legislation takes the important step of officially authorizing the program at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Under this bill, the EPA would also be responsible for establishing a certification procedure, overseeing third-party certifications, and preventing misuse of the label in the marketplace. Another important piece of the WaterSense provision is ensuring that there are no conflicting or duplicative requirements between the Department of Energy's ENERGY STAR® program and the EPA's WaterSense program.

"This legislation requires the EPA to use sound science and economic feasibility when updating standards, and ensures the program has both quality oversight and the flexibility sought by the industries that participate," said Rep. Bob Latta (R-OH), who
introduced the WaterSense language as an amendment to H.R. 8 during committee action. "As WaterSense becomes more popular and effective, this legislation enables consumers and manufacturers to continue to benefit from affordable, water conserving options."

Modeled after ENERGY STAR program, WaterSense is a labeling and recognition program that seeks to protect the future of the U.S. water supply by offering consumers a simple way to make product-purchasing choices that conserve water with no sacrifice to quality or performance. Services and products earning the WaterSense label have been certified to be at least 20 percent more efficient than average products in the same category without affecting performance. Such products include toilets, urinals, showerheads, bathroom faucets, landscape irrigation controllers and pre-rinse spray valves.

IAPMO R&T is the leading provider of WaterSense product certification in the nation and has been a U.S. EPA-licensed provider, accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), since 2007, certifying the first high-efficiency toilet (HET) to the standard in April of that year. To date, IAPMO R&T, part of The IAPMO Group, has certified thousands of such water-efficient products to the WaterSense specifications.

"IAPMO has long been a staunch supporter and protector of the EPA's WaterSense program since its inception in 2006," said Dain Hansen, senior vice president of Government Relations at The IAPMO Group. "We have supported and lobbied for the federal authorization of WaterSense in many forms in the past and will continue to do so until such language is enacted into law."

The energy package now moves to the Senate for consideration. For more information, contact Hansen at (202) 445-7514 or dain.hansen@iapmo.org.

IAPMO® has revised several dates in the timeline toward the development of the 2018 editions of the American National Standard designated Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC®) and Uniform Mechanical Code (UMC®).

The entire revised 2018 code cycle timeline, as well as background on IAPMO's ANSI-accredited consensus development process, can be found here.

IAPMO employs a consensus development process accredited by the American National Standards Institute, 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 2018 editions of the UPC and UMC will mark the sixth 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.
Building Innovation 2016, Achieving a Resilient Future is the theme for National Institute of Building Sciences’ Annual Conference

In less than a month the one event that gathers all of the building industry players together to collaborate on important industry-wide solutions. Building Innovation 2016: The National Institute of Building Sciences Fourth Annual Conference & Expo, January 11-15, 2016, at the Renaissance Arlington Capital View Hotel in Metro Washington, D.C., is set to coordinate the efforts of all disciplines toward Achieving a Resilient Future. The International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO) is the Conference's Technical Programs Sponsor.

High-performance and resilient communities and buildings are on the horizon, but coordination and collaboration across all disciplines is required to cross the finish line. The National Institute of Building Sciences serves as the convener of the U.S. building industry. Consistent with its Congressional establishment and its role as an authoritative source of innovative solutions for the built environment, the Institute brings together the thought leaders, the implementers and the influencers within the industry's vast network of voices.

There are a wide range of opportunities for IAPMO members to gain valuable benefits from attending this unique Conference. Building Innovation 2016 offers IAPMO members the opportunity to:

- Learn about the important role tools, technology, people and processes play in the achievement of high-performance communities and facilities during Track One: Guidance and Groundwork — People, Process, Tools and Technologies to Reach Resilience
- Explore the concept of incentivization and find out how an enhanced vision of incentives for investment in resilience can facilitate achievement of resilient communities and facilities in Track Two: Preparation and Performance — Realizing Resilience through Incentives
- Witness an overview of a high-performance project firsthand from the project team's perspective and hear the Institute's vision for the industry's future during the Plenary Symposium — Achieving a Resilient Future
- Hear about the new research by healthcare providers and building industry representatives that address challenges in the provision of high-performance facilities at the Academy for Healthcare Infrastructure 2016 Forum
- Influence the education of future industry professionals at the Building Science Education in North America Workshop — Building Bridges and Bridging the Gap
- Learn about new tools for the construction of high-performance buildings at the High Performance Building Council meeting
- Discover how quality credentialing programs can enhance achievement of community goals at the Commercial Workforce Credentialing Council meeting
- Find out how off-site construction technology and practice is assisting the achievement of project goals on safety, sustainability, project certainty and schedule at the at the Off-Site Construction Council meeting
- Gain insights on developments in the use of technology to advance achievement
of building industry goals at the buildingSMART alliance® meeting
• Find out about the latest resources now available on the BRIK Building Research Information Knowledgebase® and WBDG Whole Building Design Guide® during the BRIK meeting and WBDG meeting
• Hear from the Architect of the Capitol about the U.S. Capitol revitalization, building and infrastructure budget, construction forecast and regulatory update during the Annual FEDCon® Breakfast
• See the latest advancements in innovative products and tools at the Building Innovation Expo
• Connect with industry leaders and experts at multiple networking events
• Get a jump-start on earning valuable continuing education units, with over 20 hours of credit per attendee available to be submitted for AIA approval

Join your industry colleagues for this industry-wide collaboration. Register now to attend Building Innovation 2016. Online registration ends December 31, 2015. Take advantage of the pre-conference savings and avoid long lines at onsite registration. Register today!

Uniform Evaluation Service Issues ER-433 to Master Wall®, Inc.

IAPMO’s Uniform Evaluation Service (UES) is pleased to announce that Georgia-based Master Wall, Inc. was granted UES Evaluation Report ER-433 to reference the 2012 and 2009 editions of the International Building Code® (IBC) and the 2012 and 2009 editions of the International Residential Code® (IRC). ER-433 states that Master Wall, Inc.’s EIF Systems with drainage, as shown in the report, satisfy applicable code requirements. This allows for the specification of the EIF Systems with drainage by architects, contractors, specifiers, and designers, and approval of installations by code officials. It also provides code officials with a concise summary of the products' attributes and documentation of code compliance.

Products recognized with an IAPMO UES Evaluation Report have successfully undergone evaluation based on applicable requirements within the Uniform Family of Codes and the International Family of Codes, as well as codes published by other entities. UES staff thoroughly examined Master Wall, Inc.’s product information, test reports, calculations, quality control methods, and other factors to determine the products are code compliant.

"Master Wall, Inc. is extremely pleased with ER-433, which recognizes our EIF Systems with drainage," said Dennis Deppner, Technical Services manager. "UES provides industry leading technical reviews combined with great customer service. Master Wall, Inc. finds UES' timeliness and quality of service refreshing and we highly recommend them."

The UES program is built upon IAPMO's more than 70 years of experience in evaluating products for code compliance. Accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), the program operates under ISO/IEC Guide 65, "General Requirements for Bodies Operating Product Certification Systems."

UES Director Richard Beck, PE, CBO, MCP, explains why Uniform Evaluation Reports are so valuable: "Master Wall, Inc. can now reference its ER-433 for their EIF Systems with drainage to ensure that code officials quickly have the information
required for their decision on approval. Our program also stands out because of stellar customer service and the utilization of in-house staff along with the technical expertise of professional engineering firms, who are leaders in each area of recognition.

IAPMO's UES offers a full range of recognition opportunities, including recognition for the applicable national model codes, as well as Florida, California, and various other state codes. By combining all of these recognitions into one concise report prepared by an internationally recognized product certification body, the UES program reduces cost and increases value.

**IAPMO EGS Receives Standards Council of Canada Accreditation**

IAPMO EGS (Electrical, Gas and Solar), The IAPMO Group's testing and certification division for electrical products, has received accreditation as a certification body by the Standards Council of Canada. Because IAPMO EGS was recognized by OSHA as a Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory (NRTL) last year, electrical products labeled with the IAPMO EGS certification mark now meet the criteria necessary for acceptance by authorities having jurisdiction throughout the United States and Canada.

The SCC accreditation includes products for use in the Electro-plumbing and pool/spa industries such as:

- Motor-Operated Water Pumps — General use, sewage, well, irrigation, fountain, circulation, contractor, effluent type pumps intended for commercial or household use.
- Swimming Pool Pumps, Filters, and Chlorinators — Swimming pool, hot tub, and spa pumps; ozone generators, chlorinators, brominators, and similar equipment.
- Personal Hygiene and Health Care Appliances — Electronic bidets, electric toothbrushes, denture cleaners, oral irrigation appliances, hydromassage units, and similar equipment.
- Electric Spas, Equipment Assemblies, and Associated Equipment — Self-contained spas; controllers, timers, temperature-regulating equipment; control panels; ozone generators.
- Hydromassage Bathtubs — Indoor whirlpool bathtubs.
- Electric Plumbing Accessories — Irrigation equipment, plumbing controls system, sprinkler controls, electric faucets, toilet-flushing systems, pedicure spas, and similar equipment.

"The SCC accreditation makes our services available to a wider range of customers," said Tony Zhou, Vice President of Engineering for IAPMO EGS. "Electrical manufacturers now have a single trusted source for certification of their products in Canada and the United States."

IAPMO EGS is also accredited by ANAB to test to more than 30 electrical, mechanical, plumbing, and EPA ENERGY STAR® standards covering pool and spa equipment, bathtub equipment, irrigation equipment, electric faucets and bidets, personal hygiene and health care appliances, and suction fittings.

IAPMO EGS is a trusted name for independent testing and listing for the pool, spa, and bathtub industries. IAPMO EGS is committed to providing quality testing and listing services at competitive rates in a timely manner. Its knowledgeable staff works with
manufacturers to ensure that each testing and listing project is handled efficiently, helping get the product to market more quickly. For more information, contact Tony Zhou at (909) 230-5536 or tony.zhou@iapmoegs.org, or direct your web browser to www.iapmoegs.org.

Dodge Momentum Index Falls in November

The Dodge Momentum Index fell 3.7% in November to 119.9 (2000=100) from its October reading of 124.5. The Momentum Index is a monthly measure of the first (or initial) report for nonresidential building projects in planning, which have been shown to lead construction spending for nonresidential buildings by a full year. Previously, the Index had posted large month-to-month increases in July (+4.6%) and September (+4.9%). The loss of momentum seen in October and again in November is returning the Index to a level that’s more consistent with the gentle upward trend in planning activity that began in 2012. The decline in November for the overall Index was the result of a 10.2% slide in commercial planning activity, while projects entering planning in the institutional sector increased by 5.3%.

There were a total of seven projects entering planning in November, each with a value that exceeded $100 million. For the commercial building sector, the leading projects were a $160 million office building in Boston MA and a $130 million retail project in Somerville MA. For the institutional building sector, the leading projects were a $325 million alteration of the American Museum of Natural History in New York NY and a $238 million hospital in Chula Vista CA.

Study Finds BIM Offers Substantial Benefits for Construction Industry

The benefits of BIM (building information modeling) and other technology advancements that allow the exchange of information on design and construction projects, including improving labor productivity and reducing costs for construction companies, are just the beginning of what can be achieved, according to a new study released today by Dodge Data & Analytics in partnership with Bentley Systems.

The findings are published in a new report, "SmartMarket Brief: BIM Advancements 01," the first of a series that will examine how BIM and information mobility are transforming the construction industry, based on respondents from the largest architecture, engineering and contracting companies in the U.S. The report is available to download at analyticsstore.construction.com/smartmarket-reports/SMBBIMAdvancements01.html. For the first time for a SmartMarket study, the findings can also be accessed on a microsite at SmartMarketBrief.com, which allows easy mobile access to the data and offers the opportunity to go deeper into the findings.

The study explores three discrete topics, with the overall theme of improving the industry through technology: BIM success factors, construction modeling and information mobility.
The BIM success factors section explores both the measurable benefits achieved from BIM and the factors considered most critical to help achieve those benefits.

The benefits of BIM make it clear that it is a competitive advantage for companies that use it:

- 48% see a 5% decrease or more in final construction cost because they use BIM;
- Over half (51%) see the same level of reduction in their project schedules;
- Nearly one third (31%) report seeing a 25% improvement in labor productivity.

The study also determined the factors that have the greatest impact on achieving that level of success with BIM, including BIM planning (creating a common methodology for use of BIM across the project team), platform compatibility and BIM-integrated meetings. "Time and again, our research has demonstrated that BIM is most valuable as a means to enhance collaboration," said Steve Jones, Senior Director of Industry Insights at Dodge Data & Analytics. "These findings demonstrate that you achieve the best results when BIM is at the heart of a transformed process built on sharing information, rather than simply the deployment of software."

"Implementing BIM successfully involves behavioral, cultural and technological changes: transforming your organization, adopting new processes and implementing new standards," said Anne Busson, Industry Marketing Director, AEC at Bentley Systems. "Achieving change can be easier said than done. That's why we have set up the BIM Advancement Academy program for owners. Our program provides an effective way for owners to on-board contractors and their supply chain, to align their efforts through common processes that advance information creation and information flow within each project. The goals are to advance industry best practices, drive standards, capture and recycle lessons learned, and advance BIM processes via awareness sessions, forums, targeted seminars and working groups."

The study also demonstrates that currently, construction modeling is under-utilized, with less than half (41%) of the respondents currently seeing construction modeling on their projects, but nearly three quarters (72%) of those who use it reporting its value. The findings reveal that general contractors do the majority of construction modeling, and that the activities considered the most valuable are construction work packaging and sequencing, and project site logistics. However, modeling among the trades is still emerging, except for HVAC and structural contractors. The greatest areas of unmet demand according to the findings are for interior, building envelope and electrical trade contractors to engage in construction modeling.

However, BIM is not the sole technology advancing the construction industry. Seventy percent of the respondents currently use information/document management systems and online meetings, with over 80% expecting to use them in two years. The greatest increase in use is expected for cloud storage services, which jump from 56% who use them currently to 89% in two years.

Contractors see the greatest benefit from these modes of enhancing information mobility, with nearly half (43%) reporting that they have experienced a very high degree of improvement in information mobility in the last two years, compared to 28% of architects and 37% of engineers.

Among all of the survey respondents, 70% or more place a high importance on having improved devices for job sites, more reliable and ubiquitous connectivity, more standardization and interoperability of data platforms, and greater ability to store and
access project information in the cloud. "The findings make clear that all players see opportunities to improve their information mobility further," said Jones. "They indicate that the construction industry is still just beginning to see the full benefits offered by information mobility improvements."

Sewage Treatment Plant Triggers "Lake Effect" Snow

It's beginning to look like Christmas in Central Pennsylvania where it was reported this week that a thin layer of lake effect snow was generated by a relatively warm and moist sewage treatment plant. Lake effect snow forms when very cold air blows over a relatively warm body of water. The moisture from the lake evaporates into the air which rises to form clouds and eventually leads to snow downwind. Some of the biggest snow totals on record east of the Rockies are in lake effect snow zones. Apparently, it doesn't take much to trigger the process, and it doesn't matter what the body of water is. The Weather Service in State College described how "several tenths of an inch" of snow seemed to magically appear overnight finding that "additional moisture was added to the atmosphere by the natural condensation process of the local sewer treatment plant." Don't worry about eating yellow snow...the snow itself did not contain any sewage particles. When water evaporates, it leaves other chemicals and compounds behind.

Downton Abbey Inspired Plumbing Products?

It's not a subject any well-bred aristocratic gentlemen or lady would bring up in polite company — but Downton Abbey has inspired an official branded privy — and other plumbing products. Fans of the hit period drama will now be able to toilet like a Countess, thanks to a new merchandising deal. After Downton-branded mugs, aprons, jewelry, board games, wine and cushions, now it is the turn of bathrooms to try to cash in on the show's popularity. The products are being sold by Liverpool-based Victorian Plumbing, which has bought the rights to use the logo of Downton Abbey just before the series comes to an end in the UK with a two-hour finale on Christmas Day. It signed a contract with NBC Universal. The value of the deal has not been disclosed but experts suggest it could be worth about $300,000. NBC Universal declined to comment, and Victorian Plumbing also refused to give details of the 'confidential' deal. Among the plumbing products launched this week is a Edwardian-style ceramic toilet with distinctive 'DA' monogram. Now there is a throne that is fit for a queen!
# Industry Calendar

**Kitchen & Bath Industry Show (KBIS) 2016**  
Jan. 19 - 21, 2016  
Las Vegas, NV  
www.kbis.com

**2016 NAHB International Builders’ Show**  
Jan. 19 - 21, 2016  
Las Vegas, NV  
buildersshow.com

**AHR Expo 2016**  
Orlando, FL  
www.ahrexpo.com

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

## Upcoming Seminars

Earn your Continuing Education with IAPMO training.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ARIZONA SEMINARS</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 22, 2016</td>
<td>Phoenix, AZ</td>
<td>Cross Connection Control Recertification - 8 hr Course and Exam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 18-22, 2016</td>
<td>Phoenix, AZ</td>
<td>Backflow Prevention Assembly Tester 40 hr Course and Exam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 7-11, 2016</td>
<td>Phoenix, AZ</td>
<td>Backflow Prevention Assembly Tester 40 hr Course and Exam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 11, 2016</td>
<td>Phoenix, AZ</td>
<td>Cross Connection Control Recertification - 8 hr Course and Exam</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CALIFORNIA SEMINARS</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 13, 2016</td>
<td>Downey, CA</td>
<td>Delivering Cost Effective Water and Energy Use Efficiency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 25-29, 2016</td>
<td>Ontario, CA</td>
<td>ASSE 5110 Backflow Tester 40 Hour Class and Exam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 29 - Mar. 4, 2016</td>
<td>Ontario, CA</td>
<td>ASSE 5110 Backflow Tester 40 Hour Class and Exam</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COLORADO SEMINARS</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 11-15, 2016</td>
<td>Brighton, CO</td>
<td>ASSE 5110 Backflow Tester 40 Hour Class and Exam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 15-16, 2016</td>
<td>Brighton, CO</td>
<td>Cross Connection Control Recertification - 12 hr course and Exam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 4-5, 2016</td>
<td>Denver, CO</td>
<td>Cross Connection Control Recertification - 12 hr course and Exam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 22-26, 2016</td>
<td>Alamosa, CO</td>
<td>ASSE 5110 Backflow Tester 40 Hour Class and Exam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 25-26, 2016</td>
<td>Alamosa, CO</td>
<td>Cross Connection Control Recertification - 12 hr course and Exam</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LOUISIANA SEMINARS</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 22-26, 2016</td>
<td>Kinder, LA</td>
<td>ASSE 5110 Backflow Tester 40 Hour Class and Exam</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MASSACHUSETTS SEMINARS</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Session 8 Training now available - click here for the schedule!</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NEW JERSEY SEMINARS</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 15-19, 2016</td>
<td>Pennsauken, NJ</td>
<td>ASSE 5110 Backflow Tester 40 Hour Class and Exam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 20, 2016</td>
<td>Pennsauken, NJ</td>
<td>Cross Connection Control Recertification - 8 hr Course and Exam</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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](http://www.iapmo.org/Pages/Seminar.aspx) to register online. New training dates are added periodically!