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U.S. Virgin Islands Adopts IAPMO's USEC and USPSHTC

The United States Virgin Islands has formally adopted the *2012 Uniform Solar Energy Code® (USEC)* and *Uniform Swimming Pool, Spa and Hot Tube Code® (USPSHTC)*, American National Standards developed and published by the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO).

Gov. John P. de Jongh Jr. signed a bill containing language adopting the *USEC* and *USPSHTC* before leaving office Dec. 31, 2014. On behalf of Sen. Shawn-Michael Malone, Sen. Donald G. Cole introduced the language as Amendment 1234 to Bill No. 30-0523, which the legislature passed.

"I would like to thank the legislature of the U.S. Virgin Islands for joining IAPMO in our commitment to protecting the public's health and safety through the adoption of these Uniform Codes," said IAPMO CEO GP Russ Chaney. "Given the rising prominence of solar energy systems, along with the number of swimming pools and hot tubs that may be found in the Virgin Islands, it is vital that standards are in place to ensure they are properly installed and maintained."

IAPMO first developed and published the USEC and USPSHTC in September 1976. The provisions of these codes apply to the erection, installation, alteration, repair, relocation, replacement, addition to or maintenance of any solar energy, hydronic heating/cooling, swimming pool, spa or hot tub system. The 2009 and 2012 editions of these codes were produced using a consensus process similar to the one used to develop the *Uniform Plumbing Code®* and *Uniform Mechanical Code®*, which are

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OFFICIAL MAGAZINE

designated as American National Standards.

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IAPMO R&T, EGS and RPA Promote Services at 2015 AHR Expo

IAPMO R&T, North America's premier third party certification body for mechanical products, IAPMO EGS, and the Radiant Professionals Alliance (RPA) last Wednesday concluded the 2015 AHR Expo, a three-day, 465,000-square-foot show at Chicago's McCormick Place featuring more than 2,000 companies representing every segment of the HVACR industry. The show drew 62,000 visitors, making it the most attended in the AHR Expo's history.

IAPMO R&T and EGS enjoyed heavy visitation to their booths as representatives promoted the wide range of product testing and conformance assessment services available to manufacturers throughout the United States, Canada, and Mexico. Representatives explained updates to the *Uniform Mechanical Code (UMC®)*, discussed new and expanded services — including Mexican certification — and IAPMO EGS' recent recognition by OSHA as a Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory.

"The AHR Expo always provides an excellent opportunity for IAPMO R&T to demonstrate our comprehensive HVACR services to both existing and prospective clients among the industry's top manufacturers," said Ohannes Dembekjian, a senior vice president with IAPMO R&T. "The face-to-face time we receive is invaluable as we strengthen relationships and forge new ones."

For a second consecutive year, the RPA held its Annual Meeting and Conference concurrently with the AHR Expo, holding elections for its Board of Directors, hosting a luncheon to update members on the status of numerous RPA initiatives — including the addition of hydronics into the *Uniform Solar Energy Code (USEC)* — and presenting a number of educational seminars. RPA representatives also manned a booth on the show floor, extolling the virtues of radiant comfort.

"Partnering with the AHR show again this year further enhanced the conference experience for RPA members with expanded educational opportunities and, of course, the largest gathering of industry movers and shakers on hand for all three days," said RPA Executive Director Mark Eatherton. "We came to grow radiant, and that's exactly what we did."

The 2016 AHR Expo will be held in Orlando, Fla., Jan. 25-27, 2016. For more information, direct your web browser to ahrexpo.com.

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IAPMO's Uniform Evaluation Service Enters Cooperative Agreement with Certified Testing Laboratories (CTL)

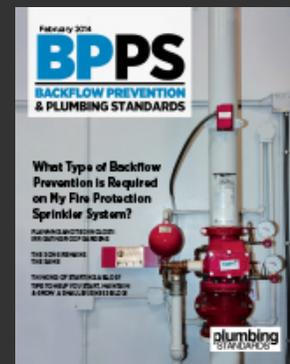
IAPMO's Uniform Evaluation Service (UES) has entered into a cooperative agreement with Certified Testing Laboratories (CTL) for the development and maintenance of evaluation reports, with CTL performing the corresponding product testing. As a result of the agreement, CTL clients may choose to have their products recognized in the form of a Uniform Evaluation Report.



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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.

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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Personnel certification and

"This agreement provides CTL clients the opportunity to have their products recognized in an Uniform Evaluation Report while maintaining current qualified testing relationships," said Jim Blakely, vice president of CTL.

CTL is ISO 17025 accredited through International Accreditation Service (IAS) report TL-609. The report recognizes CTL's ability to test exterior windows, skylights, doors, and curtain walls to ASTM Standards E 283, E 330, E 331, E 547, E 1886, E 1996, F 588 and F 842; and Miami-Dade Test Protocol TAS 201, 202 and 203. CTL headquarters are in Orlando, Fla.

"This agreement makes sense, yielding a win for manufacturers, building professionals and code officials," said Richard Beck, vice president of Uniform Evaluation Services. "It effectively allows both organizations to do what they do best for the efficient advancement of the building industry."

Products recognized under UES have successfully undergone evaluation based on applicable requirements within the International Family of Codes, as well as codes published by other entities. UES staff thoroughly examines a product's information, test reports, calculations, quality assurance, quality control methods, production processes/procedures to determine if a product is code compliant.

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."

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

For more information on IAPMO's Uniform ES, direct your web browser to www.uniform-es.org or contact Karen Snowden at (909) 472-4105 or karen.snowden@iapmoes.org.

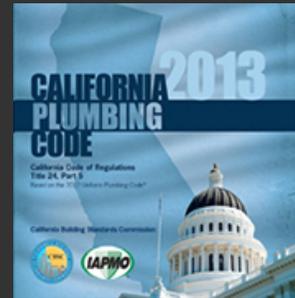
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ASSE International Seeks Electrical Heater Expert for Product Standard Working Group

ASSE International is seeking an electrical heater expert to join the ASSE 1060 working group and provide insight into outdoor heater designs in regard to environmental and hydraulic requirements of ASSE Standard #1060, Performance Requirements for Outdoor Enclosures for Fluid Conveying Components. The ideal candidate will have 10-plus years of experience in developing, manufacturing or designing systems with electrical heaters for air and water, and possess knowledge of existing electrical codes, standards and products in the market.

ASSE 1060 focuses on devices that provide protection of fluid conveying components that are mounted outside and above ground so that they may avoid damage from freezing, vandalism and tampering. Fluid conveying components include backflow prevention assemblies and devices, water meters, control valves, pressure reducing valves, air release valves, pumps and other components that require protection from

education: 800-SAVE-H2O
(800-728-3426)



The 2013 California Code books are available for sale! IAPMO members will receive priority handling. Call us today at 1-800-85-IAPMO.



freezing or require system security protection.

"While normally all issues and industry segments are properly represented on ASSE working groups, we are seeking further expertise on electrical heating for the ASSE 1060 working group," said Staff Engineering Supervisor Conrad Jahrling. "To reach true consensus, per the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) accredited standards development process, we need to ensure that all interested parties are represented. In the case of the ASSE 1060 working group, we are seeking an electrical heater expert to provide clarity on reasonable heater designs for environmental and hydraulic parameters required in current standards and electrical codes."

Candidates can expect a time commitment of one to four hours per month for a duration of six months.

Those interested in participating must complete and submit an application for committee/working group membership (<http://goo.gl/krpzDF>) to Staff Engineering Supervisor Conrad Jahrling via e-mail at conrad.jahrling@asse-plumbing.org.

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WaterSense Kicks Off 2015 Outreach With Fix a Leak Week

Looking for a way to jump-start your water conservation outreach in 2015? The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has just published a new WaterSense 2015 Editorial Calendar with timely themes and sharable content available for each month of 2015. For example, March 16 through 22, 2015, is EPA's seventh annual Fix a Leak Week, a time to remind homeowners to look for leaks in their plumbing fixtures and irrigation systems.

To help consumers across the country save water, EPA is encouraging WaterSense partners to promote the benefits of fixing household leaks and reducing water waste by hosting "Chasing Leaks" running races and other community events. Promotional tools are available on the WaterSense partner website.

Partners planning Fix a Leak Week events or outreach should alert WaterSense by submitting a Partner Event Notification Form anytime; however, if your organization would like to receive assistance or promotion through WaterSense traditional and social media outlets for Fix a Leak Week activities, please submit your form no later than February 27, 2015. To receive recognition and promotion by EPA, your event should highlight finding and fixing leaks and have a tie-in to WaterSense (e.g., retrofits using WaterSense labeled products or messaging featuring WaterSense). Although EPA cannot attend or support every partner event, we do have Flo the WaterSense spokesperson available for some events and can help coordinate with EPA regional officials.

Looking for an easy way to get involved? WaterSense will host a Fix a Leak Week Twitter party on Monday, March 16, 2015, from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. Eastern. This will be a virtual gathering where partners tweet or retweet using the hashtag #FixALeak to get Fix a Leak Week trending.

After Fix a Leak Week or any other WaterSense-related event you sponsor, please share the results of your activities through the WaterSense in Action database—a resource that offers ideas about water-saving events partners can host in their communities, and which EPA will now use to promote partners across the country on

Certification Shows Your Expertise

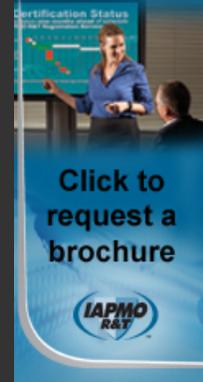


UPC Journey Level Plumber
UMC Journey Level Mechanical
UPC Master Level Plumber
UMC Master Level Mechanical
Accessibility Inspector
UPC Plumbing Inspector
UMC Mechanical Inspector
California Plumbing Inspector
California Mechanical Inspector
Minnesota Plumbing Inspector
Plumbing Plans Examiner
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ISO 9001 CERTIFICATION



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the WaterSense website. To help you keep track of WaterSense outreach opportunities all year, the WaterSense 2015 Editorial Calendar is attached.

If you have any questions regarding the WaterSense 2015 Editorial Calendar, Fix a Leak Week, or the March 16 Twitter party, please contact the WaterSense Helpline at (866) WTR-SENS (987-7367) or watersense@epa.gov

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Brian Rogers Joins IAPMO as Field Services Manager for Region 4

IAPMO has hired Brian Rogers as Field Services manager for Region 4, responsible for IAPMO's interests in the Midwestern states of Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska.

A 20-year veteran of the trades, Rogers has enjoyed a varied career, splitting his time as a superintendent, inspector, contractor, and instructor. After completing his plumbing apprenticeship with Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 125 in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Rogers worked for Omega Plumbing and then served as superintendent for one of eastern Iowa's largest mechanical contractors, Bowker Mechanical Contractors, working on large commercial, industrial, school, and hospital projects.

In 2000, Rogers accepted a full-time plumbing instructor position at Local 125 JATC and held that position until 2007, returning to contracting as a service manager and project manager with AAA Mechanical Contractors and Pike Pro Inc., respectively. He holds a master license in plumbing, hydronics, refrigeration, and HVAC, and is a certified medical gas installer and backflow technician.

"Brian brings with him a wealth of industry experience and knowledge of the codes that will no doubt be a great asset to The IAPMO Group," IAPMO Senior Vice President of Field Services Dwight Perkins said.

An IAPMO certified plumbing inspector, Rogers has served on numerous IAPMO committees, including Education and Training, Publication, Certification and Exam, and the UPC Workshop. He is also involved locally, serving on the Cedar Rapids and Linn County plumbing boards.

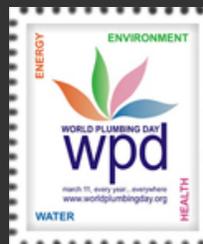
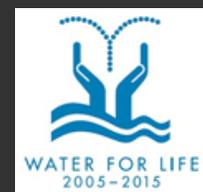
"For well more than a decade I have had the privilege to serve on multiple IAPMO committees, attend and present at annual Education and Business Conferences, hoping one day I would be given an opportunity to join the organization that leads the plumbing and mechanical industry in protecting the health and safety of humanity," Rogers said. "It is a great honor to have been selected to represent The IAPMO Group in Region 4 and beyond. I am very excited to get started and I look forward to working with everyone industry wide."

For more information on IAPMO Field Services, contact Perkins at (503) 307-9944, dwright.perkins@iapmo.org, or direct your Web browser here.

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New Construction Starts in December Pull Back 16 Percent; Annual Total for 2014 Advances 7 Percent to \$575.3 Billion

New construction starts in December retreated 16% to a seasonally adjusted annual



rate of \$568.2 billion, according to Dodge Data & Analytics. The decline follows the 13% increase reported for total construction starts in November, when activity reached its highest level in 2014 with the lift coming from several exceptionally large projects, including a massive lithium ion battery manufacturing plant, an airport terminal redevelopment program, and a liquefied natural gas terminal. Both nonresidential building and nonbuilding construction in December witnessed substantial percentage declines relative to their robust November amounts. At the same time, residential building managed a modest gain in December with the help of further growth by multifamily housing. For 2014 as a whole, total construction starts climbed 7% to \$575.3 billion. This continues the pattern of moderate expansion for total construction starts reported during the previous two years — 2012, up 10%; and 2013, up 9%.

The December statistics produced a reading of 120 for the Dodge Index (2000=100), compared to 143 in November. For all of 2014, the Dodge Index came in at 122, so while December was down considerably from the previous month it still held close to the average for the full year. "The construction start statistics can often be volatile on a month-to-month basis, given the presence of large projects in any one given month," stated Robert A. Murray, chief economist for Dodge Data & Analytics. "The month of November included four projects valued each in excess of \$1 billion, while the largest project in December was a \$700 million steel mill. A better sense of the progression of construction starts over the course of 2014 comes from looking at the data on a quarterly basis. Activity weakened during the first quarter of 2014, falling 10% from the end of 2013, but then showed steady improvement as 2014 proceeded, with gains in the second quarter, up 9%; the third quarter, up 5%; and the fourth quarter, up 2%." "The continued expansion for construction starts in 2014 carried several notable features," Murray continued. "The nonresidential building sector showed more growth for commercial building, the first increase for institutional building after five years of decline, and a surge of manufacturing plant projects. Residential building was supported by the strengthening multifamily market, but was not able to offer the same upward push as in 2012 and 2013 given the flat performance by single family housing. Nonbuilding construction showed a slower pace for public works, and while electric utilities lost further momentum the decline was much less severe than in 2013. Looking ahead to 2015, nonresidential building should benefit from more private investment directed at commercial building and more financing for school construction given the passage of recent bond measures. However, the rate of increase for nonresidential building will be dampened by a slower pace for energy-related manufacturing projects. Residential building should see more multifamily housing while renewed growth for single family housing will need the banking industry to provide potential homebuyers with greater access to home mortgages. Nonbuilding construction will be helped by the fact that federal spending levels for fiscal 2015 were set in December, but Congress needs to address the stopgap federal transportation legislation that expires at the end of May."

Read more: <http://construction.com/about-us/press/New-Construction-Starts-in-December-Pull-Back-16-Percent.asp>

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Shanghai-based WinSun 3D Prints 6-Story Apartment Building and an Incredible Home

Source: 3dprint.com

The 3D printed home is an accomplishment which many architects and designers have

at least been contemplating for a few years now. We have seen numerous companies as well as individuals jump into the space recently, with design concepts which take home building well into the 21st century. Although China has been lagging behind the U.S and Europe in terms of consumer and manufacturing-based 3D printing, one China-based company seems to be leading globally when it comes to the 3D printing of large-scale structures such as homes.

Read more: <http://3dprint.com/38144/3d-printed-apartment-building/>

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I-Connection Electronic Newsletter

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Industry Calendar

PlumbexIndia'15
Feb. 20-22, 2015
Bombay, India
www.plumbexindia.in

World Plumbing Day
March 11, 2015
www.worldplumbingday.org/

Green Technical Committee Meeting
April 9-10, 2015
Ontario, CA
www.iapmo.org

86th Annual Education and Business Conference
Sept. 27 - Oct. 1, 2015
Las Vegas, NV
www.iapmo.org

Upcoming Seminars

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| ARIZONA SEMINARS | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------|---|
| March 23-27-2015 | Phoenix, AZ | Backflow Prevention Assembly Tester 40 hr Course and Exam |
| March 27, 2015 | Phoenix, AZ | Cross Connection Control Recertification - 8 hr Course and Exam |
| CALIFORNIA SEMINARS | | |
| March 23-27, 2015 | Ontario, CA | Backflow Prevention Assembly Tester 40 hr Course and Exam |
| March 27, 2015 | Ontario, CA | Cross Connection Control Recertification - 8 hr Course and Exam |
| March 30 - April 5, 2015 | Paso Robles, CA | Backflow Prevention Assembly Tester 40 hr Course and Exam |
| COLORADO SEMINARS | | |
| March 9-13, 2015 | Longmont, CO | Backflow Prevention Assembly Tester 40 hr Course and Exam |
| March 13, 2015 | Longmont, CO | Cross Connection Control Recertification - 8 hr Course and Exam |
| March 16-20, 2015 | Denver, CO | Backflow Prevention Assembly Tester 40 hr course and Exam |
| March 21, 2015 | Denver, CO | Cross Connection Control Recertification - 8 hr Course and Exam |
| IOWA SEMINARS | | |
| March 7, 2015 | Waterloo, IA | State of Iowa Continuing Education - Plumbing Track |

| MAINE SEMINARS | | |
|--|-------------------------|--|
| April 20-24, 2015 | Agusta, ME | Backflow Prevention Assembly Tester 40 hr Course and Exam |
| MASSACHUSETTS SEMINARS | | |
| Session 7 Training now available - click here for schedule | | |
| MINNESOTA SEMINARS | | |
| February 23, 2015 | Anoka, MN | 2012 UPC Code Update Workshop |
| March 30, 2015 | Anoka, MN | 2012 UPC Code Update Workshop |
| March 9-13, 2015 | Little Falls, MN | ASSE 5110 Backflow Tester Class 40 hours |
| March 9-12, 2015 | Little Falls, MN | Minnesota Rebuilder Certification to ASSE 5110 Tester and ASSE 5130 Repairer Certification |
| March 9-11, 2015 | Little Falls, MN | Minnesota Tester to ASSE 5110 Tester Certification |
| March 23-27, 2015 | Anoka, MN | ASSE 5110 Backflow Tester Class 40 hours |
| April 13-16, 2015 | Elbow Lake, MN | Minnesota Rebuilder Certification to ASSE 5110 Tester and ASSE 5130 Repairer Certification |
| April 13-17, 2015 | Elbow Lake, MN | ASSE 5110 Backflow Tester Class 40 hours |
| April 13-15, 2015 | Elbow Lake, MN | Minnesota Tester to ASSE 5110 Tester Certification |
| NEVADA SEMINARS | | |
| March 9-13, 2015 | Las Vegas, NV | EduCode 2015 - Las Vegas, NV |
| NEW JERSEY SEMINARS | | |
| January 10-11 & January 17-18, 2015 | East Brunswick, NJ | Backflow Prevention Assembly Tester 40 hr course and Exam |
| January 18, 2015 | East Brunswick, NJ | Cross Connection Control Recertification - 8 hr course and Exam |
| SOUTH DAKOTA SEMINARS | | |
| March 3, 2015 | Yankton, SD | 2015 South Dakota Continuing Education - Plumbing |
| March 3, 2015 | Rapid City, SD | 2015 South Dakota Continuing Education - Plumbing |
| March 5, 2015 | Rapid City, SD | 2015 South Dakota Continuing Education - Plumbing |
| March 5, 2015 | North Sioux City, SD | 2015 South Dakota Continuing Education - Plumbing |
| March 9, 2015 | Sioux Falls, SD | 2015 South Dakota Continuing Education - Plumbing |
| March 10, 2015 | Spearfish, SD | 2015 South Dakota Continuing Education - Plumbing |
| March 11, 2015 | Sioux Falls, SD | 2015 South Dakota Continuing Education - Plumbing |
| March 12, 2015 | Rapid City, SD | 2015 South Dakota Continuing Education - Plumbing |
| March 16, 2015 | Sioux Falls, SD | 2015 South Dakota Continuing Education - Plumbing |
| March 18, 2015 | Sioux Falls, SD | 2015 South Dakota Continuing Education - Plumbing |
| March 18, 2015 | Aberdeen, SD | 2015 South Dakota Continuing Education - Plumbing |
| March 19, 2015 | Watertown, SD | 2015 South Dakota Continuing Education - Plumbing |
| March 19, 2015 | Mobridge, SD | 2015 South Dakota Continuing Education - Plumbing |

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|----------------|---------------|---|
| March 23, 2015 | Pierre, SD | 2015 South Dakota Continuing Education - Plumbing |
| March 24, 2015 | Winner, SD | 2015 South Dakota Continuing Education - Plumbing |
| March 24, 2015 | Brookings, SD | 2015 South Dakota Continuing Education - Plumbing |
| March 25, 2015 | Mitchell, SD | 2015 South Dakota Continuing Education - Plumbing |
| March 26, 2015 | Huron, SD | 2015 South Dakota Continuing Education - Plumbing |

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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