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MEMO

TO: All Building Officials in Miami-Dade County

FROM: Herminio F. González, P.E., M.S., Director
Building Code Compliance Office

DATE: August 11, 2008

SUBJECT: CPVC Pipe in Plenums

The Florida Building Code restricts the surface burning characteristics of materials that can be installed in air plenums.

Various tests are used to evaluate the surface burning characteristics of construction materials. The Florida Building Code restricts materials permitted within plenums to those meeting a 25/50 (flame spread/smoke developed) when tested in accordance with UL 723/ASTM E 84.

Southwest Research Institute has tested empty FlowGuard Gold® CPVC pipe and fittings in general accordance with UL 723/ASTM E 84.

The results of the testing show:

- 1/2" empty FlowGuard Gold® CPVC pipe and fittings have a flame spread index of 5 and a smoke developed index of 20
- 3/4" empty FlowGuard Gold® CPVC pipe and fittings have a flame spread index of 0 and a smoke developed index of 50

Conclusion

1/2" through 3/4" empty FlowGuard Gold® CPVC pipe and fittings meet the 25/50 flame spread/smoke developed requirement; therefore they are suitable for installation in plenums.

Based on this information, empty pipe greater than 3/4" is no longer compliant for plenum use.

If you have any questions please contact Mr. Pete Quintela at (305) 375-4622.