



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PLUMBING ENGINEERS

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

BOSTON CHAPTER

CHARTERED 1973

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Corrugated Stainless Steel Tubing (CSST)

According to a posting on its web site, on Feb 4, 2009 the The Board of State Examiners of Plumbers and Gas Fitters (the Board), reinstated the approval of Corrugated Stainless Steel Tubing (CSST) for fuel gas piping systems.

Essentially, the Board had rescinded approval of CSST back on Nov. 16, 2008. This rescission was done to allow time to resolve permitting, approval, and jurisdictional issues related to bonding of the CSST. Because of problems related to nearby lightning strikes which could potentially rupture CSST, the manufacturers had added a requirement for special lightning protection bonding which is addressed in NFPA 54-2009, which is not adopted in Massachusetts. This, of course, created an approval dilemma since the Board had not previously approved these products with the bonding requirements nor was there a code in place for such bonding.

By its 2/4/09 action the CSST with the bonding requirements can now be used but with several conditions. The bonding procedures, however, fall outside the scope of Plumbing work and must be performed by an Electrician.

Please refer to the Board's web site for a complete discussion of the issues.

The intent of this article is not to discuss the issues related to CSST but simply to let our membership know that it is now approved. Also, please be alert to the need to include the Electrical Engineer in the discussion if you are intending to use the product in one of your Projects.

If you are a specifier or approving the use of CSST, be sure to check with the Board to ascertain that the particular manufacturer is approved by the Board for use in Mass. Be sure (particularly in filed sub-bid work) to have the Electrical Engineer include the bonding in the Electrical Scope. Inspections of the installed work should include review by both disciplines.

Manuel B. Garcia, PE, CPD, Feb 16, 2009