

DOCKETED

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Please refer to the attached comment letter.

Additional submitted attachment is included below.



September 15, 2017

Ryan Nelson
California Energy Commission
Docket Unit, MS-4
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

RE: DOCKET NO. 17-AAER-09 TUB SPOUT DIVERTERS

Dear Mr. Nelson:

**PMI Board of
Directors**

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Sloan Valve Company
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Plumbing Manufacturers International (PMI) appreciates this opportunity to provide additional comments to the California Energy Commission (CEC) as the association and its members continue to participate in the current pre-regulatory proceeding, Docket No. 17-AAER-09 Tub Spout Diverters. PMI is the international, U.S.-based trade association representing 90% of U. S. plumbing products sold in the United States. We have made the promotion of water safety and efficiency a top priority and have included this in our mission statement¹.

Regarding a specific proposal for Docket No. 17-AAER-09, PMI proposes that the CEC consider funding a research study to determine the main causes to why tub spout diverters leak before considering reducing the leakage rates below current requirements. As stated by PMI in our June 16th comment letter, we believe that the root cause as to why diverters leak over time is due to various hard water conditions such as calcium build-up, and not current manufacturing practices. If such a research study is conducted, PMI would recommend that the CEC request that a project be opened with the ASME A112 Standards Committee on Plumbing Materials and Equipment to vet the findings of the research study and incorporate accordingly into the industry standard, ASME A112.18.1/CSA B125.1.

Furthermore, PMI would like to propose the replacement of the current definitions of "lift type," "pull type," "turn type" and "push type" in Title 20 with the following definitions:

- Mechanically activated automatic reset diverter (MAR) – A diverter that utilizes a mechanism (e.g. spring) to return the flow of water to the primary outlet when the flow of water is shut off.
- Gravity activated automatic reset diverter (GAR) – A diverter that utilizes gravity to return the flow of water to the primary outlet when the flow of water is shut off.
- Manual reset diverter (MR) – A diverter that returns the flow of water to the primary outlet when activated by the user.

¹PMI's Mission: To promote the water efficiency, health, safety, quality and environmental sustainability of plumbing products while maximizing consumer choice and value in a fair and open marketplace. To provide a forum for the exchange of information and industry education. To represent openly the members' interests and advocate for sound environmental and public health policies in the regulatory/legislative processes. To enhance the plumbing industry's growth and expansion.

On July 20th, the CEC held a workshop to discuss the results from the “Invitation to Participate” for the Phase 2 Appliance Efficiency Regulations & Roadmaps. During the workshop, CEC staff raised several questions regarding tub spout diverters that PMI would like to address at this time:

- **Can the data used by EPA WaterSense to justify their notice of intent (NOI) to develop a draft specification for bath and shower diverters be extrapolated to be representative of California savings?** The data used by EPA WaterSense in the development of their NOI would not be a true representation of California savings. The reason is that EPA WaterSense based its findings on the requirements outlined in ASME A112.18.1/CSA B125.1, and not on those utilized by industry which are based on the more stringent Title 20 requirements of 0.01 pre-life cycle and 0.05 gpm after 15,000 cycles.
- **How does an automatic reset diverter function?** For a gravity activated automatic reset diverter to function properly, it typically requires a small amount of leakage to occur throughout the showering event for the diverter to automatically reset from the showerhead to the tub spout diverter when the flow of water is turned off. It should be noted, that gravity activated automatic reset diverters are the most predominant and affordable type of tub spout diverters sold in the marketplace.
A mechanically activated automatic reset diverter requires a mechanism, such as a spring, to automatically reset from the showerhead to the tub spout when the flow of water is turned off, and typically does not require a small amount of leakage to occur for the diverter to function properly.
- **What does “hydraulic lock” mean?** What PMI meant by the term “hydraulic lock” in our June 16th comment letter was about the column of water that exists between the showerhead and diverter, and the possible damage to the diverter mechanism and sealing members if the water is not allowed to drain.

Thank you for considering our comments and recommendations. We look forward to working with the CEC during the rulemaking process to promote water efficiency that will produce safe, sanitary, efficient and reliable products.

Sincerely,



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cc: PMI Board of Directors