



California Energy Commission DOCKETED 12-AAER-2C
TN 71977 SEP 16 2013

September 13, 2013

California Energy Commission
Dockets Office, MS-4
Re: Docket No. 12-AAER-2C
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512
Via email: docket@energy.ca.gov
RE: Invitation to Submit Proposals
2012-2013 Appliance Efficiency Rulemaking
Docket # 12-AAER-2C (Water Appliances)

Dear Commissioners,

Sloan Valve Company appreciates the opportunity to provide comments regarding this Rulemaking. We acknowledge that the California Energy Commission was seeking a very detailed Efficiency Proposal; however, much of the information sought is currently unavailable, proprietary in nature, or unfeasible to obtain due to time or cost. In addition, as detailed in our comments below, for plumbing fixtures and fittings the State of California has already adopted laws and applicable codes that ensure the efficient use of water and the CEC should rely upon these existing laws and codes and incorporate these by reference for its regulations.

We have participated in the public meetings to date on this proposed rulemaking and at that time you and your staff were made aware that plumbing products are currently regulated by the 2010 California Plumbing Code (CPC) and the 2010 California Green Building Standards Code (CalGreen). Both of these codes reference a large number of existing standards which provide detailed requirements for the product design, test procedures, performance, and marking and labeling. These standards took significant time to develop and some have existed for decades. Also, they're periodically reviewed and updated by stakeholders working within a consensus standards development process. This process is administered by a standards development organization like ASME with oversight and approval by an accreditation agency such as ANSI.

Chapter 14 of the CPC includes a large comprehensive list of standards while Chapter 4 details additional requirements, including flow rates, for Plumbing Fixtures and Fixture Fittings. Please also note that section 301.1.1 requires plumbing products to be third party certified to the standards contained in Chapter 14. The International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO), publisher of the Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC) which is used as the model code for the CPC, is also a third party certifier.

In addition to the CPC, new construction is also required to comply with CalGreen which contains water conservation requirements for residential and nonresidential construction. The 2010 CalGreen has been in effect since Jan. 1, 2011 and many manufacturers have responded with products compliant with this code. During development of the upcoming 2013 CalGreen, SLOAN VALVE COMPANY and other industry members provided comments supporting the safe and efficient use of water.

We strongly urge the CEC to adopt these 2013 CalGreen standards. Implementation by the CEC of any new standards that conflict or may conflict with CalGreen creates an enormous burden on local merchants and manufacturers. Our proposal is also consistent with comments already submitted to the CEC by Plumbing Manufacturers International (PMI) and other stakeholders.

The water efficiency levels in AB715, SB 407 and CALGreen should be incorporated into the CEC Title 20 requirements as these pending new levels have been comprehensively analyzed, scrutinized and vetted by regulators and industry during the last two years. The levels can be summarized as follows:

- Water Closets – 1.28 gpf
- Water Closets (dual flush, performance equal to the average of 1 large and 2 small flushes) – 1.28 gpf
- Urinals – 0.5 gpf

In summary, SLOAN VALVE COMPANY recommends that the CEC simply reference the appropriate existing sections of the current editions of the CPC and CalGreen. Harmonization across the California government agencies benefits all parties involved by eliminating conflicting requirements for manufacturers, simplifying the administration, and eliminating confusion in the marketplace for merchants and consumers alike. Additionally, SLOAN VALVE COMPANY recommends that the implementation date be January 1, 2016 to allow California merchants, large and small, the opportunity to deplete existing inventory and transition to the new requirements.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments. If you have any questions or need further information, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Daniel Gleiberman

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