



CPVC 24-Hour Minimum Cure Time Sample Language for a Shut Down Notification

The sprinkler industry is experiencing water damage losses from CPVC piping. However, at RelMark, the loss activity related to improperly joining of piping has decreased to the point where these types of claims are nearly non-existent with our insureds. The reason? *RelMark Program Managers requires our contracting partners to practice standard cut-in procedures that include a minimum of 24-hour cure time for all modifications or repairs made to CPVC piping.*

There are many variables to insuring the proper joining of two pieces of CPVC piping. The temperature, humidity, pipe size, age of the solvent cement, cut of the pipe, or dirt or moisture on the pipe, can all affect the time needed for the proper curing of the cement. Because it is difficult for field installers to weigh all the variables and adjust for appropriate cure times for each cut-in, RelMark Program Managers Cut-In Procedures require a minimum 24-hour cure time before introducing water into the sprinkler piping.

With a 24-hour cure time, the sprinkler system, or a portion of the sprinkler system, will be out of service while the cement cures. It is important that the building owners understand their responsibility in maintaining a safe environment during the system modification/repair.

Written notification of the length of cure time must be shared with the building owner prior to initiating work. If using a contract, the standard wording should be added to the document. Otherwise, a standard 'Shut Down Notification' should be developed and signed by the building owner before work is initiated. The following is sample language for your consideration. Your legal council should review any wording before instituting into standard procedures.

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Sample Wording for 24-Hour Minimum Cure Time

We, (name of sprinkler contractor), are providing notification to you (name of building owner) that we will be altering the CPVC piping in your building as part of the sprinkler system repair or modification.

To assure proper operation when completed, CPVC piping components require a minimum cure time of 24 hours. As such, your sprinkler system will be shut down and out of service for at least 24 hours.

You are responsible for instituting and maintaining a fire watch in the building while the sprinkler system is out of service.

You must provide your property insurance carrier with advance notification of the sprinkler shut down. You may be asked by your property insurer to take additional precautions.

We, (name of sprinkler contractor), are not responsible for fire, or other bodily injury or property damage that could result due to lack of sprinkler system response during the shut down period.

If a building owner needs additional information as to why you, as the sprinkler contractor, are asking for lengthy down times on the sprinkler system, feel free to share the first page of this document with the individual(s). Education and understanding of the hazard will aid in compliance of the cure times.

Additional References

Recommended Cut-In Procedures for CPVC Sprinkler Systems, available at www.relmark.net

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