



CPVC Industry Wide Changes

New Documents Available

RelMark has never shied away from a challenge or doing what is right for our customers: fire sprinkler contractors. When we saw CPVC related losses that could not be attributed to installation error, we dug in. We researched the incidents for root causes. What we found were more questions than answers. So on behalf of our insureds, RelMark went to the manufacturers for answers.

In March of 2007, RelMark hosted a CPVC Summit in Philadelphia, PA. In attendance were all of the major manufacturers of CPVC fire sprinkler products, as well as contractors who install CPVC systems. The purpose of the meeting was to raise awareness of CPVC related issues that contractors were encountering and to gain the support of manufacturers to address these concerns. The manufacturers welcomed the open discussion. Since that time, representatives from each of the major manufacturers have been meeting together regularly. RelMark stayed involved each step of the way - working with the manufacturers - while representing the interests of fire sprinkler contractors.

As a direct result of the manufacturers' meetings, the industry has made headway in updating and enhancing CPVC resources by:

- Updating and unifying manufacturers' installation instructions
- Improving training programs for installers
- Developing new informational tools for the installing contractor
- Developing new informational tools for the general contractors, other trades and building owners

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On their websites, each manufacturer has new informational documents. These documents were developed to assist the installing contractors in conveying important information to building owners, other trades, or anyone involved in handling and storing CPVC products. Two of the documents you will find are:

Jobsite Notice – announces the presence of a CPVC fire sprinkler system and provides guidance on care and compatibility issues. This sign should be posted on jobsites.

Turnover Letter – provides the building owner with important information including care, compatibility, and maintenance of CPVC. This letter should be provided with turnover documents at the end of a project, or as part of the bid proposal.

Attached is a generic version of these two documents – without the manufacturers' logos and phone numbers. Please go to the manufacturers' websites or call your representative for manufacturer specific documents. These documents are also available in Spanish and French.

This is just the beginning of the enhancements planned within the CPVC fire sprinkler industry. Soon you will see improved training programs for installers, educational programs and resources for general contractors, other trades, and the building owner.

The most important tool for any contractor is knowledge. Stay involved through the trade associations, the manufacturers' websites, and your local CPVC representative. Ask questions - demand answers.

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NOTICE

This building contains a CPVC fire sprinkler system. This CPVC fire sprinkler system is a Life Safety Assembly and must be treated carefully. Please read the following before any activity which could contact this system:

CPVC piping components may be damaged by certain substances and construction practices.

- DO NOT stack, support, hang equipment, or hang flexible wire/cable, especially communications cable, or other material on the fire sprinkler system.
- ONLY system compatible materials including, but not limited to solvent cements, caulks, sealants, cutting oils and thread pastes as noted by the CPVC fire sprinkler piping system manufacturer's installation instructions should be used in contact with this system.
- DO NOT expose CPVC products to incompatible substances, such as cutting oils, non-water based paints, packing oils, traditional pipe thread paste and dope, fungicides, termiticides, insecticides, detergents, building caulks, adhesive tape, solder flux, flexible wire/cable (with special consideration for communications cabling), and non-approved spray foam insulation materials.
- DO NOT expose CPVC products to edible oils, solvents, or glycol-based anti-freeze fluids.
- DO NOT expose CPVC products to open flame, solder, and soldering flux.
- DO NOT drop, distort, or impact CPVC products or allow objects to be dropped on them.
- DO NOT handle CPVC products with gloves contaminated with oils (hydrocarbons) or other incompatible materials.

Failure to follow this notice may cause cracks or fractures to develop in CPVC products resulting in property damage due to leaks or flooding. The presence of any visible cracks may require partial or full system replacement. For additional information contact the general contractor or the fire sprinkler system installer.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT (INSERT MANUFACTURER NAME) AT 1-XXX-XXX-XXXX

INSERT LOGO

Rev 2.1– 27 feb 20

Important Information with Regards to Your CPVC Fire Sprinkler System

CONGRATULATIONS, your building structure contains a state of the art life safety system. Your CPVC fire sprinkler system will enhance the safety and security of your building when properly cared for. CPVC Fire Sprinkler Products resist attack from a wide range of chemicals that are corrosive to metallic piping. As with any piping material, there are however, certain chemicals that can be detrimental to CPVC. Occasionally some of these chemicals may be found in some construction products, site preparations and building maintenance. There are certain things that you need to be mindful of in caring for or working around your CPVC fire sprinkler system.

Keep your system clear from contact with the following products and chemicals unless product labels state materials are compatible with CPVC:

NOTICE	
Ordinary considerations	Property maintenance services
Cleaning Products Detergents Oils/Lubricants/Greases Rubbery Materials	Fungicides Mold Remediation Chemicals Termiticides / Insecticides
For hired contractors & do-it-yourselfers	
Corrosion Inhibitors Glycol-based antifreezes Solder Flux Thread Sealants Flexible Cable / Wiring (especially communications cabling) Caulks/Mastics Adhesive Vinyl / Electrical Tape Non-Approved Spray Foam Insulation Non-Water Based Paint Paint Thinners Wood Finishes/Varnishes	

You should also avoid the following:

- Sitting, standing, hanging, leaning, or resting anything on the pipe, fittings, and sprinkler heads
- Grounding electrical wiring to the pipe or fittings
- Ambient temperatures below 40°F/4°C where your fire sprinkler system is located. (Unless an approved compatible antifreeze or insulation method is installed.)
- Hot work around the pipe, i.e. blow torches, soldering, etc.

Be certain that this document is reviewed and understood by anyone working on or around your CPVC life safety system. If you have any questions or need assistance on chemical compatibility with your CPVC fire sprinkler system, contact the manufacturer listed on the pipe.

Proper care will help your CPVC fire sprinkler system provide protection for years to come.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT “CPVC PIPE/FITTING MANUFACTURER” AT 1-800-XXX-XXXX

INSERT LOGO