

RELEASE



PRESS

16 March 2017

BPF PIPES GROUP SUPPORTS SAFETY IN BUILDINGS THROUGH GOOD PLUMBING

The BPF Pipes Group has launched new guidance for the discharge from unvented hot water storage cylinders into plastic sanitary pipework systems (soil stacks), to promote best practice in the industry.

Available from the BPF Pipes Group website at <https://www.bfppipesgroup.com/support-downloads/guidance-notes>, the guidance draws attention to the importance of good plumbing design and installation to protect public safety. It builds on testing supported by the BPF Pipes Group to better understand specific aspects relating to hot water safety in the Building Regulations for England and Wales and the Building Standards for Scotland.

To prevent the temperature of stored water exceeding 100°C and escaping dangerously as steam, a temperature or temperature and pressure relief valve is installed to discharge water from the storage vessel in the event of serious over-heating of a hot water system. This water is conveyed away through a discharge pipe which is taken outside the property and down to ground level or connected into the soil stack.

The new guidance focuses on selecting the correct plastic pipes for use as discharge pipes and the essentials for good plumbing design. It also highlights practical aspects for installers such as properly supporting pipework, using self-sealing waterless valves when connecting to a soil stack to prevent foul sewer gases from entering the building, and the importance of the soil stack remaining vented to atmosphere.

Steve Skeldon, Chair of the BPF Pipes Group's working group on above ground gravity drainage (inside/outside buildings), commented that "the publication of this practical guidance to support the Building Regulations will assist in the correct use of materials to safeguard building users. The BPF Pipes Group supports the drive for better safety in

buildings and is pleased to be able to offer this guidance for designers and installers of hot water systems. All pipes manufactured by BPF Pipes Group members have been verified by third party certification to the relevant standards so designers can be sure that the products included in this guidance are fit for purpose.”

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PHOTO CAPTION: Diagram of typical unvented hot water system

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About the BPF Pipes Group

Part of the British Plastics Federation, the BPF Pipes Group is a trade association representing manufacturers and material suppliers of plastic piping systems across the UK. Committed to sustainable construction, its aims are to provide a forum for the exchange of technical expertise between member companies and to promote the importance of plastic as a pipework material, for the full spectrum of above and below ground, pressure and non-pressure applications. It also plays a key role in initiating and disseminating research and informing and influencing the standards bodies pertaining to plastic pipe systems. It works closely with the BPF and TEPPFA, the European Plastic Pipes and Fittings Association.