

Issue Update

Building and Safety Policy Branch Bulletin -July 2009

The Building and Safety Policy Branch has issued a bulletin outlining current 2006 BC Building Code requirements pertaining to backflow prevention for solar domestic hot water systems.

Solar Domestic Hot Water Systems (SDHWS) are required to conform to CAN/CSA-F379.1-88 and must be installed in conformance with CAN/CSA-F383-87. The BC Building Code (BCBC) does not require certification with these standards.

BC Building Code Requirements: The current BCBC does not require any additional safeguards for SDHWS beyond those required by the CSA standards, unless a make-up water connection is made directly to the solar heat transfer loop. If a direct connection is made to provide make-up water to a solar heat transfer loop that contains anything other than potable water, this direct connection should be protected in accordance with Section 7.6.2 of the BCBC.

The bulletin is available online through the Building and Safety Policy Branch website at: <http://www.housing.gov.bc.ca/building/bulletins/index.htm>

In addition, the Province is currently seeking public input on three proposals for changes to Provincial building regulations:

- **High-Efficiency Toilets** - Building Code requirement for high-efficiency toilets (including dual-flush units) and urinals in new construction. The requirement supports greening the BC Building Code and Living Water Smart, BC's water plan.
- **Solar Hot Water Ready** - Local government option to require Solar Hot Water Ready construction for new single family houses, which supports the 100,000 Solar Roofs Initiative and the Province's commitment to reduce GHG emissions.
- **Letters of Assurance** - Update to the Building Code's Letters of Assurance. The update responds to industry requests and supports the Modernization Strategy's shift toward more clearly defined responsibilities and accountabilities.

It is important that the Building Policy Branch hear from you. You are invited to comment on these proposals through the public review until September 14, 2009. The online review can be accessed at:

<http://www.housing.gov.bc.ca/building/consultation/index.htm>