



CIPH Information Bulletin—September 2012

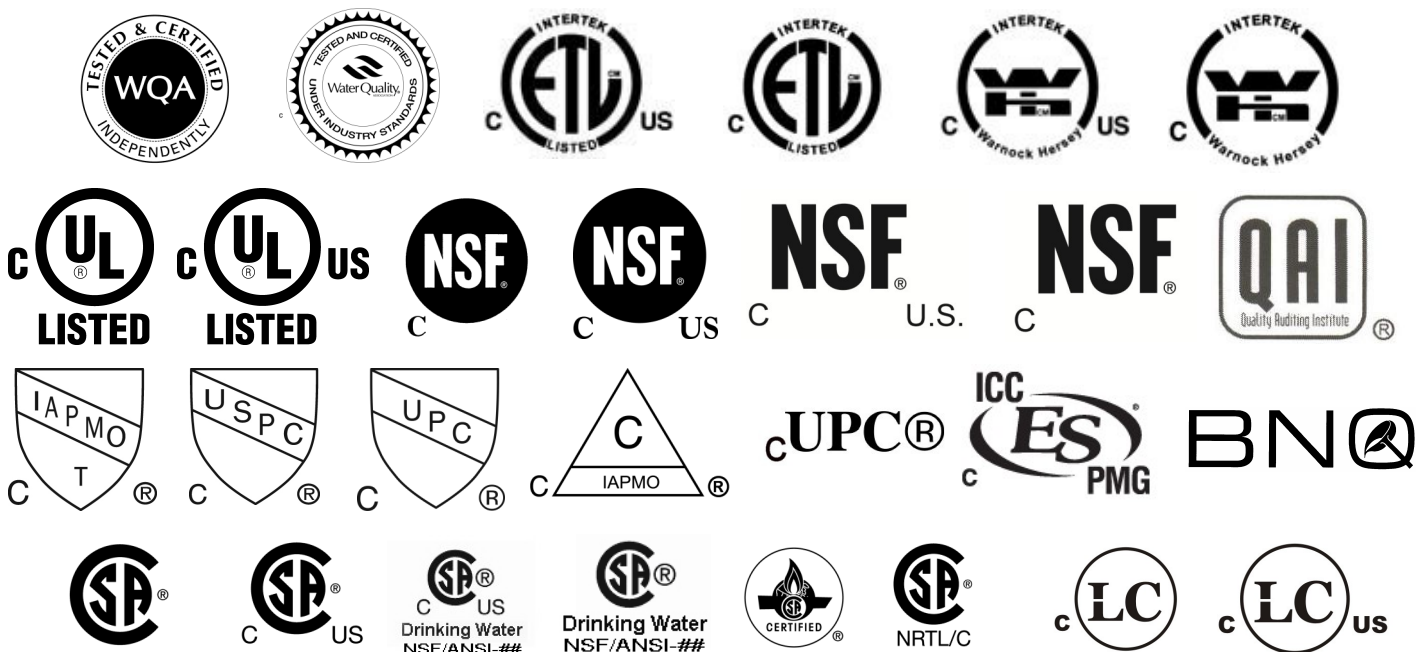
Plumbing Products Certified for Use in Canada

Background

This information bulletin from the Canadian Institute of Plumbing and Heating (CIPH), will aid wholesale distributors, retailers and inspectors to identify plumbing and water treatment products that are currently certified for use in Canada. Products that do not bear one of the following marks may not be appropriate for sale and installation in all jurisdictions and in some cases may create health and safety issues.

How do I know if a product is certified?

There are several certification organizations that are accredited to certify product in North America and the



certifying body is required to ensure their mark is placed on product it certifies. Here are the marks that are currently accepted in Canada:

If I see a mark that I think is questionable, how do I verify if the product is acceptable?

All of the accredited certification organizations in North America have a webpage that can be accessed to verify certified product listings. Organizations approved to certify products in Canada are:

BNQ: http://www-es.criq.gc.ca/pls/owa_es/bnqw_entr_enr.crit_rech?p_lang=en&p_type_bng=NC

CSA: <http://directories.csa-international.org/>

IAPMO: <http://pld.iapmo.org/>

ICC: http://www.icc-es-pmg.org/Listing_Directory/

Intertek: <http://www.intertek.com/directories/>

LabTest: <http://www.labtestcert.com/labtest/>

NSF: http://www.nsf.org/business/search_listings/

QAI: <http://www.qai.org/listing-directory.html>

UL & ULC: <http://database.ul.com/cgi-bin/XYV/template/LISCANADA/1FRAME/index.html>

Water Quality Association: <http://www.wqa.org/sitelogic.cfm?id=1165§ion=3>

Each organization's scope of accreditation and certification marks can also be accessed at the Standards Council of Canada (SCC): <http://www.scc.ca/en/accreditation/product-process-and-service-certification/directory-of-accredited-clients>



CIPH Information Bulletin—September 2012

Plumbing Products Certified for Use in Canada—FAQ's

What are the advantages to using certified product?

- Certified products have been produced and certified to demonstrated standards of performance;
 - They have been evaluated to ensure they will perform properly (i.e. ensuring the threads are the correct type so you can connect the product easily, as one example);
- They are regularly checked for compliance by accredited certification organizations to ensure products continue to be manufactured in accordance with national standards; and
- Where required, they have been evaluated for toxicological concerns.

What's the harm in stocking and selling uncertified fixtures/fittings?

In Alberta and Quebec, it is illegal to stock and sell unapproved products that are subject to applied standards and is enforceable by law. In other jurisdictions of Canada, it may not be considered illegal to sell the product, but provincial regulations forbid their installation. This means that if you stock and sell these products, you can expect to have a high percentage of them disallowed by provincial/municipal inspectors and returned to you. Also, there is no assurance that uncertified fixtures/fittings meet Canadian recognized standards or where standards do not exist, meet reasonable expectations for performance, health and safety.

What if fixture manufacturer "x" has their product certified, but has not marked the product?

Certified product is required to bear the certification mark. Some fixture manufacturers acknowledge that customers want an aesthetic that is mark-free and choose to mark their product with a permanent adhesive label (which is designed to be removed after inspection and will also self-destruct so that it can not be placed on another product). If an adhesive label is accidentally removed prior to inspection, the inspector has no choice but to assume the product is uncertified and request its removal. Therefore, it is important that contractors and consumers maintain proof of the product certification compliance on the product (in addition to the carton, installation instructions, warranty and homeowners manual and specification sheet) until AFTER inspection.

Myth	Reality
All plumbing product sold through the wholesale chain is suitable for sale and installation.	If a product has a Canadian or a harmonized U.S. - Canadian standard that it can be certified to and it is not certified, it may cause health and safety concerns, including damage to the building it is being installed in. There are certain plumbing products (i.e. certain water treatment devices) that may not have a standard to which it can be certified. These products are an exception to the rule and are permitted for sale and installation.
Installing uncertified plumbing product does not violate any provincial/territorial regulations.	CIPH is not aware of a single jurisdiction in Canada that allows uncertified product to knowingly be installed. Alberta and Quebec also have legislation against the sale of such product (again, noting the exception of products that do not have a standard to be certified to).

Who should I contact if I have further questions on uncertified plumbing product?

If you need to talk to a building official for guidance, CIPH has a list of regulators by region at: <http://www.ciph.com/Downloads/codesAndStandards/cacpRegulators.php> or visit the Standards Council of Canada website at : <http://www.scc.ca/>