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Contact: Ralph Suppa, CAE
President & General Manager
r.suppa@ciph.com

CIPH Communicates with HESA Committee Regarding Bill C-52

The Canadian Institute of Plumbing and Heating formally presented in writing to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Health (HESA) its concerns related to the Committee's review of Bill C-52, An Act Respecting the Safety of Consumer Products.

Essentially, the Institute supports the underlying intention of Bill C-52. The Institute believes that consumer safety is paramount; however, we had previously written to Health Canada on April 8, 2008 and also expressed the following additional concerns:

1. The breadth and scope of the Bill is such that it provides the ability for Health Canada to potentially misuse those powers and override other existing processes (such as standards and certification) with very little transparency;
2. Clarification on the definition of "consumer" is required (i.e. is a contractor who buys product from a wholesaler but installs it for a homeowner, the "consumer"...or is the homeowner the consumer?);
3. Leaving the inspection/enforcement aspects of the new Bill to existing regulator duties may not work. Regulators are already overworked and taking on this responsibility may not be realistic. Additional Federal Inspection may duplicate this process;
4. Objective-based building codes may cause problems with the system as outlined by Health Canada. The Model National Codes are now objective based and as they get adopted by the provinces and territories, this could become an issue in particular as new standards are published.

The Institute has also gone on record requesting the opportunity to continue to work in partnership with the federal government and that we be part of the regulation process once it begins.

Note: CIPH has been alerted that a motion was tabled in the House of Commons to delay the review of Bill C-52. The Committee needs more time to complete its review on pharmaceuticals and the health accord. Bill C-52 is expected to be heard beginning in the Fall of 2008.

The Canadian Institute of Plumbing & Heating is a not-for-profit trade association. Founded in 1933, the Institute is a vibrant organization committed to providing members with the tools for success in today's competitive environment. More than 260 companies are members of this influential Canadian industry association. They are the manufacturers, wholesaler distributors, master distributors, manufacturers' agents and allied companies who manufacture and distribute plumbing, hydronic heating, industrial, waterworks and other mechanical products. CIPH wholesalers operate more than 600 warehouses and showrooms across Canada. Total industry sales exceed \$4.6 billion annually.



295 The West Mall, Suite 330, Toronto, Ontario M9C 4Z4.

info@ciph.com, Fax. 416-695-0450, www.ciph.com, Tel. 1-888-ASK-CIPH (275-2474), 416-695-0447.