



# Florida Division of State Fire Marshal

The Florida Fire Marshals and Inspectors Association,  
"Organization" (§633.026)

## **Informal Interpretation**

**Date:** 1/4/2019

**NFPA Document Number:** NFPA 13R

**Edition:** 2013

**Paragraph Reference:** A.5.2.3

**Question** (*should be worded so that it can be answered with either "Yes" or "No"*):

Does chemical resistance testing from 2004 showing product compatibility with CPVC piping together with information from the CPVC manufacturer showing product containing the exact same concentration of the active chemical as an approved chemical satisfy the "necessary consideration of chemical compatibility" requirement contained in A.5.2.3 of the NFPA document referenced above? See Exhibit A for specific details on the exact evidentiary documents provided to LFO.

**Answer:** No

In accordance with NFPA 13R section 5.2.3.1.1.1 and 5.2.3.1.2, nonmetallic piping shall be installed in accordance with the manufacture's installation instructions and listing limitations. The manufacture's installation instructions and listing limitations should include specific direction regarding product compatibility. The LFO's approval of product compatibility, and compliance with NFPA 13R, should be derived from the specific product approval direction provided by the CPVC product manufacture. The resolution to this issue is for the CPVC product manufacturer to render an opinion on the approval of the use of the specific product in this application. The product manufacturer must approve the compatibility of this specific product in this application in order for the LFO to ensure compliance with NFPA 13R and the Florida Fire Prevention Code.

Note: The FCIC recognizes that there may be a delay in approval of a new product by the manufacture. Therefore, options could be explored with the LFO, Tim-Bor, General Contractor and other parties to allow a CO to be issued while manufacturer approval of this specific product takes place. As an example, the following conditions could be implemented to allow CO to be issued with the LFO approval:

1. Tim-Bor has completed an application for product approval with Spears and Spears has confirmed receipt of the product approval submittal and;

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Rulings herein expressed are not the formal position of the Florida State Fire Marshal's Office

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2. A signed and sealed opinion has rendered by Florida Registered Professional Engineer that the Tim-Bor product is identical to other approved Spears approved products, the application is similar and compatibility with the CPVC would be acceptable and;
3. A surety bond has been issued to ensure that if the Tim-Bor product is not approved by Spears within X time, the CPVC will be replaced and all associated repairs conducted.

The above items are just examples and other equivalent options could be explored to ensure product approval or, if product approval is not forthcoming, eventual replacement and repair with code compliant products.

Committee Answer Submitted by,  
James Groff, Chairman  
Informal Fire Code Interpretation Committee

Region 1: Vacant / Vacant

Region 2: Babette Ferris-No response / Vacant

Region 3: James Groff-No / Robert Growick-No

Region 4: Philip Guglietti-No / Vacant

Region 5: Anthony Apfelbeck -No/ Timothy Ippolito No

Region 6: Robert Salvaggio-No/Alternate Kathy Szostak-No Response

Region 7: Bryan Parks-No response / Alternate Janet Washburn-No

## Committee Region Map



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