

## **Los Angeles Department of Water and Power Supplementary Purchase Specification (SPS) for toilet fixtures**

### **Background on the SPS**

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power's Supplementary Purchase Specification (SPS) for toilet fixtures was introduced and became a force in the marketplace in 2000. While manufacturer compliance with the SPS has always been entirely voluntary, it was not initially received warmly by those manufacturers. However, it ultimately was fully supported by that industry and played a significant role in the ANSI-approved national plumbing standard (ASME A112.19.5).

As designed, the SPS imposed additional requirements beyond the applicable ASME standards upon tank-type toilet fixtures, to ensure water savings persistence of those toilets purchased or supported by the water conservation programs of the utility industry. The three most significant requirements of the SPS are (1) mandates for durable flappers and (2) marking of replacement part numbers within the toilet tank, as well as (3) adjustability provisions that set a maximum flush volume when after-market generic flapper was installed. Several years after introduction, a performance requirement for fill valves was added as a fourth provision. This latter requirement effectively banned traditional ballcock-type (float arm) fill valves in favor of pilot-type fill valves.

### **2009 Marketplace**

Today, requirements for durable flappers and part number marking are incorporated within the ANSI national standard for all toilet fixtures. Furthermore, for the new high-efficiency toilets (HETs), the adjustability and pilot valve requirements are incorporated within the WaterSense specification for tank-type HETs. Since over 80 percent of all HETs introduced into the North American marketplace are WaterSense-certified (and that percentage is increasing), we have concluded that the SPS is a duplicative and unnecessary set of requirements for those fixtures.

### **Phasing out the SPS**

In view of the above, the SPS requirements will no longer be imposed upon HETs and those listings will terminate upon their normal date of expiration.

Because a few remaining water providers in the U.S. and Canada are still qualifying and rebating tank-type 1.6-gallon/6.0-litre fixtures, the SPS will continue to be supported for qualification of these types of fixtures until further notice. The ASME committee is currently working to revise the standard covering these type of products to possibly include the SPS requirements into the standard. Once the new standard is adopted with these added provisions, the SPS will no longer be supported or available for use by any manufacturer or by water providers for their conservation incentives.

If you have any questions, please contact one of the following individuals:

- Thomas Gackstetter, Los Angeles Department of Water & Power:  
213-367-0936, [Thomas.Gackstetter@ladwp.com](mailto:Thomas.Gackstetter@ladwp.com)
- Ken Wijaya, International Association of Plumbing & Mechanical Officials, IAPMO R&T Lab:  
909-472-4135, [ken.wijaya@iapmortl.org](mailto:ken.wijaya@iapmortl.org)
- John Koeller, Koeller & Company:  
714-777-2744, [koeller@earthlink.net](mailto:koeller@earthlink.net)