



## INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PLUMBING AND MECHANICAL OFFICIALS

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January 4, 2016

Federal Trade Commission  
Office of the Secretary  
600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Suite CC-5610 (Annex E)  
Washington, DC 20580

**RE: Energy Labeling Amendments for Plumbing Products (16 CFR part 305) (Project No. R611004)**

Dear Mr. Newsome:

The International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO) appreciates this opportunity to provide our comments on the subject project. As an independent third-party certification body (CB), IAPMO R&T works closely with our manufacturer clients to provide independent testing and certification services that allow manufacturers to demonstrate continuous compliance with all applicable construction codes, product standards and regulations. We also provide continuous information to code officials and regulators throughout the United States regarding the meaning of our Marks of Conformity to help ensure that only products that have demonstrated compliance to all applicable standards are installed in our nations buildings.

In regards to the proposed plumbing ASME reference updates, IAPMO R&T proposes that ASME product standard marking requirements for showerheads and faucets (A112.18.1), as well as water closets and urinals (A112.19.2), be completely removed from 16 CFR part 305 for the following reasons:

- The current markings were originally incorporated into the FTC regulations to harmonize FTC marking requirements with the marking requirements contained in both ASME standards in force at the time. The "M" designation, which at the time was part of the title of both standards, simply indicated that the standard contained metric equivalents to the empirical units of measure contained in the standard. The "M" has since been removed from the titles of both standards, and most importantly, neither standard currently requires these markings. Thus, deleting them would again align the FTC marking requirements with the standards.
- All plumbing codes require manufacturers to third-party certify their products to the current applicable standard, such as ASME A112.18.1/CSA B125.1 (2012). This certification requires testing to all applicable product standard requirements including flow rate tests for faucets and showerheads and consumption tests for toilets and urinals.



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- IAPMO R&T conducts unannounced compliance testing auditing of the product and the manufacturer's facilities to assure ongoing compliance with the applicable standards.
- IAPMO R&T authorizes the use of our UPC mark of conformity as assurance to regulators and to the marketplace that a product has met all applicable product requirements. This is the mark that code officials count on to determine compliance to the applicable standards.
- The markings currently required by the standard and by the Commission are applied onto products and / or product packaging. Requiring manufacturers to revise and continue to mark their products with the standards related markings discussed above would create an unnecessary and unreasonable cost burden without providing any benefit to consumers or regulators.

In closing, IAPMO respectfully requests that the FTC consider our comments and eliminate the requirement to needlessly mark plumbing products with the ASME standard designations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter DeMarco".

Peter DeMarco  
Senior Vice President of Advocacy & Research  
The IAPMO Group