

STATE OF OREGON BUILDING CODES DIVISION

PLUMBING CODE INTERPRETATION

SUBJECT: Water Hammer Devices

CODE SECTION: Oregon Plumbing Specialty Code (OPSC), Section 609.10 & Oregon Residential Specialty Code (ORSC), Section P2909.10.

CODE EDITION: 2005 Edition.

DATE: August 12, 2005

QUESTION: Section 609.10 OPSC and P2909.10 ORSC requires devices to absorb the hammer caused by high pressures resulting from the quick closing of quick-acting valves. What are quick-acting valves and where are these devices required by the code?

ANSWER: “Quick-acting valves” as used in Section 609.10 OPSC and P2909.10 ORSC means a quick closing type of solenoid valve which is an integral part of the water distribution piping system of the building or a flushometer valve. These types of valves require a pressure absorbing device or air chamber to be installed, in an accessible location, to protect the piping system from high pressure spikes caused by the quick closing action of the valve.

As used in the code a “Quick-acting valve” does not include a solenoid valve which is a part of an appliance or external water piping attachments such as used in a clothes washer, dishwasher, lawn irrigation, or ice maker. A “Quick-acting valve” as used in the code does not include a single handled faucet, ball valve, quarter turn valve, hand shower, kitchen faucet sprayer or garden hose attachment.