



Informal Interpretation Report Number 9536



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Section P2903.5

Question:

Regarding hammer arrestors or specifically hammering of pipes. There are different interpretations of this code among several Jurisdictions. Water hammer arrestors are to be installed where quick closing valves are used by mechanical, automatic or manual means. A single lever faucet or even some single lever mixing valves shut quickly and cause hammer in piping. So, the question is if a single lever faucet or mixing valve is considered to be a quick closing valve and would require a hammer arrestor?

Answer

No, a standard single-lever faucet or manual mixing valve is not considered a quick-closing (or fast-acting) valve in the plumbing industry. Further, the definition of a QUICK-CLOSING VALVE is a valve or faucet that closes automatically when released manually or that is controlled by a mechanical means for fast-action closing. Therefore, unless the faucet releases quickly after the manual movement to open the faucet has been removed, it is not a quick closing valve.

Commentary:

According to the IRC Commentary, the code defines a quick-closing valve as any type of solenoid-actuated valve, spring-loaded, self-closing faucets; or any other device capable of instantaneously reducing water flow from a full-flow to a no-flow condition. Although most faucets can be manually closed fast enough to produce water hammer, the code does not designate manually closed valves or faucets as "quick-closing."

Notice:

The Building Officials Association of Florida, in cooperation with the Florida Building Commission, the Florida Department of Business & Professional Regulation, ICC, and industry and professional experts offer this interpretation of the Florida Building Code in the interest of consistency in their application statewide. This interpretation is informal, non-binding and subject to acceptance and approval by the local building official.