

Plastics Pipe Institute Statement Y

Taste and Odor Statement

For over 50 years, The Plastics Pipe Institute (PPI) and its members have been involved in the research, development and education on plastic piping systems throughout North America. In doing so, a commitment to health and safety has always been our highest priority. Our manufacturer members earn certifications showing that their raw materials and finished products satisfy the requirements of international standards and the Safe Drinking Water Act.

Plastic piping systems are designed to provide safe, reliable supply of drinking water without the historic problems of corrosion, leakage, mineral build-up and/or release of metallic elements into drinking water. Plastic piping systems are specified by engineers for their performance and are chosen by builders and plumbers for their reliability.

Before the introduction of PEX plumbing systems in North America in the 1990's, copper tubing was the most common indoor plumbing distribution material for several decades. Copper pipes do affect the taste of the water, as shown in independent studies, but many people who live in houses with copper plumbing have become accustomed to the taste of water delivered through copper plumbing pipes. Therefore, a change to any other plumbing material will cause a change in the taste and/or odor of the water.

The taste and odor and safety of plastic water pipes have been studied in North America and Europe since the 1960's. International test methods have been designed to evaluate the safety of plastic plumbing pipes for drinking water. The mandatory test method/requirement in use in North America is the standard *NSF/ANSI 61: Drinking Water System Components - Health Effects*. In both USA and Canada, all plastic plumbing pipes and municipal water supply pipes must meet or exceed and be certified to this standard. The following link connects to a paper which describes this test method.

www.nsf.org/business/plastics_piping/PEX_Tubing_NSF-61.pdf

Taste and odor occur naturally in drinking water and may be affected by any type of water supply or plumbing material, metal or plastic. The PPI will continue its service to provide the public with a safe and reliable drinking water supply through its member-produced HDPE, PEX and CPVC piping systems. Please visit the PPI website www.plasticpipe.org to obtain additional information on research, education and training, and to link directly to the members' websites.

Approved February 2008