



INFORMATIONAL BULLETIN

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Chief Building Official

PRESSURE RELIEF VALVES IN LIEU OF EXPANSION TANKS

Reference: California Plumbing Code Section 608.2

Section 608.2 Excessive Water Pressure of the California Plumbing Code requires an approved pressure regulator where static water pressure in the water supply piping exceeds 80 psi. To prevent excessive pressure from developing in the cold water distribution piping downstream of any such regulator due to thermal expansion and to maintain the pressure setting of the regulator, an approved expansion tank is required to be installed. This section, however, allows use of an approved pressure relief valve in lieu of the expansion tank when specified by a registered engineer responsible for the plumbing system design.

For projects for which the City performs no design review or for which no registered engineer is responsible for the plumbing design, such substitution may be allowed under the following conditions:

1. A registered engineer shall review the system design including all materials and components to determine that the substitution is acceptable from a design and performance perspective.
2. The registered engineer shall provide a written document, signed and stamped, that includes:
 - a. A clear description of the project, e.g. if a custom home, indicate custom home and address. If a tract home, indicate the project name and tract number, and indicate all applicable models.
 - b. The following statement, "Based on a review of the water distribution system design, including materials and components to be used, it is my professional opinion that the substitution of a pressure relief valve set at (insert pressure setting not to exceed 100 psi) in lieu of an expansion tank will provide adequate protection from thermal expansion as intended by California Plumbing Code Section 608.2"
 - c. Specification that the pressure relief valve will be installed on the cold water distribution piping downstream of the pressure regulator.
 - d. Any additional conditions as deemed appropriate by the registered engineer.

Note: Said document must be accepted by the City Inspector prior to passing rough plumbing inspection.