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WATER CLOSETS IN PUBLIC WASHROOMS

Subject: **ELONGATED WATER CLOSETS**

This bulletin has been jointly developed by Safety Services and the Plumbing Technical Council to inform the plumbing industry of the requirements associated with the installation of elongated water closets in public washrooms.

Designers, Installers and **Safety Codes Officers** are reminded that elongated water closets are required to limit the area of user contact with potentially contaminated surfaces. Water closets installed in washrooms for public use are exposed to multiple users between cleanings and tend to be exposed to more frequent misuse. The elongated bowl and open front seat reduce the probability of the negative effects of misuse (soiling of surfaces, etc.) and provides less user exposure to potentially contaminated surfaces.

The National Plumbing Code of Canada (NPC) 2010 under Division B **Sentence 2.2.2.5 (1)** states:

“When a water closet is installed in a washroom for **public use**, it shall be of the elongated type and provided with a seat of the open front type”.

Definition of **Public use** means *fixtures* in general washrooms of schools, gymnasiums, hotels, bars, public comfort stations and other installations where *fixtures* are installed so that their use is unrestricted.

An elongated water closet bowl is 2-inches (51 mm) longer than a regular bowl and the extension is toward the front of the fixture. The concept of this requirement is to reduce the possibility of missing the bowl and soiling the water closet seat and surroundings. The elongated water closet bowl also has a larger water surface area which helps keep the inside surface of the bowl clean.

The objective of this NPC requirement is **health** and is intended to reduce the probability of the spread of disease. If further clarification is necessary, contact the local **authority having jurisdiction**.