

Resolution No.   2  

Date: June 8, 2007

City: Washington, D.C.

NAHB Resolution

Title: Performance-Based Standards for Plumbing Products  
Original Sponsors: National Council of the Housing Industry/California BIA

WHEREAS, plumbing product manufacturers and home builders strive to provide their customers with safe, reliable and affordable plumbing products with many options in materials, styles, finishes, prices and configurations to address the great variety of consumer preferences and living environments;

WHEREAS, performance evaluation and certification of the safety and reliability of plumbing products is essential to provide assurances to home builders and protect consumers and, therefore, should be based upon objective and scientifically tested performance standards;

WHEREAS, certification of plumbing products to objective and scientifically-based and tested industry consensus standards through recognized and accredited certification organizations provides home builders and consumers with appropriate assurances that plumbing products installed in homes are safe and reliable;

WHEREAS, plumbing products certified to performance-based industry consensus standards allow for the greatest and most cost-effective options in plumbing products for American consumers while providing consistent assurances of product safety and reliability;

WHEREAS, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), NSF International and state governments have adopted measures to ensure that plumbing products are safe and reliable by requiring performance-based product testing and certification and by prohibiting certain products and practices inconsistent with product performance standards designed to protect public health and safety, conserve water and ensure product reliability; and

WHEREAS, notwithstanding a well-developed governmental and industry system of building and plumbing product codes and standards based on objective and scientifically-based and tested performance standards, recent legislation and regulations adopted in California have sought to substitute untested content standards for consensus performance standards;

WHEREAS, the California proposals are not objective or scientifically based; pose significant financial consequences to plumbing manufacturers, home builders and consumers; and have unknown and untested consequences for the health and safety of American consumers,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Association of Home Builders support and encourage objective and scientifically tested performance-based standards for the manufacture of plumbing products;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NAHB urge the U.S. Congress, state legislatures and local governments to oppose mandates imposing prescriptive content standards for plumbing products that could have unknown consequences for the safety and reliability of plumbing products and would unnecessarily disrupt the product procurement process, limit consumer choices, increase costs and reduce the availability of plumbing products; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NAHB work with federal, state and local code and consensus standards bodies to promote performance-based standards for evaluating plumbing products.

Board of Directors Action:	<b>Approved</b>
Joint Executive Board Action:	Recommends Approval
Resolutions Committee Action:	Recommends Approval
Construction, Codes and Standards Committee Action:	Recommends Approval
Single Family Small Volume Builders Committee Action:	Recommends Approval
Single Family Production Builders Committee Action:	Recommends Approval
Environmental Issues Committee Action:	Recommends Approval
State and Local Government Affairs Committee Action:	Recommends Approval
Custom Home Builders Committee Action:	Recommends Approval
Federal Government Affairs Committee Action:	Recommends Approval
Building Product Issues Committee Action:	Recommends Approval
National Council of the Housing Industry Board of Trustees Action:	Recommends Approval