

**Fire Department Connections
utilizing Thread-less (Storz-type) fittings**

Recently *GENERAL INFORMATION NOTICE 2010-01* was issued by the CT Office of State Fire Marshal concerning the use of *Storz-type* fittings on the fire department connections for fire sprinkler and standpipe systems. As described by the General Information Notice, this issue stems from the requirements of the 2002 edition of the NFPA 13, *Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems*, document currently adopted by the *2005 CT STATE FIRE SAFETY CODE*. The document permits the use of thread-less couplings where required by the authority having jurisdiction (local fire marshal) provided they are "listed" for such use.

The issue at hand is that we know of no thread-less coupling that are listed for use on a fire department connection. This office is concerned that tread-less coupling may not be capable of withstanding fire pumper pressures in excess of 200 psi. Unfortunately the decision to issue this General Information Notice was made without the benefit of additional information that was not made available to me. In my initial review of the documents detailing the development of the requirements for thread-less coupling in the NFPA 13 standard, the NFPA Technical Committee having cognizance of the issue has sent mixed messages. That said, we will be working with the NFPA and its Technical Committee to resolve this issue and I will be re-visiting the content of the document and its merits.

In the interim, the document should be treated as a notice of the requirements of the NFPA 13 standard concerning the use of thread-less couplings on fire sprinkler and standpipe systems until a final determination. Any abatement action should be reserved until such determination. However, it is recommended to the fire service that a pump pressure of not more than 185 psi be applied to any systems equipped with such couplings.

Any questions can be directed to me at 860-685-8380 or by e-mail at barry.rickert@ct.gov.

Regards,

Barry Rickert

DEPUTY STATE FIRE MARSHAL
CT OFFICE OF STATE FIRE MARSHAL

FDCs with Storz-2.doc