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Potential Damage to CPVC Fire Sprinkler Systems From Connection to Anti-Bacterial Corrosion Lined Metal Piping

CPVC piping has been successfully used in combination with copper or steel piping for many years when proper attention is given to packing or cutting oils and thread sealants used to insure that Environmental Stress Cracking (ESC) is not a problem. However, new Anti-Bacterial Corrosion coatings designed to prevent Microbiological Influenced Corrosion (MIC) that are applied as a lining to metal pipe are at the center of a major ESC problem concerning combination of CPVC with Metal fire sprinkler systems.

While industry testing being conducted to determine cause has yet to be completed, reported data developed to date strongly suggests that the chemicals responsible for the fracturing of both CPVC pipe and fittings on at least one project are a part of the Anti-Bacterial Corrosion coating that lined the inside of the metal pipe. We believe this is sufficient reason to issue warning.

The installing contractor must identify any chemical agents (Such as but not limited to thread cutting oils, thread pastes, packing oils, insulating foams, or anti-bacterial corrosion coatings) that may come into contact with the CPVC system and verify through the proper substance manufacturer that those chemicals will not harm CPVC plastic material in any way.