

Plumbing alternate request information

The Department has the following procedure for reviewing materials or methods that have not yet been adopted in the Minnesota Plumbing Code within our jurisdiction. All alternate requests will be reviewed in accordance with Minnesota Rules, Chapter 4714, Section 301.3. Alternate fixture, material, or method must not be expressly approved, nor expressly prohibited in the Minnesota Plumbing Code.

Minnesota Rules, Chapter 4714, section 301.3, states in part:

301.3 Alternate Materials and Methods of Construction Equivalency. Nothing in this code is intended to prevent the use of systems, methods, or devices of equivalent or superior quality, strength, fire resistance, effectiveness, durability, and safety over those prescribed by this code. Prior to installation, technical documentation shall be submitted to the Authority Having Jurisdiction to demonstrate equivalency. Unless prohibited by this code or by law, the Authority Having Jurisdiction shall have the authority to approve or disapprove the system, method, or device for the intended purpose.

However, the exercise of this discretionary approval by the Authority Having Jurisdiction shall have no effect beyond the jurisdictional boundaries of the Authority Having Jurisdiction. An alternate material or method of construction so approved shall not be considered as in accordance with the requirements, intent, or both of this code for a purpose other than that granted by the Authority Having Jurisdiction where the submitted data does not prove equivalency.

301.3.1 Testing. The Authority Having Jurisdiction shall have the authority to require tests, as proof of equivalency.

301.3.1.1 Tests. Tests shall be made in accordance with approved or applicable standards, by an approved testing agency at the expense of the applicant. In the absence of such standards, the Authority Having Jurisdiction shall have the authority to specify the test procedure.

301.3.1.2 Request by Authority Having Jurisdiction. The Authority Having Jurisdiction shall have the authority to require tests to be made or repeated where there is reason to believe that a material or device no longer is in accordance with the requirements on which its approval was based.

The following complete information must be submitted for review when requesting an alternate:

1. Provide an alternate request application indicating the facility is requesting an alternate in accordance with Minnesota Rules, Chapter 4714, Section 301.3. The confirmation that the owner and designer understand the proposed alternate is not an approved material or method in the Plumbing Code but are requesting the alternate for the proposed project. The owner and designer must also include in the request:

- a) the code citation seeking an alternate to,
 - b) explanation of reasons and benefits for the alternate,
 - c) description of the issues and impacts associated with the request, and
 - d) a description of equivalent alternative measures that will be taken to maintain the same level of compliance if the request is granted.
2. Provide nationally recognized standards to support material, installation, and the proposed use. When necessary, submit standards (ASSE, ASTM, ANSI, ASME, NSF, etc..) for review.
 3. Submit the manufacturer's recommendation or instructions to support the proposed application or intended use of such material or method.
 4. Submit any additional and/or relevant information that will explain the scope or intended use supporting the request.

We may request additional testing data and other information to verify the product is suitable, safe, and sanitary for the intended use.

Alternate requests require additional time to review and research materials to ensure the alternate is suitable, safe, and sanitary, as well as substantially equal to or exceeding code-approved materials/methods. An alternate request review may take up to *4 weeks* to process or resolve after the completed application has been received. The review of any alternate request is on an individual project basis and does not guarantee approval.

To request a code alternate, complete an application at: www.rochestermn.gov/cd