



SPEARS® MANUFACTURING CO.

FlameGuard™ Installation Training

For over 23 years, Spears® Manufacturing Co. has been producing CPVC Fire Sprinkler Products. In earlier years, those fittings were made from BlazeMaster® material and sold under that licensed trade name. More recently, Spears® has selected a different raw material supplier and produces fittings under the FlameGuard™ trade name; cross-listed and suitable for use with other manufacturers' CPVC fire sprinkler products. From the beginning, Spears® has adamantly insisted that installing contractors be adequately trained in the proper installation of these products and in new products developed. To that end, Spears® personnel have conducted thousands of classes for sprinkler fitters across the country, and around the globe. Installers are issued training ID cards recognizing their participation and successful completion of these classes. Authorities Having Jurisdiction (AHJ's) have come to acknowledge the value of this training and frequently require that installers be able to verify their training by producing these cards on jobsites. Some manufacturers have taken a similar approach to Spears® and conducted suitable in-depth training classes; others have been less diligent.

Spears® continues to offer "on demand" training to installers. Technical representatives are available to schedule training classes at contractors' shops, or other suitable facilities. A phone call or email to Spears®, or to one of our distributors, is all that's needed. A typical class will include a limited number of installers, often from a single company, and requires several hours to complete. "Hands-on" participation and testing are required for completion. While there are no recognized industry requirements, Spears® has always recommended "refresher" training every two years to review possible changes in codes, new products, methods, etc.

Each manufacturer is responsible for the products they produce, in terms of their warranties, compatibility, recommended practices, etc. However, Spears® FlameGuard™ fittings are additionally "cross-listed" for use with every other manufacturers pipe, fittings, and cements. These products can be mixed and used interchangeably according to product listing limitations, *without any warranty issues*. As a result, **Spears® installation training is also compatible with all other manufacturers' products that are made to the same ASTM standards and subject to the same listings and approvals as FlameGuard™**. We have never seen an instance where an AHJ has disagreed with this position.

All current CPVC fire sprinkler product manufacturers have now come to recognize the importance of proper training for installers. The BlazeMaster® raw material supplier is now offering a series of scheduled "auditorium" seminars for contractors, whereby instruction is provided and ID cards are issued. Unfortunately, perhaps for marketing reasons, BlazeMaster® has chosen to limit the scope of their training to products manufactured from their compounds only. **Contrary to reported claims from their representatives, mixing Spears® FlameGuard™ products with theirs will not void any FlameGuard™ or BlazeMaster® product warranty.**

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