

SRCC Policy on the Use of PEX in Drainback Systems

Approved by the Standards Committee June 3, 2010

Approved by the Board of Directors June 17, 2010

The SRCC Board of Directors approved the use of cross-linked polyethylene (PEX) piping in SRCC OG-300 certified drainback systems that meet the following conditions:

- The PEX shall not be exposed to sunlight.
- Drainback systems employing PEX shall be non-pressurized (capped at atmospheric on the day of installation) or the system shall be vented to the atmosphere.
- At the inlet and outlet of the collector(s), a length of uninsulated copper tube of no less than ¾" nominal diameter shall be used for a distance of no less than three feet before the conversion to PEX for the return line is made.
- Connections in the PEX piping runs to and from the collectors shall use only those fittings supplied and/or approved by the PEX manufacturer for potable water piping.
- The systems shall have a pressure-only relief valve installed at the drainback tank location or the tank shall be vented to the atmosphere. The pressure rating for this valve shall be no less than 25 psi and no more than 50 psi.
- If the collector stagnation temperature (as determined from the linear collector efficiency equation, assuming an irradiance of 1000 W/m² and an air temperature of 40°C) is below 99°C (210°F), PEX can be used without a length of copper pipe between the collector and the PEX.