Revised ASSE 1017 (2003) Keeps Manufacturers Honest on Minimum Flow Claims

For years there's been ongoing debate and confusion regarding the claims of master mixing valve manufacturers in regards to minimum flow performance. Manufacturers routinely offer-up minimum flow declarations as low as 0.5 – 2.0 gpm, even on their largest size valves. But what does this really mean? Do these valves actually control to these low, low flows when subjected to the test requirements of ASSE 1017? ASSE now puts manufacturers to the test, literally.

The recently revised ASSE 1017-2003 entitled Temperature Actuated Mixing Valves for Hot Water Distribution Systems now requires a valve's minimum flow must be tested to the *"manufacturer's minimum advertised flow"* (section 3.2.2.e) in the event it's below the 50% at 10 psid requirement.

Under the 1998 standard, minimum flow is tested at 50% of the flow at a 10 psid. For example, if a valve's flow at 10 psid is 15.0 gpm, then its' minimum flow test would be conducted at 7.5 gpm. If a manufacture states a minimum flow of 1.0 gpm in its' literature, then you are trusting then for the 6.5 gpm difference. Under the 2003 revision, the valve must be tested at the "minimum advertised flow" of 1.0 gpm to pass and achieve ASSE listing.

For years Powers has clearly displayed actual minimum flows, when tested in accordance with ASSE 1017, on all of its' product specification literature. All Powers' HydroGuard master tempering valves state minimum flow data to the more stringent 2003 standard. Powers welcomes the standard revision because it ensures safer water delivery at lower flows and all Powers master tempering valves are ASSE listed and CSA certified.

When comparing minimum flows, make sure the valve you're specifying provides minimum flow data in accordance with ASSE 1017.

For more information on ASSE 1017-2003 please visit www.asse-plumbing.org

Look for this number

			Flow in GPM when tested in accordance with ASSE 1017					
			Pressure Drop Across the Valve (psid)					
Valve	Minimum Flow *	Minimum Flow to ASSE 1017	5	10	20	30	45	60
Model No. XXX	0.5 gpm	5.0	32.0	45.0	66.0	80.0	100.0	120.0

**Minimum Flow when installed at or near hot water source with continuously operating recirculating pump.*