

## PRESS STATEMENT

November 2009

### Statement on Acetal-bodied Fittings prepared by the BPF Pipes Group members

Thermoplastics Pipes and Fittings Systems for hot and cold water and heating applications are now firmly established in the United Kingdom. Specified to a British Standard since 1990 these systems have benefited from significant improvements in performance during this time, reflected by increased performance requirements in BS 7291.

As part of a continuous drive to improve standards, manufacturing members of the BPF Pipes Group are currently developing a revision of BS 7291 that will confirm further performance improvements in these systems.

As a result of this initiative, it has come to the attention of the BPF Pipes Group that fittings, having bodies manufactured in acetal materials, are being placed on the UK market without due reference to their limited performance capabilities. Specifically, such acetal-bodied fittings, whilst satisfactory for conventional intermittent hot and cold water supply applications, should not be used at normal operating temperatures above 65°C in applications including vented and unvented heating systems.

The BPF Pipes Group strongly urges all specifiers, distributors and users of Thermoplastics Pipe Systems, to ensure that acetal-bodied fittings are not used for these elevated temperature applications. The manufacturing members of the BPF Pipes Group include this guidance on all relevant packaging and literature.

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