

Gastite CSST & Lightning Frequently Asked Questions

This information was prepared for use by Gastite's distributors and contractors to help understand the issues arising from the CSST class action settlement.

Gastite sales and experience which support an 18-year safety record:

- Gastite CSST footage installed since 1988: 245 million feet
- Housing units with Gastite CSST: Approximately 1.75 million homes
- Instances in which CSST installed pursuant to Gastite's installation instructions and applicable codes suffered lightning damage that was demonstrated to be the cause of a fire: Zero
- Instance in which lightning-damaged CSST was alleged to cause personal injury or death: Zero

Is Gastite Flexible Gas Piping safe from lightning activity?

While no building system or structure is completely safe from the effects of a lightning strike, direct-bonding of fuel gas piping systems (as set forth in Technical Bulletin 2006-04 and the November 2006 Gastite Design & Installation Guide) does provide defense and an added level of safety from strikes over systems bonded in other fashions.

Titeflex is not aware of any instances in which CSST that was direct-bonded suffered a lightning related failure. Bonding by other means, such as through a third (grounding) wire of electrical appliance, has not provided the same level of performance. For this reason, Gastite requires direct-bonding for the safest installations.

What is bonding and 'direct-bonding'?

Bonding is the joining of metal objects together electrically, to reduce the potential of electrical arcing from stray currents. 'Direct-bonding' is a term Gastite utilizes which refers to the method of bonding metal objects to the house service with a dedicated bond-wire and clamp.

Gastite requirements for bonding Gastite systems are consistent with the NEC fuel gas piping bond section. This direct-bond requirement is described in detail in Gastite Technical Bulletin 2006-04 and in the November 2006 Gastite Design & Installation Guide. Both are available for download from www.gastite.com.

Should I bring the CSST direct-bonding requirement to the attention of the electrical contractor and/or builder to evaluate if this practice has been followed on previously completed homes?

Yes. Gastite is also taking steps to notify building officials, and builders of this requirement.

Who is going to pay for this, if a change is needed to a completed home?

The homeowner may be entitled to participate in a settlement of a class action lawsuit against Titeflex and the other major CSST providers. Please refer to www.csssettlement.com for more information.