



## AHRI Policy Position Corrugated Stainless Steel Tubing

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The Air-Conditioning, Heating, and Refrigeration Institute (AHRI) is the trade association representing manufacturers of heating, ventilation, air-conditioning, refrigeration (HVACR) and water heating equipment within the global industry. AHRI's more than 320 member companies account for over 90 percent of HVACR and water heating residential and commercial equipment manufactured and sold in North America.

### Background

Since the early 1990s, when yellow Corrugated Stainless Steel Tubing (CSST) came onto the market, it is estimated to have been installed in approximately seven million homes in the United States. CSST distributes flammable gas to each home appliance, so direct or indirect lightning strikes on or near a structure have been shown to cause an electrical surge that may travel into the structure. In some cases, this electrical surge can cause a perforation in the sidewall of the tubing, as the energy arcs from one metallic system to another seeking ground. This arcing event may perforate the pressurized gas piping and, in some cases, lead to a fire.

Some states have introduced legislation to address this concern by requiring disclosure of the presence of CSST during home inspections, with some legislation requiring additional notice in the home inspection report that a licensed electrician must determine whether CSST is properly installed, bonded, and grounded as required by the safety standard and all fuel gas codes. Bonding is provided to prevent a possible electric shock to people who come into contact with the gas piping and other metal objects connected to the grounding system. Independent research has confirmed proper bonding and grounding significantly reduce the risk of damage and fire from an indirect lightning strike.

### Industry Position and Considerations

AHRI members who manufacture CSST have been actively engaged across the states with the Yellow Safety Campaign, a state by state effort to pass a law that helps ensure that homeowners or prospective buyers are properly notified if a house contains yellow CSST. AHRI has supported each of the states that have announced an intent to address public safety concerns related to CSST through legislation.

AHRI believes a legislative approach to improving home and consumer safety will help ensure that all yellow CSST is eventually properly bonded, and increase consumer safety. AHRI supports state level efforts to ensure homeowners and home inspectors are made aware of the need to have properly grounded equipment when connecting gas sources to appliances.

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