



Volume 8, No. 4 • Winter 2008

Route To:

The Latest News



In response to the looming deadline in California concerning AB1953 legislation mandating a transition to no-lead service brass, A.Y. McDonald has set a date of March 2, 2009 to begin shipping ONLY no-lead brass to California. This bold initiative to ship only no lead brass to California a full 10 months ahead of the legislated deadline is being undertaken by A.Y. McDonald for many reasons. Primarily, this will allow distributors, municipalities, and water districts a full 10 months to systematically reduce their leaded brass inventory before it becomes obsolete January 1, 2010. It will also encourage municipal product specifications to be reviewed and updated prior to the January 1, 2010 deadline. For a copy of this letter, go to www.aymcdonald.com.

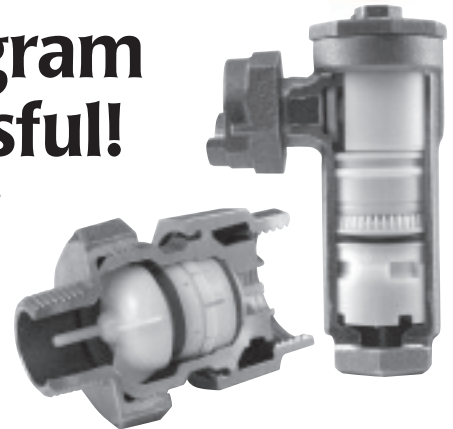
Did you know...



Did you know that A.Y. McDonald ships product to every address every day? Not every brass manufacturer can say this. A.Y. McDonald chooses to focus on the customer, our boss, and their needs, as opposed to what shipping logistics work best for A.Y. McDonald. Therefore, we partner with freight companies that ship to every address every day. If you want better turns, go with the company that can meet your needs EVERYDAY!

UFR Pilot Program Proves Successful!

As highlighted in a previous Brass Banner, A.Y. McDonald introduced the UFR (Unmeasured-Flow Reducer) earlier this year. The UFR captures low flow water and forces it through a water meter in a way that causes nearly every drop to be registered by the water meter. Losses are reduced and customers are billed for the proper amount being used.



While many pilot projects are underway around the country, results from one pilot program are in! Wattsbar Utility in Tennessee installed the UFR in 35 locations. Each location had a 5/8x3/4" volumetric meter with radio read. Each meter is approximately 4 years old. The 35 locations are supplied water that runs through a 3 inch master meter with no other active accounts being supplied by the master meter. The UFR was incorporated in a resetter. Each meter was removed, placed in the resetter and the resetter was installed in the meter box. Each meter remained with its original service line. The line pressure at the meters varied from 40 to 85 PSI, depending on location.

A review of the hourly readings revealed 35% of the homes with the UFR had consistent leaks. This consists of a leak that was not registering before the UFR was installed but is registering after the UFR was installed.

A more accurate evaluation of the performance in the UFR is based on the percentage of unaccounted-for water based off the monthly readings. Unaccounted-for water is the sum of all 35 readings registered by the individual home meters divided by the reading of the master meter. All values since the beginning of 2007 (17 months) were used to determine the base value for unaccounted for water. The table below displays the monthly results since installing the UFR pilots.

Month	Improvement in Unaccounted for Water
July, 2008	10.4%
August, 2008	9.5%
September, 2008	4.9%
October, 2008	11.9%

AVERAGE IMPROVEMENT 9.2%

Based on the results of the pilot, Wattsbar has incorporated the UFR into its specifications for new construction.

For more information on this exciting new product, see page 2 of this newsletter. You can also contact Customer Service at 800-292-2737, or look on the web at www.aymcdonald.com/UFR.

We hope you enjoy the Brass Banner!
Give us your feedback at 800-292-2737 or sales@aymcdonald.com

New! UFR Unmeasured Flow Reducer



New residential water meters sold in the United States are very accurate. They exceed AWWA accuracy levels at all check points, including the minimum flow rate check point of 1/4 GPM. These meters remain accurate down to 1/8 GPM or lower. At lower flow rates, the ability of the meter to register drops off significantly. In general many new residential water meter brands stop reading most or all of the water flow somewhere near 1/16 GPM. A steady flow rate of 1/16 GPM can amount to 2280 Gallons per Month of unaccounted-for water. A 1999 AWWARF study of 1,200 homes throughout the US and Canada presented an average leak rate of 285 gallons per month per person for indoor use.

An Unmeasured-Flow Reducer (UFR) device works by changing the way the water flows through the water meter. At low flow rates there is not enough energy to activate the water meter. The UFR regulates the water flow so there is no water flow part of the time, while the rest of the time the flow rate is high enough to be measured. When a leak develops in a home the pressure in the house piping begins to drop, and the UFR remains closed until the pressure downstream drops below 6.5 psig of the upstream pressure, which opens the UFR and allows for a flow rate above

the measurement threshold of the meter. The free flow of water through the UFR equalizes the pressure across the UFR and allows it to close. The size of the batch of water is dependent on the size of the house piping downstream of the UFR. The cycle rate is dependent on the leak rate and the house piping size. The UFR cycle repeats itself as long as the 6.5 psig pressure differential occurs. When the flow rate increases over 1/8 GPM the UFR remains open until the flow rate drops.

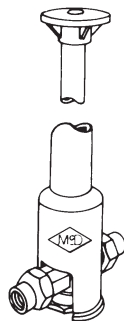
Feature of the Quarter Thermoplastic Long Yoke Box Lids with ERT Mount



In response to advancing technologies in meter reading, A.Y. McDonald Mfg. Co. now offers a plastic lid for the 76-Series Long Yoke Box. This new product delivers a great benefit to customers converting to radio-read systems for reading the water meter. Radio transmission signals can be read at longer distances when traveling through plastic, than the traditional cast iron lid. Lids are available in locking and non-locking styles and can be ordered with an optional under-mount carriage to support the reading device. Ask for information today!

For more information about these and other products, visit our web site at www.aymcdonald.com

Specify THIS... Domestic Arch Pattern and Minneapolis Pattern Curb Boxes



The "Arch" or "Y" Base Casting covers the Curb Stop without being mechanically connected. When required, the shut-off rod is attached (via cotter pin) to the tee head of the Curb Stop and remains in place inside the Curb Box. The top of the shut-off rod is formed in such a manner that it centers the top of the rod in the upper section of the Curb Box.

Shut-off rods are furnished as standard on Curb Boxes with 1" upper sections and are available separately for use with larger upper sections.



Minneapolis Pattern Curb Boxes have female threads machined into the bottom of the base casting that screw onto the male threads on top of all Minneapolis pattern Curb Stops. Threading the Curb Stop into the Curb Box gives a unified valve/box assembly. This arrangement assures their alignment.

Shut-off rod information listed above is also true when used with Minneapolis Pattern Curb Boxes.

The charts below identify size of threads in base casting of Curb Boxes and at top of Curb Stops.

All McDonald Curb Boxes telescope one foot.

Meet Our Employees...

Rick Billmeyer – Western Regional Sales Manager



Rick Billmeyer

Rick started with A.Y. McDonald in 1994 as a Customer Service Representative/Territory Manager Trainee. It was only a year before Rick started covering Southern California out of Dubuque, traveling to the territory twice a month. In 1996, Rick moved to California and became Territory Manager. Rick had a challenge before him in attaining municipal specifications and setting up distribution but he got the ball rolling quickly in both of these arenas. Over the course of time, Rick's territory was expanded to cover Las Vegas, NV as well. In 2004, Rick was promoted to Western Regional Sales Manager while still covering his own sales territory. In his spare time, Rick enjoys tennis, sea kayaking, and playing the tuba.