

Peter Cook Honoured with ASTM Award of Merit

Established in 1898, ASTM International is now one of the largest voluntary standards developing organizations in the world. ASTM's members, from more than 150 countries, belong to one or more standards-writing committees that develop the more than 12,000 ASTM standards.

Recently, ASTM honoured Peter J. Cook, senior technical services specialist, IPEX Inc., with its Award of Merit and its accompanying title of fellow. These honours represent, ASTM's "highest organizational recognition for individual contributions to standards activities."

Cook has been a member of ASTM International for 35 years, working on several F17 subcommittees and chairing F17.11 on Composites. He also works on Committees D20 on Plastics and F36 on Technology and Underground Utilities. "I sort of got into it and stayed there," says Cook of his involvement in ASTM. "It was never a question of this being a stepping stone to somewhere else. I found my niche in life. I was fortunate." Cook is also a member of the Canadian Standards Association (CSA), NSF International and the Hydrostatic Stress Board of the Plastics Pipe Institute (PPI).

"I have seen others receive this award over the years," says Cook, "but it was a surprise to be given this one. It's nice to receive this recognition from ASTM International, not because of the years I've been involved with ASTM, but because of what I have done for the F17 committee." In 2015, Cook was honored with the F17 Frank W. Reinhart and Henry Butch Kuhlmann Award.



The AWWA Award of Merit presented to Peter Cook by Thomas A. Schwartz, Chairman of the Board at ASTM in 2014. This award was presented at the ASTM F17 committee meeting in Toronto, April 2014.

ASTM International stated, "Cook was honored for his outstanding years of service and dedication to the development of international standards that have enhanced the durability and safety of plastics in piping systems. He has been a leader in guiding the committee's growth and has overseen the development and revision of several key standards through his experience with the manufacture of pipe and fittings."

Cook adds, "It's a nice cap to a career, as it's coming at the end of my time with IPEX. On June 26th I'm retiring completely; it's time to go. I will stay involved with my committees until the end of 2015, and then see what happens. My first big goal after retirement is to walk the Camino—if my health and my legs hold up! I'm planning to go in September. People often say, 'That's something I'd like to do one day.' Well, I decided it's time to stop thinking about and just do it. I walk a fair bit now, but nothing like 20 Km a day. I'm breaking in my new boots now walking around Montreal." Cook joined IPEX Inc. in 1974 as a technical services manager when he was an employee of Canron Inc. Now he supports the IPEX Technical Services Department, which is responsible for standards writing, third-party certifications and quality control policy. "I've been very lucky in my career choice," says Cook. "It's been fun."