



HOT NEWS

a monthly newsletter for HPBA members

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HPBExpo 2012 Rebounds in Atlanta!

Over 6,700 hearth, patio and barbecue professionals hit the show floor this month in Atlanta for HPBExpo 2012. Compared to the 2011 Expo, there was a 14% increase in overall attendance, 9% increase in buying companies and a 10% increase in exhibiting companies. The Expo aisles were packed, the Outdoor Burn area hosted the inaugural Tailgate & Celebrity Chef Cook-off to a capacity crowd and the Honky Tonkin Industry Party rocked the Georgia World Congress Center. A positive, upbeat attitude prevailed over the four-day exposition.

Update: CSA Glass Fronted Fireplaces Standard

On March 7th, the CSA Vented Gas Fireplace TAG (Technical Advisory Group) met by teleconference to discuss the comments received in the Review & Comment stage of the standards process. Because only a third of the comments were discussed at this teleconference, another meeting is scheduled for March 19th. The most significant decision of the March 7th meeting was to verify that the new barrier standards apply to all ANSI Z21.50 and Z21.88 products, not just fireplaces. The other issue under discussion is whether or not to use a surface probe or a thermesthesiometer for verifying the burn potential of the barrier. This discussion was left open for the next meeting. HPBA will not place the order for the requested thermesthesiometers until the issue is finalized.

If the process for this revised standard goes smoothly, it will go out to all CSA Z21/83 committees in mid-April for a 90-day public review. If approved, the revised standard will go to ANSI for its approval in June and, assuming ANSI approval, the revised standard will be published in July 2012. At that point, all certification labs will adopt the standard for testing all new and recertified models. And, 18 months later, December 2013, companies must cease manufacturing all non-compliant models. If you have any questions, please contact Tom Stroud, stroud@hpba.org.

HPBA Board Approves Glass Front Education Program

At the February 28th meeting of the HPBA Board of Directors, the Board approved the funding for a three-year program to educate the industry and consumers about the burn hazard of glass-fronted fireplaces. The program will target homeowners purchasing new fireplaces to inform them about the screen or barrier requirement, and it will also target homeowners that already have a fireplace about the availability of after-market products to protect children from touching the glass. HPBA will collaborate with the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and other safety organizations to disseminate the warning and solutions to mitigate the hazard.

DOE Decorative Gas Product Challenge Update

In mid-January, DOE filed several procedural motions in HPBA's challenge of the April 16, 2010, final rule setting energy efficiency limits for decorative vented gas fireplaces. HPBA is suing DOE on its second final rule, issued on November 18, 2011, that included vented gas log sets as a type of covered products called "direct heating equipment" (DHE). DOE contends that a decision on the second case may eliminate the need for a decision on the merits in the case challenging the April 2010 final rule. HPBA argues just the opposite – that the November 2011 Final Rule would have no effect if not for the improper promulgation of the first final rule – and that a determination on the first final rule is the appropriate course. Currently, the briefing schedule has been stayed (postponed), and we await word from the court on the order in which it will hear the cases.

Update: Emergency Amendment on 2009 IECC

On February 13th, HPBA staff participated in a teleconference with the ICC Codes and Standards Council (CSC) regarding HPBA's request for an Emergency Amendment regarding the requirement for gasketed doors on UL 127 fireplaces in the 2009 and 2012 International Residential Code (IRC) and the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC). The inclusion of gasketed doors on UL 127 fireplaces that were not certified with those doors can create a fire hazard caused by the unit overheating. The amendment was approved and will be sent to the ICC Board for a final decision.

It was also made known that the ICC Codes and Standards Council has a proposal in the International Mechanical Code (IMC), similar to HPBA's proposal, that disallows the use of a gasketed fireplace door on UL 127 fireplaces unless they are tested and approved for those doors. For more information, please contact Tom Stroud, stroud@hpba.org.

Update: ICC 700 - NAHB Green Building Standard

The main committee of the ICC 700 met February 21 – 23 in Washington, DC. The following are the noteworthy developments:

- Vent-free products had received subcommittee approval to be in the standard, but this was rejected by the main committee.
- On another proposal, clean biomass (wood waste) from a house can be saved for points in houses that will incorporate biomass burning as points for on-site renewable energy.
- Manufactured wood-burning fireplaces must be EPA certified to receive points in the ICC 700.
- The newly-revised remodel sections are clearer and friendlier to fireplaces and wood stoves.

The Green Building Standard, for residential buildings, has four threshold levels - Bronze, Silver, Gold, and Emerald – and allows builders to quantify and qualify green building at all levels. At the Emerald level, the highest rating for a residential green building, a building must incorporate energy savings of 60% or more. For more information, please contact Tom Stroud, stroud@hpba.org.

NSPS Timeline

At meetings held in conjunction with the Expo in Atlanta, HPBA staff alerted members that EPA still expects to issue the formal draft of its new wood-burning certification program this summer. The membership was reminded that it will be a formal draft of the proposal, and could change before being finalized. HPBA anticipates filing extensive comments on the draft, and expects some states and others to file comments urging EPA to be tougher on certain segments of the hearth industry. EPA plans

to issue a final rule sometime in late 2013, although different categories of appliances will face different deadlines within the final rule. For more information, please contact John Crouch, crouch@hpba.org.

HPBA and EPA Host Tours in Atlanta

As in years past, HPBA and EPA hosted a small group of state and local officials who toured the exhibits at Expo, especially in the Outdoor Burn area. The states represented this year were South Carolina, Tennessee, Michigan, Washington and Alaska. In addition, three members of the Air Pollution and Respiratory Health branch of the Centers for Disease Control joined the tour. If you would like more information, please contact John Crouch, crouch@hpba.org.

Meeting on Indiana Changeouts held at Expo

Representatives of Midwest HPBA, HPBA, EPA and two Indiana utilities met at Expo to begin the joint planning of two separate wood stove changeouts that are slated for parts of Indiana sometime in the next year. The programs are still in the formative stages, however, one changeout program is planned for six counties in northern Indiana, and a second, separate program, in southern Indiana (south of Indianapolis). These programs are part of court-ordered settlements between EPA and the two utilities. Local retailers and reps can contact Erica Geil, Midwest HPBA, at egeil@midwesthpba.org, and manufacturers can contact John Crouch at crouch@hpba.org.

HPBA Young Guns Meet in Atlanta

The Young Guns Committee made its official debut in Atlanta at its 2nd Annual Young Guns Reception. The committee of 14, which has representatives from each affiliate region and Canadian chapter, will have its first meeting soon to map out its goals and activities for the year. Young Guns hopes to reach all HPBA members who are under 40 and/or have been in the industry for less than five years. Check us out on [Facebook!](#)

PFI Annual Conference Seeks Speakers

The Pellet Fuels Institute (PFI) Annual Conference returns to the northeast for the first time in eight years and will be held at the [MGM Grand Foxwoods Resort & Casino](#), Mashantucket, CT, on July 29-31. PFI is accepting speaker proposals for the following topic areas: regional, state and local initiatives in the pellet industry; marketing strategies for the promotion of pellet fuel; pellet fuel markets – beyond residential; raw material resources; the future of alternative biomass crops; and in an open forum.

If you are interested in submitting an abstract (deadline is March 23rd), information can be found on the [PFI website](#). PFI will also offer special opportunities for retailers to attend this year's conference. For more information, please contact Jennifer Hedrick, hedrick@pelletheat.org.

Department Activities

Communications

The HPBExpo hosted over 30 journalists from a wide range of trade and consumer media outlets. Tailgate Radio broadcasted its show from the Outdoor Burn Area's Tailgate & Celebrity Chef Cook-off and also conducted radio interviews from the press room. Derrick Riches, the barbecue expert from the New York Times' About.com and frequent HPBExpo press attendee, participated as one of the three judges at the cook-off. The hearth, patio and barbecue trade press was in attendance,

as well as media from Consumer Reports, Caribbean Home magazine, the National Press Club, and Handyman Production.

HPBEF

If you purchased a Three-day Education Passport at Expo, you are also entitled to a six-month subscription to HE@RTH Online Training. Watch for an email with your registration confirmation, user name and password. This subscription allows you to take any online class until September 30, 2012. Many of the Expo 2012 education sessions will be added to the system in the next few weeks. There are already 110 sessions in the catalog. To see the entire list of classes that are currently available, go to <http://www.hpbef.org/online>.

All subscribers should check their subscription expiration date. Notices have been sent, however, if you want to renew today, you can do so on the [HPBEF website](#). If you have questions, please contact Rick Vlahos at vlahos@hpba.org.

Membership

It was wonderful to see so many HPBA members at HPBExpo in Atlanta this month! Having so many of us in one place to do business and share best practices, while celebrating the success of our industries, is one of the best benefits of membership. For those of you who were there, we hope you were able to visit with some of the partners who participate in our [Membership Benefits Program](#). On the show floor were: [Solveras](#) – credit card processing solutions; [Laborchex](#) – employee background screening services; [Veracity Insurance](#) – business liability insurance; and [ServiceMagic](#) – our newest partner that provides online job lead generation.

As part of ServiceMagic's benefit launch, it sponsored a daily drawing at HPBExpo for \$250 worth of job leads credits. We're pleased to announce the following winners: MAHPBA's Joel Dolberg, The Fireplace Place; SEHPBA's Rick Eanes, Stoves & More; and MWHPBA's Cindy Sawyer, JCS Fireplace, Inc.

If you weren't able to attend HPBExpo, we hope to see you at an upcoming affiliate annual meeting or online at an HE@RTH Online Training course.

National Fireplace Institute®

Over 120 people took the NFI exam at HPBExpo 2012. Many HPBA affiliates, manufacturers and distributors will offer the exam this summer. If you plan to take the exam, make sure you are studying the correct edition of the manual. The Gas and Woodburning manuals are now in their Fourth Edition. The Pellet Manual is in its Third Edition. Each manual is updated every three years to keep the information fresh and code references up to date. The exams are based on the current edition of the manual.

If there are no NFI exam events being held in your area, you can still take the exam close to home. PSI/LaserGrade has over 600 computer-based testing sites around the country. The process is easy: purchase the exam from the NFI website, study the manual and, when you are ready to take the exam, call LaserGrade with your confirmation number to set up an appointment. The sites are conveniently located so you can take the exam close to home, on a date and time of your choice, and find out if you have passed when you leave. To find the closest testing center near you, go to <http://www.lasergrade.com/psi-locate.shtml>, and be sure to select National Fireplace Institute as the sponsor.

Statistics

HPBA's Market Research Department released the hearth industry's 2011 top-of-the-line statistics at the HPBExpo in Atlanta. The information

is now posted on the [HPBA website](#). The first quarter 2012 hearth survey will be distributed the first week of April, and companies are asked to respond promptly.

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HPBExpo 2012. Check out the HPBExpo Facebook page for pictures of the Tailgate & Celebrity Chef Cook-off and the Honky Tonkin Industry Party and add your own pictures on HPBExpo's [Facebook fan page!](#)

HPBExpo wants your feedback! Both the attendee and exhibitor surveys were sent out following the conclusion of HPBExpo 2012. Please complete and submit your comments to help us improve and strengthen the show.

HPBExpo 2013 Exhibitor Portfolio. Attention prospective exhibitors: Prime booth space goes quickly! After priority booth selection in Atlanta, 122 companies have contracted for booth space in Orlando for HPBExpo 2013. The complete Expo 2013 Exhibitor Portfolio is available on the HPBExpo website under "[2013 Priority Booth Selection](#)." The website page has 2013 floor plans, booth contracts, rules and regulations and payment information.

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