



HOTNEWS

a monthly newsletter for HPBA members

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CSA Glass Fronted Fireplace Draft Standard

At the request of several fireplace manufacturers, HPBA staff and counsel held a face-to-face meeting with manufacturers on April 12th, in Chicago to discuss the draft revised standard for glass-fronted gas fireplaces. As a result of the meeting, there was a decision to hire Exponent Failure Analysis Associates to review the draft standard and test the parameters that are contained within the standard. Also at this meeting, the Glass Fronts Technology Safety Task Force was formed to monitor the Exponent work. This task force met by teleconference on April 30th to plan the elements of the research by Exponent.

Appropriation Bill Contains Language on DOE Rulemaking

On Wednesday, April 25th, the House Appropriations Committee favorably reported the first appropriations bill for fiscal year 2013 to the full House of Representatives. Support in both the Energy and Water Development subcommittee and the full committee were overwhelmingly bipartisan. Through numerous meetings with House offices, HPBA was able to get report language into the bill that serves as an expression of Congress's displeasure with the manner in which the Department of Energy (DOE) has handled the rulemakings affecting decorative vented gas fireplaces and vented gas log sets. The language encourages DOE to work with Congress to update the statute from which the rules derive to more closely align with congressional intent.

The inclusion of the report language is a powerful message that HPBA will be able to work with Members of Congress to ensure that DOE does not continue to mischaracterize these products as direct heating equipment and improperly subject them to heating efficiency standards. For more information, please contact Ryan Carroll, carroll@hpba.org.

ICC 2012 "Group A" Code Development Hearings

The ICC meets in Dallas April 29th through May 8th to review proposals for the 2015 code changes. The hearing participants will consider proposed code changes for 2015 to the following (Group A) codes: International Building Code (IBC), International Fuel

Gas Code (IFGC), International Mechanical Code (IMC) and others.

HPBA will attend the IFGC and IBC hearings and will speak on an HPBA proposal in the IMC on disallowing the use of gasketed, tight-fitting fireplace doors on UL 127 fireplaces unless they have been tested and certified with those type of doors. If any HPBA members are attending these hearings, please attend the IMC hearings and communicate with Tom Stroud (stroud@hpba.org) about the possibility of testifying in favor of this proposal.

NSPS Delay Continues

Sources at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have alerted HPBA staff that, for a variety of reasons, the draft of the agency's revisions to the New Source Performance Standards (NSPS) continues to be delayed. States are apparently still telling EPA that some parts of the new rules do not go far enough in reducing emissions from new heaters. HPBA is preparing responses to many of the specific issues raised by the state air agencies, as well as continuing to refine our Economic Analysis.

In early April, HPBA staff and consultants met with Gina McCarthy, EPA's top air official, and her deputy, Janet McCabe, to discuss our concerns with the proposal, particularly, 1) the new efficiency targets, 2) the plan to co-propose a new, lower target for hydronic heaters, 3) our concerns about the need to update compliance requirements, and 4) our thoughts about the value to the environment of changing the Category I burn rate in the test method. For more information, contact John Crouch, crouch@hpba.org.

Two Stove Changeouts in Indiana

HPBA and Midwest HPBA members and staff have been meeting with leaders in both northern and southern Indiana, preparing for two distinct stove changeouts. The northern Indiana changeout will include vouchers for gas, wood or pellet stoves that replace existing wood stoves, on a first-come, first-served basis. The southern Indiana changeout will target low-income households and be administered through the local community action agencies that manage low-income heating assistance and weatherization programs. Both changeouts will share one key requirement – the new hearth product must be installed by an NFI- or CSIA-certified installer. Midwest HPBA is the industry point of contact for both of these programs. For more information, please attend the Midwest HPBA annual meeting August 5-6 in St. Louis or contact Erica Geil at egeil@midwesthpba.org.

Uptick Predicted in Remodeling Activity

According to Harvard University's Joint Center for Housing Studies, remodeling activity is expected to increase by the end of this year. The Leading Indicator of Remodeling Activity (LIRA), recently produced by Harvard's Remodeling Futures Program, is predicting a 5.9% increase in annual remodeling spending over 2011 levels. Stronger pending home sales, recent improvements

in the sales of existing homes and continuing low interest rates are improving the outlook for remodeling. In fact, the continuing foreclosure crisis is, in some respects, actually helping stimulate remodeling activity as homes in the foreclosure process are beginning to enter the resale market. Many of these distressed homes need to be improved before they can be sold.

It is likely, however, that the sales will continue to be somewhat volatile until the economy grows at a faster and more sustained basis. Credit is a problem, with lenders hesitant to lend to homeowners, as is the unemployment rate. In addition, consumer confidence also needs to increase before consumer spending expands enough to stimulate ongoing and positive remodeling activity. And the foreclosure crisis needs to truly dissipate and stop negatively impacting home prices, which will stimulate home building and remodeling activity.

More information on the conditions in both remodeling and the overall U.S. economy will soon be distributed electronically to HPBA members. If you have questions or need more information, please contact Don Johnson, johnson@hpba.org.

Department Activities

Communications

HPBA's May is National Barbecue Month campaign, "It's All About the Cookout," kicks off this month. According to our opinion poll conducted last month, 85% of the respondents said that during the summer months, they prefer cooking outdoors for friends and family. Watch your email for more information on the campaign and the new [web page](#), with links to the poll results, barbecue fact sheet and more. If you have questions, please contact Leslie Wheeler, wheeler@hpba.org.

Membership

Spring is upon us and, as such, so is the affiliate annual meeting season! Hopefully you are already planning to check out the meeting in your region. It's a great opportunity to network with colleagues, earn some CEUs, take an NFI Certification exam and generally have a great time!

The following is the calendar of upcoming meetings – please contact your local affiliate for additional information:

May 1

Northwest HPBA – Doubletree Guest Suites, Seattle, WA

May 4-5

Arizona HPBA – Southwest Gas Building, Tempe, AZ

May 6-7

Oregon HPBA – Spirit Mountain Casino, Grand Ronde, OR

May 6-8

HPBA Pacific – Lake Natoma Inn, Folsom, CA

May 19-21

Northeast HPBA – Holiday Inn on Wolf Road, Albany, NY

May 20-22

North Central HPBA – Glacier Canyon Lodge, Wisconsin Dells, WI

June 3-4

Mid-Atlantic HPBA – The Host Resort, Lancaster, PA

June 3-4

South Central HPBA – Diamond Jacks Hotel and Casino, Shreveport, LA

June 7-9

Southeast HPBA – Doubletree Biltmore Hotel, Asheville, NC

August 5-6

Midwest HPBA – Sheraton Westport, St. Louis, MO

HPB Education Foundation

HE@RTH Online Training now includes recordings from 37 of the HPBExpo 2012 education sessions, bringing a total of almost 150 online sessions available! The recorded sessions are available 24/7, making quality training available when it is convenient for you. Classes may be purchased one at a time or, for your best value, buy a subscription that gives you unlimited access for 12 months. To buy a subscription or see the entire list of courses, go to <http://www.hpbef.org/online>.

HPBEF's free course in May is NFI's new "Pellet Update & Reinforcement Class" on Thursday, May 24th, at 12:00pm (ET). NFI exams and reference manuals are updated every three years and this course covers the new pellet fuel standards and what has changed since the last exam. The live online session is 60 minutes and space is limited. To register, go to <http://www.hpbef.org/online>, click on "Course Offerings" and scroll down until you see the class.

NFI

Beginning in 2013, specialists renewing a certification by earning CEUs must also take the Update & Reinforcement Course (URC) for each fuel type being renewed within the 12 months prior to the certification expiring. This one-hour session will review the latest changes in the past three years and cover some crucial subjects that need to be emphasized. The Woodburning Update & Reinforcement Course is already in the HE@RTH Online Training catalog. The Pellet URC is being offered free on May 24th (see HPBEF article above).

NFI Exams results from HPBExpo have been processed. Notifications, certificates and ID cards are being sent out as quickly as possible. Once you receive your ID card, please note your NFI ID number. Whenever you take classes and want to accumulate Continuing Education Units (CEUs), you must remember to legibly sign the attendance sheet and list your NFI ID number.

HPBExpo Report

Innovations & Ideas for Indoor-Outdoor Living

Orlando, Florida - March 13 - 16, 2013

www.hpexpo.com

HPBExpo 2013 Website is LIVE! Make sure that you bookmark the Expo's website, www.hpexpo.com, and keep up-to-date on information on HPBExpo 2013, March 13 - 16, 2013, in Orlando. You can also revisit HPBExpo 2012, including exhibitors, floor plans and 2012 Vesta and Attendees Choice Awards winners.

HPBExpo 2012 Leads. It's not too late to follow up on your show leads. If you captured leads or had your badge scanned at the

show, you should have received an email from BuyerConnect by CompuSystems with either the list of badges scanned in your booth (for exhibitors) or exhibit booths you visited (for attendees) during the HPBExpo 2012. For questions, please contact exhibitor-support@compusystems.com or (708) 786-5565.

HPBExpo 2012 Attendee Survey Highlights. According to this year's attendees:

- 83% of attendees said the total cost to attend was a good business investment
- 68% of attendees met new suppliers and 65% met with current suppliers
- 74% say they will definitely or probably expand their product line based on what they saw
- 72% say they are likely to purchase an important product or service within the year because of attending
- 92% are optimistic about the future of their business

HPBExpo Locations, Revenues and Exhibits FAQs. [Frequently asked questions](#) regarding the trade show logistics was recently published in *Hearth & Home* magazine.

Reserve Your HPBExpo 2013 Booth Space. If you missed our onsite Priority Booth Selection during the Atlanta Expo, you can contract for exhibit space now. You'll want to join industry leaders in Orlando next year for the HPBExpo 2013 - all of the big players will be there! Information is now available at www.hpbexpo.com; just click on [Apply to Exhibit](#). This link will take you to the 2013 Exhibitor Overview brochure, floor plans and booth contracts, as well as rules and regulations for exhibiting. A 50% deposit is due within two weeks of application submission. If you have questions or want to discuss booth options, please contact Anita Derouin, derouin@hpba.org or (703) 522-0086 x 117.

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