



HOTNEWS

a monthly newsletter for HPBA members

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HPBA Comments on Decorative Gas Rule

On September 1, the Department of Energy (DOE) held a public meeting on its July 22, 2011 proposed rule that would regulate decorative vented gas fireplaces and log sets. HPBA opposes the proposal because DOE continues to improperly and illegally classify decorative vented gas fireplaces as “direct heating equipment” (DHE), and now also includes vented gas log sets as DHE, despite gas logs having been expressly excluded from the definition in the April 2010 final rule. In doing so, DOE has proposed to require that gas log sets (a) be certified to Z21.60, (b) do not have a thermostat (and the aftermarket addition of a thermostat would invalidate the warranty), (c) are not marketed as heaters, and have a statement to that effect on their rating plates, and (d) do not have standing pilot lights.

During the public meeting, HPBA and member companies opposed the proposal and asked that DOE immediately terminate the rulemaking due to the total lack of technical support documents, analysis, or supporting materials in the public record, as required by law. HPBA members appearing at the public meeting included Empire Comfort Systems, R.H. Peterson Company and Rasmussen Gas Logs & Grills. Comments were also submitted by Big Woods Hearth Products, Inc. and Lennox Hearth Products. HPBA’s allied associations, the American Gas Association (AGA), National Propane Gas Association (NPGA) and the Air-Conditioning, Heating & Refrigeration Institute (AHRI), also participated in the meeting. After pressing DOE officials on a number of issues, HPBA and other participants received what amounted to a series of “no comment” responses from DOE on all questions.

One day after the hearing, DOE circulated a notice to

interested stakeholders that the agency would extend the comment period until October 14 and indicated that they would be adding additional technical data to the docket. The notice of extension of public comment period will be published in the *Federal Register* as early as September 7. DOE is likely to publish a final rule soon after the close of the comment period. We will soon be asking all members to submit comments, on a form to be provided, on the serious economic effects if the rule is issued in its current form.

HPBA staff has been heavily engaged in lobbying key members of the House and Senate on this issue. We have encountered overwhelming support and have received several offers to help in any way possible. Now that Congress is back in session, we are focusing on getting lawmakers to sign onto a letter to Secretary of Energy Steven Chu to halt the rulemaking. Additionally, we are pursuing a legislative amendment that will more accurately define these products and ensure that they are not improperly regulated as “direct heating equipment.” For more information on the meeting, rulemaking, comments on the proposed rule or HPBA’s lobbying efforts, please contact Allan Cagnoli (cagnoli@hpba.org) or Ryan Carroll (carroll@hpba.org).

HPBA Prepares for NSPS Comments

EPA reports that it is on track to issue its formal first draft of the revised New Source Performance Standards (NSPS) for Wood Heaters early next year. Once issued, the agency will take comments from all interested parties for 60 or 90 days. HPBA is prepared for the possibility that this draft may contain items that are inappropriate, or even unattainable, in the time period given. Because this comment period will be brief, and most likely begin just prior to HPBExpo, much of the preparatory work must be completed in advance. The final rule is scheduled to be published in mid-2013. For questions about the NSPS process, or HPBA’s preparations for comments, contact John Crouch, crouch@hpba.org.

HPBA Supports Zone Heating in Calif. Energy Code

Last month, HPBA and HPBA Pacific members provided comments to the California Energy Commission’s (CEC) rulemaking for the next residential energy code. At issue is a proposal to withdraw a credit for zone heating and cooling that currently exists in the code. This new code and software are key steps towards the CEC’s mandate for creating “NetZero energy” new homes, and they also have

an impact on the Commission's plans for upgraded existing homes.

HPBA manufacturer members joined local retailers and reps in asking the CEC to maintain the option for zone heating. These letters were successful in getting the CEC's attention, and discussions have started on how best to recognize zone heating in new and existing buildings. HPBA believes this process could set the standard for this issue when it reaches other state energy codes and is investing considerable time in this process. For more information, national members should contact John Crouch, crouch@hpba.org, and California members should contact Pat Rosengren, artfulpat@aol.com.

EPA's Communication Tool for LRRP

In an effort to enhance outreach and communication, EPA will soon begin to use a new communication tool, GovDelivery, to disseminate information and updates about the Lead Renovation, Repair and Painting (RRP) program. EPA plans to begin sending out messages using this new tool and invites anyone to sign up. You can subscribe yourself or others by using [this link](#).

Department Activities

Communications

Hearth retailers are reminded that the Burn Wise DVD, an instructional video for new wood stove owners on responsible wood burning, is available from HPBA. To view the video and download the order form, visit the [HPBA website](#).

HPB Education Foundation

- **Expo Education Sponsor.** HPBEF is very excited to announce that Expo 2012 exhibitor M&G DuraVent has agreed to sponsor the HPBExpo 2012 Education Program. This very generous sponsorship enables HPBEF to provide a wide variety of sessions with industry experts and professional speakers from across the U.S. and Canada. When you're at Expo, or doing business with DuraVent, please take the time to thank them for their outstanding contribution. When you register for the show (registration is open!), make sure you sign up for your Education Passport. The education lineup is posted on the [Expo website](#).

- **Three-day Passport Bonus.** If you purchase a three-day passport, you will receive a 6-month subscription to all the online courses, including many of the courses you may have missed at the trade show.
- **EPA Lead Renovation Repair & Painting Certification.** Since April 2010, EPA requires workers to be certified to work on homes built prior to 1978 due to the possible presence of lead paint in the home. The certification program, offered at Expo, teaches you how to use lead-safe work practices to contain the lead dust and prevent possible injury to you, your workers and those that live in the home.

There are two parts to the Expo program and you must attend both. Part 1 is a 6-hour classroom training session, and Part 2 is a 2-hour hands-on session with an exam. You must pass the exam to complete your certification. The certification for HPBA members is \$150 (no Education Passport needed), but space is very limited and all interested attendees should sign up early. Some states have their own requirements that supersede EPA's requirement. Go to <http://www.epa.gov/lead> to see if your state is authorized. For more information, contact Rick Vlahos at (703) 524-8030 or vlahos@hpba.org.

Membership

The Membership Department has received numerous calls on HPBA's membership benefits and affinity programs. To learn more about the discounts available to members on a variety of services and programs, including insurance, visit the [HPBA website](#).

Statistics

The Hearth Quarterly Industry data call forms will be mailed to hearth product manufacturers in early October. Members are encouraged to respond promptly. The annual Barbecue and Charcoal shipment collection is underway and members are asked to respond immediately to any request for data.

HPBExpo Report
Innovations & Ideas for Indoor-Outdoor Living
Atlanta, Georgia · February 29 - March 3, 2012
www.hpbexpo.com

HPBExpo 2012 Registration and Housing are Open!

Register now for Expo 2012 and secure the housing of your choice. **New** for HPBExpo 2012, online *One-Stop Shopping* - register your employee badges, make your hotel reservations and book flights and car rental at [Register for Badges & Hotel](#). HPBA has partnered with onPeak to be the official housing partner. Through them, we have worked hard to secure the lowest rates, best hotels, and most (complimentary) amenities during your stay in Atlanta, exclusive only to HPBExpo guests.

HPBA/HPBA Affiliate members need the unique member ID number that was emailed to all company main contacts on September 1. Be sure to take advantage of the new registration dashboard features, such as setting up in-booth appointments with exhibitors prior to the show, exhibit company product matching, invitation to colleagues and more. Once you have completed your initial registration, you will have access to your registration dashboard at any time using a log in.

HPBExpo Education Program. Check out the educational sessions that will strengthen your business and keep you on a competitive edge. The program will again offer the Three-Day and One-Day Education Passports. The popular "Professional Service is Profitable" course is scheduled, along with many new courses, such as "Electronic and Social Media for the Time-Challenged Retailer" and "EPA Certified Renovator Training." Check out the [Education Program](#) for more information and the complete course schedule.

New Features at Expo! Exciting new features and events are in store for Atlanta! You won't want to miss the Thursday Tailgate & Cook-Off event being held in the Outdoor Burn Area OR the return of the Friday night all-industry party, "Honky Tonkin - Nashville Style." We have also added a new Outdoor Burn New Product Pavilion to complement the popular indoor New Product Pavilion.

Reserve Your HPBExpo 2012 Booth Space Now. The 2012 Exhibitor Selection Kit, including floor plans, booth contracts, rules and regulations and payment information (50% is due with contract), can be found at www.hpexpo.com under "Apply to Exhibit." If you have questions, please contact Anita Derouin at (703) 522-0086 ext. 117 or derouin@hpba.org.

HPBExpo welcomes first-time exhibitor and new HPBA member Yoder Smokers from Yoder, KS. Yoder Smokers manufactures competition-grade charcoal and pellet smokers for the toughest competitors and backyard pitmasters.

Increase Your Exposure at HPBExpo 2012. Sponsorship opportunities, such as aisle signs, carpet logos, convention center window decals, water canisters and more, are available for exhibitors interested in expanding their exposure at the show. Please contact Betteanne Leahy at (800) 404-5461 for information on a wide range of sponsorship opportunities. A full brochure is available at [Exhibitor Services](#).

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