

	<h1 style="text-align: center;">HOTNEWS</h1> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>a monthly newsletter for HPBA members</i></p>
<p>HPBA Homepage</p> <p>HPBExpo</p> <p>HPB Education Foundation</p> <p>Pellet Fuels Institute</p> <p>NFI</p> <p>Wood Stove Changeout</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Hearth, Patio & Barbecue Association · 1901 North Moore Street, Suite 600 Arlington, VA 22209 · ph 703-522-0086 · www.hpba.org · hpbamail@hpba.org</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>June 2011 Vol. 14, No. 6</u></p> <p><u>DOE Decorative Gas Product Challenge Update</u></p> <p>HPBA's staff, members and counsel are continuing to work towards a settlement of our challenge to the April 16, 2010, final rule regulating energy efficiency of gas fireplaces that was issued by the Department of Energy (DOE). The rule defines decorative gas products as having less than 9,000 Btu/hr of input, which effectively eliminates the product category from the marketplace. While there appears to be progress in recent negotiations with DOE, technical and policy questions continue to make an agreement difficult. Whether to litigate or settle is an ongoing issue, with litigation more and more likely seen as the next step.</p> <p><u>New CSA Working Group -- Hot Glass of Vented Gas-Fired Fireplaces</u></p> <p>A CSA America working group has been formed to address concerns on the potential for dangerous burns from the glass fronts of gas fireplaces. The working group has held several meetings, including one on March 3, 2011, at Expo, and most recently on May 17th in Cleveland. Recommendations from the May 17th meeting are going through a final review before being submitted to the CSA Technical Advisory Group (TAG) for action. In addition, at the request of Senator Al Franken (MN), the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) has become involved in reviewing the issue and is working directly with all parties. HPBA members and staff have attended all meetings and are working to develop acceptable solutions to the problem.</p> <p>In 2007, HPBA created a brochure and an international symbol to help warn of the dangers of hot glass on gas fireplaces and stoves. This information was sent to hundreds of child and safety-related groups and associations, and to all HPBA manufacturers and retailers, to help educate parents and customers about hot glass. This information is posted on the HPBA website.</p> <p><u>"NetZero" Home Meeting in Sacramento</u></p> <p>Manufacturers' technical staffs and active affiliate volunteers are invited and encouraged to join Jack Goldman and other HPBA staff in Sacramento on June 28 to review the "NetZero home" (a home generating as much energy as it uses) concept and its threat against hearth products. In partnership with HPBA's affiliate, HPBA Pacific, the goal for the meeting is to establish a game plan to keep hearth products viable in California. Bob Raymer, technical director of the California Building Industry Association (CBIA), and other experts are on the agenda. Raymer's organization predicts the NetZero concept could add up to \$24/sq. ft. to the cost of a new home in 2020.</p> <p>The meeting will be from 8:00am – 4:00pm on June 28. Meeting and hotel information (hotel block expires on June 13) are posted on a special HPBA Pacific webpage, http://hpbapacific.org/netzero.php. For more information on the meeting, please contact HPBA Pacific's Kaity Van Amersfort, kaity@hpbapacific.org and for information on NetZero, please contact John Crouch, crouch@hpba.org.</p> <p><u>Tax Credit Efforts</u></p> <p>HPBA is actively participating in a coalition of trade associations focused on restoring and extending the residential energy efficiency (25C) tax credit. In its current form, the tax credit is drastically reduced – a 10% credit worth up to \$300 per year in 2011. And, the credit is set to expire at the end of 2011. The coalition seeks to have the tax credit reinstated to 2010 levels (30% up to \$1,500) and extended to more categories to minimize consumer confusion and increase options. HPBA's role in the coalition is to ensure that the proposed extension covers gas-, wood- and</p>

biomass-burning fireplaces, furnaces and stoves.

Regulatory Reform

One of the legislative measures that continues to gain steam in Washington, D.C. is a push for regulatory reform. Legislators are aware that small businesses across the nation are becoming increasingly subject to more numerous and onerous government regulations. Under President Obama's Executive Order (EO) 13563, "Improving Regulation and Regulatory Review," issued January 18, 2011, federal agencies are directed to seek public comment on the burdens faced by industry as a result of existing regulations, and seek input from the public on possible measures to reform those regulations.

Since the issuance of the EO, legislation has been introduced by Sen. Olympia Snowe (R-ME) to require government agencies to go further to protect small businesses from overly-burdensome regulations: the Freedom from Restrictive Executive Demands and Onerous Mandates (FREEDOM) Act of 2011. Currently, only a few federal agencies, including the EPA and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), are required to form small business review panels under the Small Business Regulatory Fairness Act (SBREFA). HPBA knows very well the value of these review panels, as we took full advantage of them last year during the EPA hearings on the impact of the NSPS on small business. The FREEDOM Act would eventually expand this requirement to include all federal agencies. HPBA supports the reduction of regulatory burdens and will continue to work with legislators throughout the current session of Congress to that end.

EPA Contemplates Random Compliance Audits

HPBA has learned that EPA's enforcement arm is considering resuming the Random Compliance Audits (RCAs) this summer. EPA last held these special audits in the early 1990s. Every manufacturer of certified wood stoves is encouraged to review the RCA requirements, as well as all in the in-house QA/QC requirements in the original NSPS, in preparation of an audit visit. For more information, contact John Crouch, crouch@hpba.org.

HPBA Family Responds to Tornado Assistance

At the request of Summer Classics of Montavallo, AL, an urgent request to help the April 27th tornado victims in Birmingham and Tuscaloosa was sent out by HPBA, *Hearth & Home*, *Patio & Hearth Products Report* and *Casual Living*. Summer Classics collected 3,879 bags of charcoal, 5,436 boxes of fire starters, 129 grills, 12 griddles and various accessories to distribute to needy people. Thanks to all of you who contributed to this effort.

PFI Standards Program Update

The Pellet Fuels Institute (PFI) continues to finalize the Standards Program as the program progressively gains support from the pellet fuel industry. Twenty-five pellet fuel manufacturers, representing 39 fuel production facilities, have signed a pledge indicating their intent to enroll in the program. A list of these companies can be found on the [PFI website](#).

In April, PFI held a webinar for retailers to highlight information they should know about the PFI Standards Program. This presentation is also posted on the [PFI website](#). For more information on the program, visit the PFI website or contact PFI at (703) 522-6778.

2011 PFI Annual Conference Invitation

The Pellet Fuels Institute's (PFI) Annual Conference takes place July 24-26 at the Sawgrass Marriott in Ponte Vedra Beach, FL. In addition to supplier exhibits, attendees will experience a top-notch program featuring pellet plant safety and efficiency, fire prevention, current federal/state policy and regulatory developments and industry data collection. The PFI Annual Conference offers great networking opportunities between fuel manufacturers, industry suppliers, appliance manufacturers, retailers and government officials.

For the first time, an optional Tuesday afternoon PFI Standards Education Program was added to the conference agenda. It will focus on program compliance and include specific information on quality control and in-house testing. For more information on the conference, visit the [PFI website](#).

Department Activities

Communications

- The builders of the New American Home, for the International Builders Show (IBS) 2012 in Orlando, attended the Expo in Salt Lake City. While in Salt Lake, the builders selected a Regency fireplace for outdoors, a Napoleon fireplace for indoors and an outdoor kitchen designed by R.H. Peterson. The house is on schedule and will be open for tours during IBS.
- HPBA's barbecue Facebook page, The BBQ Source, has close to 7,000 followers! Join the Q-mmunity today at www.facebook.com/thebbqsource.

Government Affairs

- **Codes & Standards.** The International Green Construction Code (IgCC) Committee has released Version 2 and HPBA has submitted comments on the draft. The 2011 IgCC Code Development Hearing (public comment review) took place May 16-22 in Dallas, and several positive actions occurred at the meeting. Proposals were offered to make the use of ICC 700 (the NAHB Green Building Standard for residential construction) mandatory in the IgCC, which is primarily a commercial standard.
- The proposals to eliminate the ban of vent-free gas heaters in the IgCC were successful at the Dallas meeting. AHRI, HPBA and the Vent-Free Gas Products Alliance spoke in favor of vent-free products and were able to get the ban overturned. The proposals to eliminate the ban on alcohol/gel fireplaces were not successful because there isn't a standard in place for the products. The UL 1370 Standard for Unvented Alcohol Fuel Burning Decorative Appliances is currently listed as an Article of Investigation, but if it becomes a standard prior to the November meeting, there will be an opportunity to overturn the ban.
- Camille Gray, HPBA Government Affairs staff assistant, has left HPBA to attend medical school. Rachel Feinstein, a recent graduate of the University of Pittsburgh, is the new staff assistant and can be reached at feinstein@hpba.org or (703) 522-0086, ext. 109.

HPB Education Foundation

Since 2007, HE@RTH Online Training has offered quality training in a cost-effective, convenient format, and there are now over 110 courses available. OnDemand recordings are available 24 hours/day, and live presentations are offered at various times each month. In an effort to familiarize people with the program, one live course is offered every month at no charge. The June no-charge selection, "HearthCheck: Taking Control of House Depressurization," is a very convenient way to learn what causes negative pressure in a home, how to measure it and what to do about it. It is also a great opportunity to learn about a growing problem with new construction; earn three Technical CEUs if you are NFI certified; and experience HE@RTH Online training for yourself. The class will be presented in two parts, June 15 & 16 at 3:00pm ET. Each session is 90-minutes, and space is limited. To register go to the [HPBEF website](#), click on "Live Class Schedule," and sign up today.

Membership

All members are encouraged to update their contact information, products and services for the 2011-2012 Membership Directory and Products Guide. The deadline is June 10 for the printed directory. For questions on the update process, please contact Ian Glowacki at iglowacki@hpba.org.

Statistics

During the first week of July, the Hearth 2nd Quarterly Survey and the 2011 Barbecue & Charcoal Shipment Survey will be distributed. All companies are asked to respond promptly.

HPBExpo Report

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

HPBExpo 2012 website is live! Bookmark Expo's website, www.hpexpo.com, for information on HPBExpo 2012, February 29 - March 3 in Atlanta. More show information and updates are coming soon, and registration and housing open on September 1st. If you would like to relive HPBExpo 2011, including the wild Friday Night Fever party, check out the [Photo Gallery](#).

Reserve Your HPBExpo 2012 Booth Space Now. Attention prospective exhibitors: Atlanta holds the record for the highest Expo attendance, and prime booth space will go quickly. The complete Expo 2012 Exhibitor Portfolio is available online at www.hpbexpo.com under "Apply to Exhibit." The website contains 2012 floor plans, booth contracts, rules and regulations, and payment information (50% is due at space selection).

ProCom Takes HPBExpo 2012 Booth Space. ProCom, a manufacturer of log sets, gas heaters and other hearth products in Smyrna, GA, is returning as an exhibitor at Expo 2012 in Atlanta. Be sure to check out all the exhibitors currently signed up for booth space on the [Expo website](#).

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 will be posted to www.hpbexpo.com in mid June.

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