HPBA Homepage

HPBExpo

HPB Education Foundation

Pellet Fuels Institute

<u>NFI</u>

Wood Stove Changeout

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1099 Repeal Signed into Law

Although the split control of Congress has kept lawmakers from agreeing on much in this session of Congress, small business had a big victory on April 14 when President Obama signed the Comprehensive 1099 Taxpayer Protection and Repayment of Exchange Subsidy Overpayments Act of 2011 (H.R. 4). The signing marked just the ninth piece of legislation considered by the 112th Congress to become law.

Despite a number of false starts, legislators from both sides of the aisle voted to repeal the Form 1099 reporting requirements mandated under the new health care reform package. Had the provision not been repealed, any business that did more than \$600 in total business with a vendor in a calendar year would have been required to file information about the transaction and the vendor, including its tax identification number. In a political climate that is likely to see precious little agreement, the common sense repeal of this provision was a boon to small businesses across the nation. HPBA worked through coalitions to achieve passage of this measure.

DOE Challenge Update

HPBA continues negotiations with the Department of Energy (DOE) on the decorative gas fireplace issue. While we are hopeful that a settlement can be reached, we continue to weigh our litigation and legislative remedy options. We are waiting for responses from DOE and the Department of Justice on several questions that were raised during our March 15 meeting, while we determine the next steps.

Following the March 21 submission of our comments in response to DOE's request for information on Reducing Regulatory Burden, DOE extended the "reply comment" period to April 15. Highlighting the faults of DOE's final rule, both procedurally and substantively, three companies (Empire Comfort, Hearth & Home Technologies, and Lennox) and four trade associations submitted comments in support of HPBA's position (the Air-Conditioning, Heating and Refrigeration Institute (AHRI), the American Gas Association (AGA), the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB), and the National Propane Gas Association (NPGA)).

EPA Revises Date for NSPS Proposal

According to David Menotti, HPBA's attorney for air quality issues, EPA has revised its target date for issuing the proposed revision of the NSPS and may not publish the proposal until the beginning of 2012. If the agency receives significant comments on the proposal, it may take longer than one year after proposal for the rule to become final. Menotti cautions the hearth industry that the process is not

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over until the rule is finalized and, despite EPA's presentation at Expo, all provisions are subject to change. For example, it has been brought to our attention that the agency is considering the imposition of efficiency standards. HPBA manufacturers will receive an update soon and retailers will hear updates at their upcoming affiliate meetings. If you have questions, please contact John Crouch, crouch@hpba.org.

Netzero Home Meeting Announced

HPBA and HPBA Pacific have announced a joint meeting on June 28 in Sacramento to review the issues posed by the California Energy Commission's mandate for "netzero energy new homes" by 2020. This meeting, for manufacturers and affiliate leaders in California and surrounding states, will cover the exclusion of hearth products in netzero homes. For more information on the meeting, please contact Kaity Van Amersfort at kaity@hpbapacific.org. For information on netzero, contact John Crouch, crouch@hpba.org.

Department Activities

Codes & Standards

- The Government Affairs staff continues work on a matrix of on-going codes and standards that impact the hearth and barbecue industries. The purpose for this matrix is to help prioritize the work being done on these standards and to help guide industries in the face of so many new (particularly "green") codes.
- ICC 700 (National Association of Home Builders, Green Building Standard) Technical Groups are meeting twice a week on the 2012 update of the National Green Building Standard (ICC 700). HPBA submitted a number of proposals for this update, and Tom Stroud is a member of Task Group #3 for this revision.
- International Green Construction Code (IgCC) Draft 2 is available for review on the <u>ICC website</u>. The public meeting will take place May 16-22 in Dallas.
- The NFPA 211 revision cycle for fall 2012 is currently accepting proposals for changes to the existing document and has a deadline of May, 23, 2011.
 Information can be found on the NFPA website and click on the "Next Edition" tab.
- HPBA's new Alcohol/Gel Fireplace Caucus met and discussed a number of issues. Topics included creating a standard, or utilizing an existing standard, for fuels and the UL 1370 Article of Investigation. If you would like to join this caucus, please contact Tom Stroud, stroud@hpba.org.

Communications

May is National Barbecue Month and HPBA kicks off the summer grilling season with a new Facebook page and Twitter



destination – The BBQ Source. These two new social media platforms connect people interested in outdoor cooking – bringing them straight to the source – to build a community of supporters for HPBA and outdoor living and entertaining. The BBQ Source is a forum for HPBA members, partners and manufacturers to be seen and heard, and to interact directly with the consumer audience. Log on and "Like" The BBQ Source.

HPBA's National Barbecue Month press release, "New Poll Reveals Outdoor Cooking Beats Eating Out," was distributed last week. More information on National Barbecue Month can be found on https://example.com/hPBA's website.

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HPB Education Foundation

- National Fireplace Institute During the next few months, there are many opportunities to attend training classes that offer CEUs. To find courses in your area, go to the NFI Website, click on the "Industry Professional" and then click on "Find an education program with CEUs." You can search by state or click a region on the map. When you attend a course that offers CEUs, make sure you legibly sign the attendance sheet and have your NFI ID number to credit your account.
- HE@RTH Online Training If you have a subscription to HE@RTH Online Training, there is a new, faster and easier way to access the system (compatible with Windows 7 and Macs). The system now lets you download a presentation and listen to it later when you may not have Internet access. New instructions have been sent out to all subscription holders. If you have any questions, please call Rick Vlahos at (703) 524-8030 ext. 129.

If you don't have a subscription, now is the best time to purchase one. You can earn NFI CEUs from the comfort of your home or office for one low fee. Individual subscriptions are \$249. Companies can buy up to 5 individual subscriptions for \$449 or up to 10 subscriptions for \$698. A subscription allows you to take as many classes as you want between now and March 31, 2012. Go to the https://example.com/hPBEF website for more information.

Statistics

Results of the Hearth Quarterly Industry survey will be distributed in the middle of May. If you have not responded to the second notice, please reply at once. For questions, please contact Don Johnson, johnson@hpba.org.

HPBExpo Report

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

HPBExpo 2012 website is live! Bookmark Expo's website, www.hpbexpo.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 September 1st. If you would like to relive HPBExpo 2011, including the wild Friday Night Fever party, check out the Photo Gallery.

Attention Expo Attendees. It's not too late to reach out to the exhibitors you visited during HPBExpo 2011. You can retrieve your list of exhibit booths through BuyerConnect. For questions, please contact buyerconnect@compusystems.com.

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).

Erwin and Sons Direct Imports, Inc. Returns to Expo. HPBExpo is pleased to welcome back Erwin and Sons Direct Imports. The outdoor furniture manufacturer was a first-time exhibitor in 2005 and returns to Expo 2012 with a bigger booth! Check out their full line of outdoor (and indoor) casual furniture and table tops at: http://bahama-winds.com/.

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Expo Committee Meeting. The Expo Committee will meet June 13-14, in Atlanta. The meeting includes discussions on long range planning issues, a review of the 2011 Expo survey tabulations, and plans for HPBExpo 2012 in Atlanta.

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