

August 30, 2011

Ms. Brenda Edwards
U. S. Department of Energy
Building Technologies Program, Mailstop EE-2J
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585-0121

**RE: NOPR on Energy Conservation Standards for Direct Heating Equipment
Docket No. EERE-2001-BT-STD-0047
RIN 1904-AC56**

Dear Ms. Edwards:

Lennox Hearth Products (LHP) is hereby responding to the Department of Energy's (DOE's) request for information – published in Federal Register Vol. 76, No. 141 (July 22, 2011) – seeking comment and information to assist DOE in reviewing the NOPR on Energy Conservation Standards for Direct Heating Equipment.

LHP is a leading manufacturer of indoor and outdoor fireplaces, fireplace inserts, free-standing stoves, gas log sets, accessories and venting products for the specialty retail, residential new construction and commercial markets. LHP, based in Nashville, Tennessee, is a business unit of Lennox International Inc. (NYSE: LII), a global leader in the heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration markets.

Heater-rated gas fireplaces serve both heating and decorative functions - in fact, there is no heater-rated gas fireplace that operates strictly as a heater. Such products also strive to provide the ambiance of traditional wood-burning hearth. Conversely, a decorative product primarily provides ambiance and LHP sales patterns indicate that such gas fireplaces (most often natural draft B-vent units) are popular in warmer (southern) parts of the U.S. where their presence is a focal point for family gatherings, and it is actually detrimental to the use and enjoyment of the product if it delivers too much heat to the space.

LHP feels strongly that decorative hearth products are not heaters and should not be regulated as such. The applicable statute clearly applies to utilitarian heating appliances like wall furnaces and was never intended to include decorative hearth products. Decorative hearth products are installed to provide ambiance to a dwelling. Decorative products are not installed for heating purposes; and as such these products are not subject to DOE efficiency regulations.

LHP does not believe DOE has established their statutory authority to regulate decorative gas fireplaces or mandate a compliance date for pilot light restrictions for these products. In addition, the proposed date (July 1, 2012) to regulate pilot lights clearly violates established precedent allowing at least three years for industries to implement new energy conservation standards.

LHP encourages DOE to substantiate their authority to regulate decorative gas fireplaces and justify their accelerated effective date for a new conservation standard related to pilot lights. If DOE chooses to advance this proposed rule the cumulative impact of meeting new efficiency standards for heater-rated products, while also addressing the requirements for decorative products, in the proposed timeframes places tremendous pressure on manufacturers whose resources are limited due to the current recession. Factory-built gas fireplaces are sold primarily into newly constructed homes and over the past few years the U.S. homebuilding market has contracted over 75% with little relief anticipated in the foreseeable future. In this economy, manufacturers have been forced to decrease costs (i.e. engineering and manufacturing resources) to survive. New DOE standards and compliance dates should consider the current health of the industry.

LHP respectfully submits these comments and appreciates the opportunity to provide information on the NOPR on Energy Conservation Standards for Direct Heating Equipment.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Dischner
Director - Marketing