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Volume 9, Issue 6

2014 General Meeting Dates

Mark your Calendar!

June 12, 2014

No Board Meeting scheduled

August 14, 2014

Lone Pine County Club
Washington, PA

September 11, 2014

TBA
Peter's Place, Bridgeville

September 17, 2014

Community Service Project

October 9, 2014

Collecting Bad Debt
Tambellini's, Bridgeville

November 13, 2014

Employee Drug Testing
Carmody's Wexford

EDUCATION & EVENTS

To register :
www.acca.org

Residential Design For Quality Installation

September 16 - 18, 2014

Building Performance Forum

October 7 & 8, 2014

Service Managers Forum

October 9 & 10, 2014

Regional Standards Settlement

Court Accepts Settlement Agreement, Ends Lawsuit Over Regional Standards

The U.S. District Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit issued an order today accepting a settlement agreement thereby ending the legal challenge of the Department of Energy's (DOE) 2011 rules that setting new minimum energy conservation standards for a variety of residential HVAC products, including regional standards for furnaces and central air conditioners.

ACCA was one of several parties of record in this case.

ACCA created a detailed explanation of the settlement and its impact on contractors. **That document is available to by ACCA members only (login required).**

ACCA members can watch a special online briefing on the regional standards issue that was recorded on May 25 on-demand now.

"We are thankful that the Court accepted the settlement motion and ended this prolonged lawsuit," said Paul T. Stalknecht, ACCA president & CEO. "The settlement vindicates ACCA's concerns about the DOE requiring condensing furnaces without regard for potential impact on homeowners. We are also pleased to see that our comments aren't likely to be overlooked in future rulemakings. Now the industry can move forward to develop an enforcement plan for the regional standards on split system and single package central air conditioners."

Under the terms of the proposed settlement:

Regional standards for non-weatherized natural gas and mobile home furnace are rescinded.

The DOE will rewrite new standards for non-weatherized natural gas and mobile home furnaces within two years.

Regional standards for central air conditioners go into effect on January 1, 2015.

13 SEER central air conditioners manufactured before January 1, 2015, may be installed in South and Southwest regions during an 18 month grace period ending July 1, 2016.

The DOE will initiate stakeholder-led negotiated rulemaking on enforcement for regional standards for central air conditioners.

The DOE will initiate a rulemaking to clarify the expedited standard setting process known as the Direct Final Rule.

ACCA members can download a copy of the settlement agreement from www.acca.org

If you have questions about this settlement, email Charlie McCrudden at charlie.mccrudden@acca.org

LinkedIn Groups

LinkedIn Groups

- Group: ACCA - Indoor Environment & Energy Efficiency
- Subject: LinkedIn Announcement - Your ACCA Membership Benefits

If you're a member of ACCA, make sure you are taking advantage of all of our new member benefits at the ACCA Member Service Center at <http://members.acca.org> -- they are all FREE to dues-paying members!

CONTRACTOR FORUM

LinkedIn is convenient, but unfortunately LI groups fill up with spam and are very difficult to manage. The Contractor Forum is a private discussion group for ACCA contractor members only, and can be managed completely in your email! Ask questions, get answers, share ideas.

<http://members.acca.org/connect/contractor-forum>

ACCA TOWN HALL

From breaking news to in-depth education for you and your employees, ACCA Town Hall is an innovative new series of webcasts for members only. Our upcoming schedule features educational programs on choosing the right contractor software, selling commercial service, advanced HVAC diagnostics, conducting meaningful employee reviews, improving your website's search rankings, and much, much more.

<http://members.acca.org/connect/town-hall>

ON-DEMAND VIDEO ARCHIVES

Nearly 200 video seminars from top contractors and industry experts, available to you and your team whenever you need them! ACCA members have access to more real online education, at no additional charge, than any of their non-member competitors.

<http://members.acca.org/watch>

MUCH, MUCH MORE

Customizable consumer brochures ... business forms and templates ... audio interviews with leading contractors ... in-depth technical bulletins ... explore what's available!

<http://members.acca.org/explore>

NOT A MEMBER?

Join today for instant access to the Member Service Center at

<http://www.acca.org/join>

May 13th board meeting with PA State Board was a success. Further info to follow soon.

Message from the President

America Jobs for America's Heros

The Returning Heroes Tax Credit provides up to \$5,600 to employers for each veteran hired who either has received food stamps for three months in the past 15 months, OR has been unemployed for at least four weeks in the past year.

Now, this new free publication prepared for the campaign by Caplin & Drysdale provides a clear and concise understanding along with step-by-step guidance. It even includes links to the required IRS and DOL forms employers need to submit. Whereas most media articles generalize and leave out key eligibility and filing details, this guide includes what you need to know to decide if your company is eligible and how to file.

- Returning Heroes Tax Credit
- Wounded Warrior Tax Credit
- Activated Military Reservist Credit for Small Businesses
- Federal Empowerment Zone Employment Credit

Visit <http://www.centerforamerica.org> for more details.

SmartWords You Must Remember

"Use technology to enhance your productivity, success and happiness.
Don't let IT use you."

— David Humes

Product Spotlight

Mastering Core Service

Learn how to successfully take and pass the NATE Service Core Exam – the fundamentals to general, construction and HVACR-specific knowledge required for certification.

To learn more about this and other tools ACCA has to offer, visit: www.acca.org/store.

HVAC Is Undervalued

Dave Kyle: HVAC Is Undervalued; Time to Invest, Re-brand

ACCA 2014 Chairman David Kyle offered up a bold presentation at the association's annual conference in Nashville. He pointed out that contractors today are, quite literally, still struggling with the same business problems they were talking about 50 years ago.

Yet American contractors — almost all *very* small businesses — control a huge segment of the global economy, which has caught the eye of numerous high-tech competitors seeking to take over “the connected home.”

Kyle said that the industry needs to re-brand itself as the high-tech industry that it has become, because people outside (including potential future employees) have an old-fashioned view of “HVAC.”

“We are undervalued,” Kyle said. “When something is undervalued, that means it’s a great time to invest.”

Watch Dave’s complete intro video and presentation below, or at our [YouTube channel](#).

ENERGY STAR Proposes New A/C and HP Specification

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing changes to the specifications for central air conditioners (CAC) and air source heat pumps (ASHP) earning the ENERGY STAR mark. The specification changes are necessary in light of the pending increase in the federal Department of Energy (DOE) energy conservation standards for CAC and ASHP that go into effect on January 1, 2015. For some product categories, the new federal energy conservation standards will be equal to the current ENERGY STAR specification, thus the need for a change. ENERGY STAR branded products represent the top product category performers in terms of energy efficiency and providing significant energy and cost savings to the consumer.

The proposed specification changes apply to four product categories: split system central air conditioners, split system air source heat pumps, single package central air conditioners, and single package air source heat pumps. For only split system heat pumps, the proposed specification is regionalized, setting a more stringent specification in the South region than the North. The specifications for the other product categories are national in scope.

Below is a chart showing the current and proposed Energy Star product specification by product category.

Proposed Version 5.0 Energy Star CAC/ASHP Specifications		
Product (current specification)	Regional Energy Star Specification	
	North Region	South Region
Central Air Conditioner	14.5 SEER / 12 EER	15.5 SEER / 13 EER
Split System (14.5 SEER / 12 EER)	Alaska, Colorado, Connecticut, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming	Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Nevada, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia
Product (current specification)	National Energy Star Specifications	
Central Air Conditioner	Nationwide	
Package System (14 SEER / 11 EER)	15.5 SEER / 12.5 EER	
Air-Source Heat Pump		
Split System (14.5 SEER / 12 EER / 8.2 HSPF)	15.5 SEER / 12.5 EER / 8.6 HSPF	
Package System (14 SEER / 11 EER / 8.0 HSPF)	14.5 SEER / 12 EER / 8.3 HSPF	

Changing to a regional specification for split system central air conditioners will require adjustments to the ENERGY STAR label that appears on the equipment to signify equipment compliant in the North region.

The EPA will be taking comments on the proposed changes until May 16, 2014. Based on all submitted comments, the EPA will release a second draft of the proposed specification for comment before issuing new specifications that would likely go into effect in the second quarter of 2015. Contact Charlie McGrudden, ACCA National for more info.

I Wonder if ACCA Has That for Me?

Does ACCA offer webinars exclusively for their members?

As needed, ACCA offers “Hot Topics” webinars that cover breaking news or items of burning importance to the HVACR industry.

Members may participate in “Hot Topics” at no charge, and as soon as possible after the webinars are held, we then make the recordings available for viewing online.

To learn more about ACCA’s upcoming “Hot Topics” webinars visit www.acca.org/members.

Contractor Comfort Index

Contractor Comfort Index 81 in April; Up 10 from 2013

The April Contractor Comfort Index (CCI) shows that contractors' optimism about short-term growth is increasing as spring is just beginning. ACCA began measuring contractor attitudes toward short-term economic growth with the CCI in February 2010.

For April 2014, the CCI is 81; the highest the CCI has ever been in the four years ACCA has tracked contractors' opinions through the survey. The CCI also shows that contractors are feeling better than they were 12 months earlier when the CCI was 71.

The CCI is calculated based on a survey of the association's contractor members, who are asked how positive they feel about new business prospects, existing business activity, and expected staffing decisions in the short-term future. Weighted and averaged into one number, a CCI of 50 or above reflects anticipated growth.

The CCI is released prior to the start of each month; the next index number will be released during the last week of May.