
THE ARKANSAS HVAC/R NEWSLETTER

January 2012 Issue

HOME WARRANTIES

HVAC/R Contractors Beware!!!

Certainly this article will not apply to the vast majority of HVAC/R Contractors, but it will to some.

In today's real estate business climate, home warranties are commonplace. The way it works is when the home owner has an HVAC/R problem (or any other problem with the property for matter), the homeowner contacts their Home Warranty Company to file a claim. The Home Warranty Company is hooked up with a licensed HVAC/R contractor that performs all of their claims work. The HVAC/R Contractor makes a service call, determines the problem, and in some cases actually goes ahead and installs equipment. If the problem exceeds what the Home Warranty Company is prepared to pay, the HVAC/R contractor could be hanging out on a limb. In some cases, equipment change-outs require other component replacement for the system to be brought up to code...or in other cases, additional equipment is required to even make the system work properly.

While a myriad of the examples could be listed in this article, the point is that contractors should be aware that Home Warranty Companies don't dictate system compliance, the code does.

LICENSING RENEWALS

It is certainly understood with the economy the way it is that it gets harder-and-harder to make ends meet, but contractors should pay close attention to not only their licenses but those of their Registrants. There are more-and-more Registrants whose licenses are expired, or never licensed at all. Many of the Board's hearings this past year was over that exact issue.



Larry Keathley Retires

After 14 years of impeccable service, Larry Keathley decides to retire.

On behalf of the Arkansas Department of Health & the Office of Protective Health Codes, our deepest appreciation to Larry for his loyalty and dedication to the HVAC/R Program and the heating and air industry as a whole.

Due to budgetary constraints, there are no plans at this time to refill Larry's position. Bob Higginbottom will serve as the HVAC/R Program Director for the foreseeable future.

28 gauge vs. 30 Gauge

As you know, the state's mechanical code is derived from the *International Code Council's Mechanical Code*.

Every 3 to 6 years, the HVAC/R Board adopts a new mechanical code to stay up with ever-changing industry standards. With the exception of a few minor modifications, the Arkansas Mechanical Code is almost word-for-word with the ICC version.

This past code adoption that took place in 2010 changed residential sheet metal duct from 30 gauge to 28 gauge. This change is in the ICC code and was precipitated by SMACNA standards, which is the leading standards-setting organization and authority for duct design.

As always, during the adoption stages, the proposed mechanical code was open to public review and comments. Not at any time during that period, however, was there a voice of concern raised by anyone about the proposed changes of going from 30 gauge to 28 gauge duct material...until now.

For the past several months, the Board has heard from a concerned party that this is hurting the industry. It is anticipated that this issue will be discussed again by the Board during its March 14th meeting.

We'll see where this goes.

CIVIL PENALTIES FOR THE PAST YEAR
(JANUARY THRU DECEMBER 2011)

Name	Penalty
Gregorio Yanez Deliz	\$250
Jose Pulido	\$250
Arturo Torres	\$250
Dino Vergura	\$500
Gregory Knight	\$750
Michael Counts	\$500
Mike Simpkins	\$750
James Mechling	\$250
Johnny "Bo" Henry	\$500
Michael Upchurch	\$750
Donals Carroll	\$500
Leodis Tillmon	\$250
Chris Tillman	\$250
Sue Swaithes	\$250
James Walker	\$500
Scott Moravee	\$250
Harvey Randolph	\$250
James Walker	\$750

NEW BOARD APPOINTEE

Steve Walden has been appointed to the HVAC/R Board.

Steve, a resident of North Little Rock, is well known in the industry. He has been an HVAC/R contractor for many years and active in various industry associations.

Steve serves as the Class B representative replacing Keith Merritt. His term will expire June 30, 2015.

There is also a pending vacancy for the Engineer representative currently being held by Frank McKenney. Mr. McKenney has graciously agreed to continue to serve until the Governor finds a replacement.

ANOTHER RETIREMENT

State Mechanical Inspector, Mickey English has announced his retirement effective the last of February.

Mickey is housed in Russellville and has served as the State Mechanical Inspector for that region of the state for many years.

There are no plans to refill Mickey's position at this time due to budgetary constraints. Efforts are currently underway to reassign Mickey's work area to other inspectors.

PERMITS & INSPECTIONS

Contractors should be very careful to obtain permits and inspections. The code requires it and many of the state's city inspectors are seeing this requirement being ignored.

For 2012, a concerted effort will be made to hold hearings for contractors that violate this section of the code.

2012 HVAC/R INSPECTOR TRAINING DATES

Date	Place	City
Jan 24 & 25 26 Rec	321 N. Elm	Beebe
Mar 27 Rec	Hot Springs (COAR) Clarion on the Lake 4813 Central Ave	Hot Springs
May 9 Rec	Community Center 201 Bobby Jean Lane	Heber Springs
July 31 & Aug 1 Aug 2 Rec	Light & Water Operations Building, 710 E. Main	Clarksville
Nov 1 Rec	Rogers Youth Center 315 West Olive St.	Rogers

WHERE HAS THE TIME GONE?

This coming July the HVAC/R Program will be 21 years old. It seems like yesterday we were grandfathering licenses.

INTERESTING FACTS

- Seventy percent of installed systems suffer from inadequate airflow. Improper airflow can result in equipment failure, high energy bills, and poor comfort.
- Improper refrigerant charging can lower efficiency by up to 20%.
- Proper HVAC equipment size selection is imperative. Oversized equipment will increase costs and reduce comfort.
- Building operation and maintenance programs specifically designed to enhance operating efficiency of HVAC and lighting systems can reduce energy bills by 20% to 50% without significant capital investment.
- Heating, ventilating, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems account for between 40 percent and 60 percent of total energy use (all forms of energy) in the commercial sector.