

THE MECHANICAL INSPECTOR

MMIA Update

The Metropolitan Mechanical Inspectors Association continues to meet at the Ukrainian Cultural Center, in Warren. MMIA has offered 87 credits since the beginning of the cycle in 2002. We have a short break for the summer but will meet again at our next seminar on September 7, 2006 when Guy Mitchell and Panel will be presenting a three hour Technical program, "Code Study". **Be sure to attend the MMIA Seminars and get those required credits before the end of the cycle in September 2006. This is the last scheduled class for this cycle.**

MIAM



Fall Conference
September 28-30, 2006
Hotel Doherty Clare, Mi

This conference marks the 20 year anniversary of the Mechanical Inspectors Association of Michigan. Please come and join us in celebrating a milestone, and doing what we do best, educating the Mechanical Inspectors of the State of Michigan.

If you have not received your registration form please contact the office.
Ph 248-649-5443

THIS ISSUE

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Maintain
Improve
And
Monitor



MMIA, Inc.

Better Enforcement
Today
for a Safer
Tomorrow

July 2006



NEW MMIA Members ACTIVE

- Robert Bowers
Dearborn
- John Ruetz
River Rouge
- John Salatka
Clinton Township

ASSOCIATE

- ES/TEAC Mechanical, Inc.
Gary Shaw, Tim Quinn

NEW MIAM Members ACTIVE

- Robert Bowers
Dearborn
- Mazen Halabi
Dearborn
- John Salatka
Clinton Township

CONTRIBUTING

- James Russell
F.C. Moran

We Are Glad To Have You

REMINDER

The publishing deadlines for the Mechanical Inspector Newsletter are as follows:

- Jan 1 deadline for Jan 15 mailing
- Apr 1 deadline for Apr 15 mailing
- Jul 1 deadline for Jul 15 mailing
- Oct 1 deadline for Oct 15 mailing

Everyone is welcome to submit articles, but the Education Committee will decide publishing priority.



Presidents' Corner



MIAM President Robert Logan

All Presidents are honored to serve, but this year, on our 20th anniversary, I feel particularly privileged and I have a few thoughts about MIAM that I would like to share with you.

As you know, MIAM was founded as an education tool for Mechanical Inspectors throughout the State of Michigan, not for me or any single individual, but for all members to ensure consistent code interpretation and uniform inspections. We have all worked hard toward that goal for the past twenty years and I know we will continue to do so for the next twenty to reinforce the direction of the founders of MIAM. Those leaders and their principles have not been forgotten: "...to promote safety to life and property in connection with the ...HVAC industry...and to include instruction on matters pertaining to the welfare and safety of the general public." As professionals we will continue to build on the great foundation and distinct quality that they laid out for us as they carry us into our future.

Our future – and I don't think it can be said enough - depends on input from and participation of the association membership to ensure the continued growth and strength of MIAM. I encourage you to please consider joining a committee or the Board. The rewards are great and your input will be received and appreciated.



MMIA President Eugene Burke

Here it is summer. I hope everyone is enjoying the warmer weather now.

There hasn't been too much activity going on now. I know in a lot of areas, work is very slow. We all hope it will pick up soon.

If you don't have all your credits for the current cycle—time is running out. MMIA will have one more class in the old cycle on Thursday, September 7, 2006. The 3 credit hour technical class will be a "Code Study" moderated by Guy Mitchell. There is a possibility, if there are enough requests that an all day class could be scheduled with other classes. Please give us some feedback. Don't lose your ability to be a Mechanical Inspector in the State of Michigan for lack of a credit!

The Education Committee will be meeting to discuss the programs for the new cycle. We want the best education for our inspectors. Again, if you are interested in becoming an instructor or have a topic, please call the association office. We need your input.



EDUCATION COMMITTEE UPDATE

William Moy, Canton

Summer is finally here and I hope you are enjoying these days. While all the summer activities are now in full swing, be sure to take a moment and check your credit hours. The end of this cycle is September 16, 2006 and all credits need to be completed for re-certification. New numbers will also be required for instructors and classes. The committee is still asking for code related questions/problems that you may be experiencing out in the field. We are very eager to work, so send in any problems and or questions you may have. We are looking for more suggestions for class topics. Reminder, MIAM Fall Conference dates have been changed to the new cycle, so plan to attend and get a jump on your hours.

MIAM 20th Anniversary Fall Conference

Registration forms have been mailed to dues paid members. If you need one please go online or call association office for a copy.

www.mechanicalinspector.com

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THE MECHANICAL INSPECTOR

is published quarterly at
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Co-Chairs, Guy Mitchell, William Moy
MIAM President Robert Logan
MMIA President Eugene Burke

Ask the Committee:

Send your questions about Mechanical Code enforcement to the Education Committee for discussion and research. As space permits, they will be answered in this Newsletter. The address is:

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

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Inform the Committee:

These articles are directed to membership participation. We welcome you to please submit your comments and answers.



Mechanical Contractor
Inspector Review Board

A meeting was held on February 17, 2006, at Cleary's Restaurant in Howell, Michigan. This meeting was attended by several mechanical inspectors, including Mr. Tennison Barry, from the State of Michigan.

Several new and old code concerns were discussed during the meeting for Tennison's input. The first item of concern was the use of "bubble-type" as duct insulation material. This material has a reflective film with air entrapped within plastic bubbles. We all agreed that this material is great for packing boxes for shipment, but does not offer an approved insulation value as required by code.

§1601.3.4 2003 Michigan Residential Code, requires insulation material with a minimum R-8 thermal value insulation between the exterior walls and the ductwork. Furthermore, §1601.2.1 M.R.C. requires that the thermal value of duct insulation be based on the material alone. "Bubble-type" insulation material falls short on both counts. The thermal values stated on the product are *not* based on the material alone. Several other factors are considered in the R-values stated on the product by the manufacturer.

A couple manufacturers of this type of product have tried to submit the material to the Mechanical Rules Board for approval. At least one manufacturer has admitted that the thermal value of the product material alone is R-1.3. This is far less than the code allows. The Board has determined that this product is *not* code compliant.

Ductwork located within crawl spaces and attics must be insulated with insulation material approved to a minimum installed thermal value of R-5.

Underground ductwork does *not* require insulation when the vertical surfaces of the foundation walls are

Insulated.

Sealing ductwork "substantially" airtight, as specified by §1601.3.1 M.R.C., is required on rectangular ducts when the joints appear to be open around the corners and when ductwork is located within the attic, exterior walls and crawl spaces.

Thermo-pan material can be used in under-floor locations when installed in accordance with the conditions of approval listed in the Product Evaluation Reports. The Product Evaluation Reports are available for download from the manufacturer.

You can obtain a copy of the ICC Legacy Report No. 95-41.01 and ICBO Report 5398 at <http://www.thermopan.com/prodcuts/thermopan.htm>. The conditions of approval stated in the Product Evaluation Reports to install this material are different than the manufacturer's installation instructions. The State of Michigan has approved this material when it is installed in accordance with the condition of approval stated in the Evaluation Reports only.

In addition, this manufacturer has a header material approved for use as fireblocking within concealed stud and joist spaces. This fireblocking header material has a fire spread and smoke development index rating printed directly on the surface of the material.

The use of a vent kit when installing an 80% gas furnace replacement was discussed. The manufacturer of the furnace must allow the use of the vent kit and the vent kit must be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's installation instructions. This type of product requires an inspection of the chimney interior by the installing contractor.

Mark Riley—Troy-ICC, Board of Mechanical Rules

State of Michigan Mechanical Board of Rules Committee update for 2006 Code Proposals:

International Fuel Gas Code, Michigan Residential code (Ch 12 – 24) and Michigan Mechanical Code

New proposals -

1. Adoption of ACCA Manual "S" Residential Equipment Selection as a referenced document along with all already adopted ACCA Manuals "D" and "J"
2. Requirements for roof top access for pitched roofs and for parapets.
3. Spacing of sheet metal screws around round duct joints so they not have to be equally spaced apart when installed in a floor joist area.
4. "S" cleats are approved for duct sealant method for Residential when done correctly.

There were other discussions including swimming pool relief valves only required on oil fired pool heaters, and only required on gas pool heaters if the manufacture's instructions required them. Also reviewed was that ASHRAE 62-"N" could be used in lieu of Table 403.3 for ventilation rates in buildings of non-smoking or assembly use groups to help reduce the high ventilation rates that are required.



JOE OTIS NFPA LIAISON

Pitching of Sprinkler Pipe



All sprinkler system piping has to be arranged such that it can be drained, but not all sprinkler system piping has to be pitched. This wasn't always the case.

Before the edition of NFPA 13, *Installation of Sprinkler Systems*, all sprinkler piping had to be installed with a pitch back toward the drain, generally the main drain located at the system riser. Beginning with the 1972 edition, however, the piping in wet-pipe sprinkler systems was permitted to be installed level. The code developers recognized at that time that if the piping centerlines were held at the same elevation, there would be a natural slope back toward the system riser and drain as the pipe sizes grew closer to the source of supply. The "floor" of the piping is at a lower elevation for the larger pipe sizes.

The importance of proper system drainage depends on the type of system. Wet-pipe systems tend to be drained only when the system is modified. However, drypipe and preaction systems have to be drained every time the system operates or trips. Water that does not drain properly from the piping can result in corrosion, especially in traditional steel piping systems. It is for this reason that full-flow trip tests are recommended only once every three years. Partial trip tests, in which the system control valve is only partially open so that water can be prevented from fully entering the system piping, are recommended in other years. Regardless of whether a full or partial trip test is conducted, however, proper pitch is important to ensure that the water leaves the piping.

How much pitch is required? Section 8.15.2.3.1 requires that the branch lines of dry-pipe systems, other than those in refrigerated areas, be pitched not less than 1/2 inch per 10 feet (4 millimeter per meter) and that the mains be pitched not less than 1/2 inch in 10 feet (2 millimeters per meter). In refrigerated areas, all branch lines and mains of both dry-pipe and preaction systems must be pitched not less than 1/2 inch per 10 feet (4 millimeters per meter). For refrigerated spaces that are kept below 32 degree F (0 degree C). Section 7.8.2.3 requires pitch of piping without apparent regard for the type of system, meaning that it would apply to antifreeze systems as well as dry-pipe and preaction systems.

One would think that a concept so long established would not be subject to further change, yet a significant amendment is being proposed for the 2007 edition of NFPA 13. Section 8.15.2.3.2 currently requires that preaction system piping be pitched only where portions are subject to freezing. Not only would this seem to contradict the guidance given above, but field experience has shown that preaction systems are like dry-pipe systems with regard to the need to drain fully to prevent long term problems. The Technical Committee is proposing to delete the references to freezing in this section, along with all of Section 8.15.2.3.3, which clearly exempts preaction systems from pitching if all portions are in areas not subject to freezing. The Technical Committee substantiation for these actions clarifies "the proposed changes address the corrosion issues that arise

in a preaction system in a heated area where the system is drained and then refilled with air."

Pitching issues are not confined to initial system installation. Occasionally, buildings settle, and wood attic trusses or other lightweight roof construction may deflect slightly following the application of dead loads such as roof coverings or after application of substantial live loads as heavy snowfalls. A slight change in pitch generally won't be detected during a standard sprinkler system inspection in accordance with NFPA 25, *Inspections, Testing and Maintenance of Water Based Fire Protection Systems*, especially if the piping is in a concealed space exempt from visual inspection. For newly constructed buildings that might possibly settle, building owners would be well advised to call for a special inspection of piping pitch before the onset of freezing weather.

New technology should actually make it easier to check proper pitch on sprinkler piping. Laser levels can be bought in almost any hardware store or home improvement center and used to evaluate relative heights of installed sections of piping much more easily than in the days before 1972.

Russ Fleming is the executive Vice-President of the National Fire Sprinkler Association and a member of the NFPA Technical Correlating Committee on Automatic Sprinklers. "HEADSUP" NFPA Journal May/June 2006

FYI

On June 1, 2006, all cell phone numbers are being released to telemarketing companies and you will start to receive sale calls. **YOU WILL BE CHARGED FOR THESE CALLS.** To prevent this, call the following number from your cell phone: 888-382-1222. It is the National DO NOT CALL list. It will only take a minute of your time. It blocks your number from sales calls for five (5) years.

www.donotcall.gov



LYNN L. BRIGGS, LEGISLATIVE AGENT

MINIMUM WAGE LAW

On March 28, 2006, the Governor of the State of Michigan signed Enrolled Senate Bill No. 318 into law as Public Act No. 81 of 2006. The act provides that beginning October 1, 2006 the state's minimum wage would be \$6.95 per hour. Beginning July 1, 2007 the wage increases to \$7.15 and beginning July 1, 2008 the wage increases to \$7.40 per hour.

The reason the Republican controlled legislature suddenly decided to increase the minimum wage of \$5.15 (which had been in effect since 1997 — nearly 10 years) was an effort by the Democrats to put the issue on the state-wide ballot for the November elections. The Republicans decided that a ballot issue would likely draw more low wage earners to the polls, and these low wage earners most likely would vote Democratic.

The act, however, has some un-intended consequences. Michigan law states that as long as the federal minimum wage is greater than or equal to the Michigan minimum wage, then the state recognizes some exceptions to the overtime provisions contained in the federal wage and hour act. However, when the state minimum wage exceeds the federal wage (which it will following the October 1, 2006 increase) then the federal overtime exemptions are null and void. These exemptions are for such diverse employees as nurses, over highway truck drivers, agricultural workers, commissioned sales people, automobile dealer employees, etc. The trucking industry, surprisingly, pays drivers by the mile rather than by the hour. Since all other states in the country recognize the federal exemption, if Michigan did not adopt the exemptions, it would mean that a driver would have to change his method of compensation (and overtime) when he crossed the state line into Michigan.

In an effort to correct the "unintended consequences" of the minimum wage bill as it relates to overtime provisions, the Michigan Legislature has been considering House Bill No. 6213 to apply the federal overtime exemptions to the state law. The bill was just introduced a couple of weeks ago, and already has been reported out by the House Commerce Committee, has been passed by the full House of Representatives, amended and passed by the Michigan Senate and (as of this writing) been returned to the House for concurrence with the Senate amendments.

Other corrective bills have also been introduced. One would only apply the minimum wage to employees 18 years or older to allow 16 and 17 year olds to work at less than minimum wage. Another bill would exempt all employers with less than 50 employees from the minimum wage. It is doubtful, however, that either of these two bills will see the light of day. Direct any questions you may have to Lynn Briggs, Contractors Legislative Services, 4823 River Ridge Drive, Lansing, MI 48917 telephone (517) 862-8983

Inspectors in the News

Jerry Payne, Wyoming and Bill Paquette, Farmington Hills are featured in a future edition of The Air Conditioning, Heating and Refrigeration News.

John Hall, Business Editor contacted the association office with the idea of "spending the day with an inspector", to learn some of the common mistakes that installers make and to get advice on how to keep the corrective action checklist to a minimum of pages.

Payne try and playing Wyoming registered



is quoted, "We keep a level field for all contractors." Wyoming currently has 288 mechanical contractors, and has been experiencing tremendous growth as it moves from a rural community into a vibrant suburb or a larger metropolitan area.

Paquette look at the look at the don't want contrac- they all



noted, "I don't contractors, I permit. I really to know the tor. That way, get the same treatment from me." Farmington Hills is an older Detroit suburb where residential and commercial development has slowed down quite a bit compared to the more undeveloped City of Wyoming. The city currently lists 80 registered mechanical contractors.

Read the entire article "What Mechanical Inspectors Want You to Know" in a future issue of the Air Conditioning, Heating and Refrigeration News. John Hall has previously written about MIAM and attended a conference. He may be attending the fall Conference if it fits into his schedule.

INTERNATIONAL CODE COUNCIL CHANGES FROM 2003 TO 2006 IMC

International Mechanical Code

Chapter 2 New definition of Environmental Air: Air conveyed to or from occupied areas which are not part of the heating and cooling ducts such as ventilation for human usage, domestic kitchen exhaust, bathroom and domestic dryer exhaust
See section **401.4.1 501.2.1 #4**

Section 301.4 Appliances shall be installed to their listing (Cannot use an appliance that is not listed for that use such as a rooftop furnace for 100% outside make up air unit.)

Section 306.4 Section 1305.1.3 IRC Exception added for this section where the passage way in a attic is not limited to 20 feet if the height is 6 feet and 22" wide passage way.

Section 307.2.3.1 Water level detection devices for down flow units are required in primary drain pan if overflow can result in building damage if an auxiliary pan can't be installed. Also language requiring condensing fuel fired appliances to have condensate pan when damage can occur. (IRC Section M1411.4 G2404.10)

Section 401.4 Exhaust outlets for environmental air shall be no less than 3 feet from property lines or building openings. Exception - bathroom & kitchen exhaust in not considered hazardous or noxious contaminant.

Section 403.2 Outside air required: exception - where the registered design professional demonstrates that engineered ventilation system will prevent contaminants from exceeding that obtainable rate of outdoor air ventilation determined. According to section 403.3 the minimum required outdoor rate will be reduced with such engineered system design. Note: This causes many designs submitted with their misinterpretations of ASHRAE 62 written in non-complainant language and commissioning of equipment (CO2 readings)

Section 403.2.1 Recirculation of air note 4 added- mechanical exhaust in new note "H" in table 403.3 will allow 10 % recirculation. This will allow the use of energy recovery ventilators for locker rooms, bathrooms, shower rooms but not smoking lounges in public spaces. This is a mistake by ICC which will be covered in a future errata statement.

Section 404.1 Enclosed Parking Garages - Ventilation systems can be actuated using occupancy/vehicle operation sensors.

Section 501.2.1 Location of exhaust outlets - completely reworked distances - see code text to note changes.

Section 501.3 Pressure equalization exhaust air can't be made up using building infiltration calculations.

Section 506.3.3.1 Grease duct test - Grease duct joints to be tested by a 100 watt light bulb or other approved means.

Section 507.2.1.1 Operation Type I hoods require some means of turning on exhaust fan when cooking appliances are turned on by heat sensor or other approved methods.

Section 507.2.2. Type II Hoods not required for electric bread ovens when HVAC system is designed to handle the heat & moisture from such appliance. No hood required for electric heated appliances: toasters, popcorn cookers, hot dog cookers, coffee makers warming ovens when HVAC system is designed to handle the heat & moisture from such appliance.

Section 601.3 Exits - New section added as was required by the building code to isolate equipment and duct work that serves exit access corridors and stairwells with direct opening to outside.

Section 603.9 Joints, seams and connections - Requires all duct joints, seams, and connections to be sealed. Previous language referred to use of energy code.

Sections 603.17 603.17.2 Registers, grilles, and diffusers. Addition providing access to dampers. Also floor registers not allowed in toilet and bathrooms when floor is required to have nonabsorbent surface by the International Building Code. (IRC would not apply due to the IBC being referenced.)

Section 606.4 Control operation. Wiring of smoke detector cannot violate the listing of the appliance. Must be wired to instructions of appliance manufacturer. Cannot tamper with control circuits that would violate the listing of the appliance.

International Residential Code

Section M1501.1 Outdoor discharge air from mechanical exhaust system cannot be discharged to an attic soffit, ridge vent, or crawlspace.

Section M1502 Clothes dryer exhaust: Booster fan's allowance has been removed. Dryer transition duct cannot be concealed.

Section G2415.1 Prohibited Locations: Piping installed downstream from the point of delivery shall not extend through any other townhouse unit other than unit served by such piping.

Section G2426.7 Protection from physical damage: shield plates required for vents when wood members are less than 1.5" away.

Section G2428.3.19 Draft hood conversion accessories. Use of draft kits for furnaces for category one appliances into masonry chimney allowed per listed manufacture's instructions.

Submitted by
Mark Riley, City of Troy

INSPECTOR EDUCATION

MMIA would like to thank the speakers who volunteer their knowledge and time for a great cause! A special **THANK YOU** to...



Paul Joliat, "Listed UL #710 Hoods Wall Island & Self Compensating" on May 18th and Jim Russell, "IFGC Special Appliances". We appreciate your continued contribution to the association and its members.

MMIA Members thank Gary Marowske, Flame Furnace for donating Tiger Baseball tickets and to Jim Russell, FC Moran for hats, shirts and other items. Everybody loves a prize!

MMIA CLASS AND CREDIT UPDATE MMIA—SEPTEMBER 18, 2002 THRU SEPTEMBER 17, 2006

<u>REQUIRED</u>		<u>Totals to date (06-15-06)</u>
Administration	5	Administration 7
Technical	32	Technical 30
Communications	2	Communication 4
Specialty	24	Specialty 30
Plan Review**	16	Plan Review** 16
Total	79	Total 87

** Not a Mechanical requirement

- September 7, 2006
Guy Mitchell Code Study 3T

BUREAU OF CONSTRUCTION CODES & FIRE SAFETY MECHANICAL SEMINAR

Contact the Office of Local Government and Consumer Services today for more information 517-241-9347

WHAT OTHER ASSOCIATIONS DO YOU BELONG TO?

LET US KNOW YOUR OTHER SOURCES FOR EDUCATION SO WE CAN HELP SPREAD THE WORD AND LET THE MEMBERSHIP KNOW ABOUT POSSIBLE EDUCATION IN THEIR AREA.

MECHINSPECT@BIGNET.NET

MIAM Credit Update

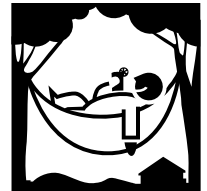
September 18, 2002 Thru September 17, 2006

<u>REQUIRED</u>		<u>TOTALS TO DATE (03-25-06)</u>
Administration	5 Chrs	Administration 11 Chrs
Technical	32	Technical 66
Communication	2	Communication 4
Specialty	24	Specialty 38
Plan Review	16	Plan Review 20
Total	79	Total 139

PIAM CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

October 11-13, 2006
Fall Conference, Kalamazoo
April 18-20, 2007
Spring Conference, Clare
October 10-12, 2007
Fall Conference, Lansing
75th Anniversary

Are you retiring? Moving to a new community? Please notify the association office so we can update our records. As always we wish everyone good luck with all their endeavors.



*MIAM FALL CONFERENCE AGENDA

September 28-30, 2006, Doherty Hotel, Clare, Michigan

Thursday, September 28, 2006

11:00 - 5:00
11:00 - 5:00
1:00 - 1:30

1:30-4:30
5:00-7:00

Class# Cr Hrs pic

Robert Logan

Dan Jankowski

Registration
Hospitality Suite
President's Welcome
Membership Meeting
Kitchen Exhaust System
Pizza, Beer & Bingo

Friday, September 29, 2006

7:00 - 8:00
8:00 - 10:00
10:00 - 12:00
12:00 - 1:00
1:00 - 5:00
6:00 - 9:00

TBD 2 S
TBD 2 PR

Mark Riley
Mark Riley

Group Breakfast
Hydronic Systems
Hydronic PR
Group Lunch Buffet
Hydrogen
Reception Dinner Dance

Saturday, September 30, 2006

7:00 - 8:00
8:00 - 10:00

12:00

TBD 2 A

Mark Riley, Guy Mitchell

Group Breakfast
Forbes Mechanical Act/
Mechanical Inspection Registration
Adjourn & Check Out

*Please note this schedule is tentative and may change prior to the conference.

INSPECTORS EDUCATION FUND

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