

THE MECHANICAL INSPECTOR

TECHNICAL TOPICS AUGUST 2009

Maintain
Improve
And
Monitor



MMIA, Inc.

Better Enforcement
Today
for a Safer
Tomorrow

THE MECHANICAL INSPECTOR

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Co-Chairs, Guy Mitchell, William Moy
MIAM President Carl Janson
MMIA President Vernon Pappas

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:

Inform the Committee:

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

REMINDER

Publishing deadlines are as follows:

Jan 1 deadline for Jan 15 mailing

May 1 deadline for May 15 mailing

Aug 1 deadline for Aug 15 mailing

Anyone is welcome to submit articles, but the Education committee will decide publishing priority.

Education Committee Update – Co-Chair Guy Mitchell

It's that time again! Time to cut the grass, have an outdoor Bar-B-Q or get the boat out and go fishing. It's also time to renew your inspector's registration with the state. You should have received your new registration forms from the state by now. To my surprise, they were mailed out last week along with your educational credits. I guess they finally got their new computer software working.

Check your credits carefully to be sure you have enough credits in all four categories for your new registration. The state will not issue a new registration for the next code cycle if you do not have the minimum number of credits. It is your responsibility to obtain all the credits you need and register for the next code cycle.

MMIA and MIAM have completed all the classes for the current code cycle which ends September 16, 2009. You should have enough credit hours if you attended MMIA's monthly classes or MIAM's semi-annual conferences throughout this code cycle. If you do find yourself short a few credits, check out our website at www.mechanicalinspector.com for a list of available classes. There is still a little time left before the September 16, 2009 deadline to obtain these credits.

Don't wait for the last minute. Get your credits now if you need them and have a wonderful summer.

SEALING OF DUCT JOINTS

When the 2003 Michigan Mechanical Code was adopted, it made very clear that all duct joints installed under this code must be sealed "reasonably air tight". It required specifically that joints must meet the SMACNA or NAIMA duct construction standards; using mastic, tape or gaskets. There was no such requirement written into the Michigan Residential Code; and, since the "workmanlike standard" wording had been eliminated from the code, some inspectors chose to refer to the circumstances "not covered" article to require residential installers to seal the transverse joints of round metal ducts and the corners of the rectangular trunks with caulk or tape.

The 2006 Michigan Residential Code (1601.3.1) has adopted language to address this controversy.

It specifies that joints in duct systems located "outside the buildings thermal envelope" must be sealed air tight with mastics, caulk, etc; but inside the thermal envelope "sheet metal fittings shall be mechanically fastened". This requirement would ordinarily be satisfied by a properly constructed joint with S-bars and drives and "Crimp joints for round ducts shall have a contact lap of at least 1.5 (38mm) and shall be mechanically fastened with at least 3 sheet metal screws or rivets spaced around the joint". There is no further requirement for sealing these joints. And, since the topic is specifically addressed in the Residential code, there is no allowance to refer to Article 603.1 in the Mechanical code.

Bill Paquette, Region 9 Director



JOE OTIS NFPA LAISON

NFPA 13D: Cheaper home sprinklers? A potentially “monumental” change was made to NFPA 13D, *Installation of Sprinkler Systems in One- and Two-Family Dwellings and Manufactured Homes*, that may make home fire sprinkler systems more affordable. The 34 year old standard passed with one amending motion which allowed the use of 130 psi-rated cross-linked polyethylene (PEX) piping material in certain installations. PEX is lower in cost than the currently accepted 175 psi-rated material required in commercial installations.

NFPA Journal July / August Issue

Lynn Briggs—Legislative Consultant

The House of Representatives of the United States Congress has passed HR 2454, the American Clean Energy & Security Act of 2009. The bill is now being considered by the United States Senate. Sec. 201 of the bill addresses itself to energy efficiency in building codes. The section can be downloaded at: <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/F?c111:1:./temp/~c1110aERyv:e400946> The bill has been called “Cap and Trade” because the main focus is on regulating smoke stack emissions and requiring utilities to shift from coal to alternative fuels. As with all federal legislation, it seems that nearly every member of Congress has tacked some favorite “pork” project onto the bill. The bill is over a thousand pages long, but for our purposes the energy efficiency stuff is in Sec. 201 which amends Sec. 304 of the Energy Conservation and Production Act.

In a nut shell, the bill does the following:

- Requires a 30% reduction in energy use at the effective date of the law compared to a baseline code
- Effective 2014 for residential buildings and 2015 for commercial buildings, a 50% reduction in energy use
- Effective 2017 for residential buildings and 2018 for commercial buildings and every 3 years thereafter, through 2029 and 2030, 5% additional reduction in energy use relative to the baseline code
- The baseline code is the 2006 ICC Energy Conservation Code for residential
- The baseline code for commercial buildings is the ASHRAE Standard 90.1-2004
- Establishes a National Energy Efficiency Building Code
- Requires States to review and update state codes to be equivalent to national code
- Requires state and local jurisdictions to adopt the national code within 18 months

ACTION REQUIRED:

Contact Senators Carl Levin and Debbie Stabenow and ask them to oppose HR 2454. Tell them that our existing method of writing codes in Michigan works just fine and we don't need federal bureaucrats writing requirements for buildings in Michigan. Senator Levin can be reached at senator@levin.senate.gov and Senator Stabenow can be reached at senator@stabenow.senate.gov or by snail mail U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510

GOING “GREEN” WITH “LEED”

During the past several months, the topic of the day has been everything “green” and “LEED” - buildings, systems, education, certifications. What does all of this mean? We think a few definitions are in order.

“Green” is described as a building that provides the specified building performance requirements while minimizing disturbance to and improving the functioning of local, regional, and global eco-systems both during and after its construction and specified service life.

“LEED” Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design - is a green building rating system created by the US Green Building Council which is an industry organization whose membership is made up of all parts of the construction industry including owners, designers, and contractors. The USGBC promotes the construction of environmentally friendly, high-performance buildings through its sponsorship of the LEED Green Building Rating System.

How do they apply to contractors and inspectors? Early in the design the owner must determine whether or not the project will be a LEED job and must then meet certain criterion within the LEED rating system including the selection of contractors to perform the work in accordance with the rating system. Upon completion of the job, the USGBC will determine LEED status. While new technologies in energy efficiency and retro-fitting are fast-growing, does this then provide opportunity for inspectors to become certified creating a new field of work for them and their communities. Your association is working with ICC and SMACNA National to determine the feasibility of developing programs to accomplish these potential goals.

Workshops are available for core knowledge of this issue. Go to drc-usgbc.org for further information.

EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT UPDATES

MECHANICAL INSPECTOR REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

September 17, 2009 Thru September 16, 2012

REQUIRED CREDIT HOURS

Administration	4	Specialty	18
Technical	24	Plan Review	12
Communication	1	Total	59

ADDITIONAL CLASS INFORMATION FOR END OF CYCLE CLASSES ON WEBSITE:

mechinspect@bignet.net

METROPOLITAN MECHANICAL INSPECTORS SEMINAR SCHEDULE CYCLE 2009-2012

- Sep 17 09 Recirculating Hoods
3 Cr SP Timothy Kelley
Oct 15 09 Air Cond Smoke Detectors
3 Cr TECH Guy Mitchell
Dec 10 09 How to Administer Code
Mixed 1C 1A Lynn Briggs
Jan 15 10 Chap 5 MMC Exhaust
4 Cr TECH Walt Macklin

CIT Certified Inspectors Training

Contact Curtis for end of cycle class schedule.
January 11-14, 2010 Hotel Doherty, Clare
Questions: Curtis Stowe 248-624-0570 (office),
586-436-0450 (cell phone) EMAIL: ces95@fastmail.fm
www.certifiedinspectorstraining.com

Sprinkler & Alarm System Plan Review and Inspections Vern Pappas 248-343-8830; Speaker Jim Schifiliti

3 Day Seminar
October 12-14, 2009; 8 am—4 pm
BCC Credits 16 Plan Review; 8 Technical
Cost \$250

Wayne Shepard 269-327-1103
Correspondence Courses Available

Bill Moy 734-777-0045 or 734-394-5215 Plan Review

Bill Moy-Canton Twp

4 Cr PR July 22, 2009

Call for details 734-777-0045 or 734-394-5215

Class held at Van Buren Twp.

MECHANICAL INSPECTORS ASSOCIATION MICHIGAN NEW CYCLE 2009-2012

FALL PROPOSED SEMINAR SCHEDULE

OCT 1- 3, 2009

CRYSTAL MOUNTAIN, THOMPSONVILLE, MI

- | | |
|-----------|------------------------------|
| 2 CR SPEC | CSST GAS PIPING INSTALLATION |
| 1 CR TECH | BONDING |
| 4 CR TECH | FIRE WRAPS WITH UPDATES |
| 2 CR COMM | DIFFICULT PEOPLE |
| 2 CR TECH | SPLIT SYSTEMS |
| 2 CR SPEC | SOLAR PRODUCTS |
| 4 CR TECH | CODE STUDY RES AND COMM |

West MI Mechanical Inspector Association

Meets at the Zeeland Township Hall, 6582 Byron Rd.

Every 2nd Thursday each month at 12:45 pm.

Business meeting followed by a seminar.

WMMIA Contact:

Paul Schaut: pschaut@ci.grand-rapids.mi.us

Al Arens 989-466-2851

Administration

Ellen Schippert 248-649-5443
Communication and Plan Review

MECHANICAL CONTRACTOR / INSPECTOR REVIEW BOARD

A panel with an equal number of inspectors and contractors, to arbitrate specific disagreements between inspectors and contractors. The review decisions are non-binding and the opinions offered are objective.

Complaints might include such things as "intractable inspectors" and "shoddy contractors", differences of opinion on job installations and code interpretations.

If you are in a circumstance where you feel mediation will be helpful, please notify the Association office at 248-649-5443 or email mechinspect@bignet.net

NEED A SUB? The following people may be available to sub for you:

Ken Borycz (M,P) 586-634-0560

Ed Durbin (B,M) 586-739-1600

Bill Karas (M) 810-650-8183

Danny McDole (M) 248-763-2291

Bill Myers (B,M) 248-444-5701

Bill Paquette (M) 248-921-9511

Steve Peinovich (M,P) 582-322-4635.

Dan Roy (M) 586-294-1716 or cell 586-214-3769

If you would like to be added to this list, please call the Association office at 248-649-5443.

B = Building M=Mechanical P=Plumbing

Your Joint Boards and Legislative and Code Study Committee continue to work on the following:

Forbes PA 192 OF 1984

Michigan Energy Codes—State v Feds

"LEED" Certified Buildings—Pros v Cons

Fire Inspections—Mechanical v Fire Marshal

Geothermal Systems—New State Code Issue

Smoke and CO Detector Requirements

INSPECTOR EDUCATION FUND
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Professional Mechanical Eng.
Brian Shields
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William Steele
Steele's Htg & AC
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US Sheet Metal
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2009 / 2010 Development Code Hearings Schedule Hilton Hotel of Baltimore, Md.

The hearings (proposed changes for code) are being held October 24 to November 11. Due to fact that this is the only hearing allowed for the 2012 code there is an increased amount of code changes. The Mechanical code changes span over a day and one-half, and is the longest time used I can remember for code changes. There are over 150 code changes proposed for the Mechanical code.

The code hearings for International Mechanical Code will start on Nov 6 and go through Nov 7. Following this the International Residential Plumbing / Mechanical Code will continue until November 9. The International Fuel Gas Code hearings start no earlier than November 9 and will finish out the day.

The proposed changes will be published on the ICC website on August 24. If you see anything in these proposals and you would like to comment, please contact the following people from Michigan who are on the committees as noted:

International Fuel Gas Code Committee
Tennison Barry – *Vice Chair Chief Mechanical Division*
State of Michigan- Lansing, MI

International Mechanical Code Committee
Mark Riley Inspector Supervisor
City of Troy - Troy, MI

Air Conditioning Contractors of America
John Sedine, President
Engineered Heating & Cooling -Walker, MI

International Residential Code - Mechanical / Plumbing Comm
Barry Pines, CPD Estimator - C&R Plumbing & Heating, Inc.
Shelby Township, MI

Your comments may help them decide how to vote on these issues.

Mark Riley, ICC Liaison

STIMULUS FUNDS - DID YOU GET ANY?

So much has been said about Stimulus Money which is being handed out in buckets for any number of programs from auto deals to energy efficiency changes in our homes and businesses to education and re-education for any and all purposes. A short while ago, ICC contacted MIAM and MMIA asking for our support in obtaining Stimulus Funding for ICC Education programs which would then be provided to all chapters at no cost. Subsequently, ICC informed us that they were unable to obtain the grants in their name and they are currently looking into how the money may be obtained through chapters instead. We are willing to cooperate as much as possible. It is clear that getting this money is not an easy task!

We are anxious to learn whether or not any communities have been fortunate to receive Stimulus / Grant Money in any fashion and if so, what was involved in accomplishing this function. Please phone or email us today with your input. We would like to inform other communities of your good fortune and let them know how to get theirs.