THE MECHANICAL INSPECTOR

TECHNICAL TOPICS MAY 2010

Maintain
Improve
And
Monitor

MMIA, Inc.

Better Enforcement
Today
for a Safer
Tomorrow

THE MECHANICAL INSPECTOR
is published two times a year at
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Co-Chairs, Guy Mitchell, William Moy
MIAM President Jerry Payne
MMIA President Bill Miller

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:
May 1 deadline for May 15 mailing
Nov 1 deadline for Nov 15 mailing
Anyone is welcome to submit articles, but the Education committee will decide publishing priority.

Upcoming International Code Council Final Action Code Change Hearings.

The 2010 Final Action Hearings will be held from May 15-23 this year at the Sheraton Dallas Hotel, Dallas, Texas. MIAM has been the proponent of three code change proposals that will be adopted into the 2012 codes; two changes in the IMC and one change in the IRC mechanical. These code changes will not be reheard at the final hearings because there were no challenges last fall in Baltimore.

507.2.1.2 Type I hoods shall bear a label indicating the minimum exhaust flow rate in CFM per linear foot of hood that provides for capture and containment of the exhaust effluent for the cooking appliances served by the hood, based on the cooking appliance duty classifications defined in this code.

Reason: There has been an enforcement nightmare with some hood companies not providing information for CFM requirements per linear foot of hood for cooking appliances. The hood manufacturer provides information based on temperature of cooking. It does not help the inspector determine compliance when the code references light, medium, heavy duty, and extra heavy duty cooking appliances. Why even have these terms for types of cooking, when the hood manufacturers state CFM based on cooking temperature? Either rework the types of cooking to temperature or have the manufacturer state how many CFM is required per linear foot. Also note that the labeling of hoods for performance is already required for compensating hoods in Section 508.2.

602.3 Stud cavity and joist space plenums.
6. Stud wall cavities in outside walls of the building envelope shall not be utilized as air plenums.

M1601.1.1 Above-ground duct systems.
7.5. Stud wall cavities in the outside walls of building envelope assemblies shall not be utilized as air plenums.

Reason: Using exterior walls for stud cavity for return air will cause several major problems in a duct system. The major concern is that it is very difficult if not impossible to seal the stud wall cavities to prevent outside air from infiltrating, which will put additional heating or cooling loads on the HVAC system. It can also cause comfort and air quality problems by bringing in contaminants or hot or cold air from outside into the wall stud space and into the house. If the installer has to run return air on an outside wall it can easily be done in sheet metal duct.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or disagree with these proposals. Thank you.

Mark Riley
MIAM Liaison to ICC

MIAM President Jerry Payne

Those of you who attended the MIAM Spring Conference were updated regarding the financial status of the Association and you heard that the one-night conference was a great success. Based on the evaluation reports you submitted, it was a two-to-one vote in favor of continuing this format. We were able to provide you with many of the same comforts and programs you have been used to, we were able to cut the cost of the conference by almost half and we have begun to replenish the MIAM coffers. We also asked for your comments regarding a one-day conference (no overnight stay) and the results were less favorable—you voted two-to-one against.

The upcoming Fall Conference which will be held in conjunction with COCM at the Great Wolfe Lodge in Traverse City will include all education from Tuesday to Friday. There is no additional charge for the COCM conference, however, you will be required to pay your own room and board for Tuesday through Thursday noon.

On another topic, as a s result of the economy, abandoned property within communities around the State has created an opportunity for income. MIAM will present a program on this issue at the Fall Conference. Please respond to the enclosed questionnaire regarding how your community handles this matter. Once we have gathered the data, we will report the results to the membership. Secondly, MIAM is working on how to impact the Michigan Municipal League and the Michigan Township Association about the importance of inspector education and the presence of inspectors in the community. Please be sure to respond as requested.

Also, it is important and urgent that MIAM members become involved in their own livelihood by participating in the association activities. As we rally from one inspection to another, we must not forget that we are the ambassadors to our communities and to our respective trades. We as inspectors must educate the public and our municipalities of the importance of the roles we play in day-to-day safety. Each decision we make is for a lifetime—however long or short it may be. To help you, MIAM has worked very hard to provide continuing education, making sure our members are well equipped to do their jobs effectively. Stay alert and be aware of your surroundings.

Finally, my congratulations to Jim Hoppus, your new MIAM Secretary. Thanks for putting your hat in the ring, Jim.

MIAM Past President Carl Janson I wish to thank the entire membership for allowing me the honor of being your president this past year. I especially want to thank the Board of Directors for their help and support. This organization cannot exist without these dedicated men that volunteer their hard work, time and effort for all of us.

I would also like to thank the dedicated women at our association office that work so hard to help make this organization one of the best in the state.

The past year flew by but the friendships I have made will last a lifetime, I hope. Please feel free to contact me at anytime you feel I can be of assistance. Thank you all for a wonderful time.

MMIA President Bill Miller

Now that MMIA has established its new financial guidelines, we are concentrating on providing mega-education classes to the membership. Check this Newsletter, go online every day to find updates, watch your email and snail mail. You will always know when and where programs are being held, not only for MMIA, but for other groups as well.

Our promise is to give you the opportunity to obtain all of your credit hours by attending only MMIA seminars. As you can see on the attached lists of programs for both MIAM and MMIA, we have completed the entire current cycle and have provided 20 and 30 additional credit hours respectively. These classes include all of your required education; they also give you information over and above the requirements including updates on legislative and governmental activities.

We are a mechanical inspector organization, however, we believe it is important, even urgent, that contractors and suppliers educate themselves with the codes and code changes on an ongoing basis. We invite them to join MMIA, to participate in the process, to support municipalities and inspectors, and to become better contractors.

Please welcome Greg Laskowsky, HFCC, our newest member of the MMIA Board.

Membership is always open and encouraged. Urge the contractors you see on a day-to-day basis to join us. They can talk with any inspector or put them in touch with your Association Offices at 248 649 5443, www.mechanicalinspector.com or mechinspect@bignet.net. We are happy to help.

NEW MMIA Members

ACTIVE

Robert Secco, Westland

ASSOCIATE

Glen Dempsey, Washington *Township*
Robert Gaines, Environmental Engineering
Abdul Rahman Al-Abdulaali, Petroleum Liquids

NEW MIAM Members

ACTIVE

John Gross, East Lansing
Jarrod Keni, Marquette County
Fredrick H. Cook, Leelanau County
Kendall Nightlinger, Emmet County

CONTRIBUTING

None

SUSTAINING

None

We Are Glad To Have You

EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT UPDATES

MECHANICAL INSPECTOR REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS
September 17, 2009 Thru September 16, 2012 Provided Through December, 2010

REQUIRED CREDIT HOURS		MIAM (12-31-10)	MMIA (12-31-10)
Administration	4	4	3
Technical	24	21	19
Communication	1	2	3
Specialty	18	8	8
Plan Review	12	4	6
Total	59	39	39

METROPOLITAN MECHANICAL INSPECTORS

SEMINAR SCHEDULE THROUGH DECEMBER 2010

May 20 2010 Retrofit Energy Sciences
2 Cr Sp/2 Cr Tech Bob Foster

Jun 17 2010 IMC Chapter 4
3 Cr Tech Mark Riley

Sep 16 2010 Commercial Plan Review
3 Cr Plan Review Guy Mitchell

Oct 21 2010 Basic Heat/Cool Load App
4 Cr Tech Walt Macklin

Dec 09 2010 Inspector Prof/Admin of Permits
2 Cr Comm/2 Cr Adm Bill Moy

MECHANICAL INSPECTORS ASSOCIATION MICHIGAN

FALL PROPOSED SEMINAR SCHEDULE

SEPT 30– OCT 1, 2010
GREAT WOLF LODGE, TRAVERSE CITY, MI

4 CR PR	FIRE SPRINKLERS & ALARM SYSTEMS
4 CR TECH	FIRE SPRINKLERS & ALARM SYSTEMS
2 CR TECH	INTRODUCTION TO LEED
2 CR TECH	HOW TO INSPECT ABANDONED HOUSES

PLEASE NOTE THIS CONFERENCE WILL BE A JOINT CONFERENCE WITH COCM
(COCM DATES SEPT 28-OCT 1, 2010)

CIT Certified Inspectors Training

Hotel Doherty, Clare June 14-17, 2010
Plumbing (14th)
Mechanical (15th)
Building (16th)
Electrical (17th)

CONTACT: Curtis Stowe Email ces95fastmail.fm
248-624-0570 (office) , 586-436-0450 (cell phone)
www.certifiedinspectorstraining.com

West MI Mechanical Inspector Association

Zeeland Township Hall, 6582 Byron Rd
2nd Thursday each month at 12:45 pm
Business meeting followed by seminar
WMMIA Contacts: Paul Schaut:
pschaut@ci.grand-rapids.mi.us

RECIPROCAL ELECTRICAL COUNCIL, INC. (R.E.C.I.) PH 248-542-7567 FAX 248-542-7568

PROGRAM:	BUSINESS LAW OF CODE ENFORCEMENT
CATEGORY:	2 HR ADMINISTRATION FOR ALL ACT 54 REGISTRANTS
SPEAKER:	MR. PETER LETZMANN, ATTORNEY, MEDIATOR AND CONSULTANT
DATE	WEDNESDAY, JUNE 2, 2010, 12 NOON, UKRAINIAN CULTURAL CENTER
FEE	$25 PER PERSON

TOPIC How will Code Enforcement services be provided?
What are the legal and business issues involved in government contracting code enforcement services with private entities
Compensation for the services
Proposal to government entity (Review proposal for services)

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

Ken Borycz	(M,P)	586-634-0560	Bill Myers	(B,M)	248-444-5701
Ed Durbin	(B,M)	586-739-1600	Bill Paquette	(M)	248-231-8459
Bill Karas	(M)	810-650-8183	Steve Peinovich	(M,P)	586-322-4635
Dennis Koenders	(M,PR)	586-294-9008	Dan Roy	(M)	586-294-1716
Danny McDole	(M)	248-763-2291			Cell 586-214-3769

If you would like to be added to this list, please call the **Association offices at 248-649-5443**
B=Building M=Mechanical P=Plumbing PR=Plan Review

INSPECTORS EDUCATION FUND
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SMWIA Local #80
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Legislative Consultant
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Battle Creek, IAEI Liaison
Mark Mangione
Plbers, Fitters Local # 174
Joseph Otis
Certified Inspections, NFPA Liaison
Mark Riley
Troy Building Dept., ICC Liaison
Brian Shields
Lansing Building Dept.
Stephen Wylie
Consumers Energy

MIAM Board of Directors term runs from March 26, 2010 to March 25, 2011
MMIA Board of Directors term runs from January, 1 2010 to December 31, 2010

VOLUNTEERS ARE WELCOME

LEGISLATIVE REPORT LYNN L. BRIGGS

The following legislative issues will impact on the mechanical inspectors:

- **Forbes Act amendment legislation**
- **2009 ICC Mechanical Code hearings**
- **LEED Building Certification legislation**
- **Fire sprinkler fitters licensing**
- **EPA Lead Abatement Rules**
-

Draft seven of the Forbes amendments, prepared by our ad hoc committee over the past year or two, has been prepared as a legislative "blue back" and is awaiting sponsorship. The legislation will license journeymen and apprentices in the mechanical trades. The bill will require continuing education of all licensees. In addition, the bill will increase the penalties for violation of the act or the code. The bill does contain some unacceptable language prohibiting inspectors from having an interest in a construction firm. We will work in the committee structure to remove that language. The "Blue Back" language is available on request from Contractors Legislative Services. Send an E-mail to: lynnbriggs@att.net and ask for the "Forbes Blue Back".

On April 1, 2010 the Bureau of Construction Codes held a public hearing on the adoption of the 2009 ICC Mechanical Code (with Michigan amendments). The code should go into effect in about 90 days. The 2009 ICC Residential Code is not yet ready for the public hearing process and probably will not be in force until sometime this fall. Copies of the proposed rules are available on the Bureau of Construction Codes website at www.michigan.gov/bcc

There is a lot of activity in the Legislature over the LEED Green Building Program. Unfortunately, the bills would allow municipalities to adopt their own energy codes, completely destroying the concept of uniform codes throughout the state. We are also concerned that the language in these bills is specific to Leadership in Energy Environmental Design (LEED) and would eliminate the use of ASHRAE, Energy Star, or any other energy code. We will continue to oppose this legislation.

The fire sprinkler fitter's union continues to push legislation to license fire sprinkler contractors, journeymen and apprentices in a new fire sprinkler bureau. This, of course, would conflict with the Forbes Mechanical Contractors Licensing Act, which currently licenses fire suppression contractors. We will continue our efforts to keep the fire suppression business under the Mechanical Division of the Bureau of Construction Codes.

Michigan has until April 22, 2010 to adopt new regulations regarding lead abatement in remodeling projects. If the state does not act by that date, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will start enforcement of federal standards regarding lead. These standards go far beyond the "lead paint" standards already in effect.

JOE OTIS NFPA LIAISON

Gas pipe purging at industrial, commercial, and public facilities, should be restricted to outdoor discharge. NFPA is taking steps to update and provide for stricter requirements for purging of gas piping. Investigation by the CSB into the explosion at the ConAgra facility in North Carolina that killed 4 workers and injured many others pointed out that workers lacked proper safeguards when performing gas purging outdoors, relying mainly on the sense of smell. The NFPA 54 technical committee has initiated a tentative interim amendment to correct deficiencies in the code without waiting for the revision cycle of the 2012 edition of NFPA 54 to be completed. The committee also voted to make amendments to the 2011 printing. The technical committee's actions will be made publicly available for comment. If there are no appeals NFPA 54 is scheduled for issuance in the summer of 2011.

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