

Subject **January 2021 MIACCA Newsletter**  
From MIACCA <mjdsmith@miacca.org>  
To M.J. D'Smith <mjdsmith@miacca.org>  
Reply-To M.J. D'Smith <mjdsmith@miacca.org>  
Date 2021-01-06 07:01 AM



*Working hard to Protect, Promote & Educate our Profession*

## JANUARY 2021 NEWSLETTER



**MICHIGAN**  
AIR CONDITIONING CONTRACTORS  
ASSOCIATION



### Edition Highlights

- [MIACCA's Efforts on SB-827, Which Would Allow Contractors Reasonable Work Experience Credit, Passes the House of Ways and Means Committee but did not make it on the House Special Session agenda](#)
- [ACIP Votes on COVID-19 Vaccination Phases](#)
- [BCC Skilled Trades Regulation Act Public Hearing January 8th](#)
- [Statewide Permit Update](#)
- [WFD Update - HVACR Apprenticeship](#)
- [Federated Insurance Risk Management - Look Back to Look Forward](#)
- [January is National Radon Awareness Month](#)
- [13 HVAC Market Trends Expected To Heat Up in 2021](#)
- [Service Roundtable Webinar](#)

# Message from President

## Phil Forner

Happy 2021 fellow contractors! I hope the new year brings your businesses success, health and wealth. January is National Radon Awareness month and I encourage you and your techs, not only this month, but throughout the year to promote the dangers of Radon with your customers and to share your knowledge in the importance of testing their residents and businesses. We have an obligation to keep our customers aware and safe and we are the field experts in knowing the dangers of this and carbon monoxide. Please don't let the opportunity to inform those we so proudly serve!

As we enter the new year, MIACCA will continue to work hard for you and keep you up to date on all industry related updates. As membership renewal notices head your way, we thank you for your support last year and encourage you to stay involved in MIACCA. If you are interested on serving on a committee or the board, please contact [mjdsmith@miacca.org](mailto:mjdsmith@miacca.org)

Please continue to utilize these COVID-19 resources from our industry experts:

ACCA resources [here](#), Federated Insurance [here](#), NATE resources [here](#), ASHRAE resources [here](#)

*As always stay safe and keep up the great work!*



## **MIACCA's Efforts on Bill SB-827 Passes House of Ways and Means Committee but did not get Voted on at the End of the Year**

[SB 827](#) was passed by Senate roll call on September 30th with 38 yeas and 0 nays. It was passed through the House of Ways and Means Committee and was on its way to full House vote. Due to lack of in person meetings, and too many agenda items to vote on, the bill did not make it on the special session agenda and did not move into law. We are confident that the bill will move quickly in this New Year, as it had made it so far in 2020.

This bill is important to the HVAC industry as it will continue the long standing safety practice of having employers attest to an applicant's mechanical work experience; and provide for a reasonable work experience credit for those who go to school to learn a skilled trade and successfully completes a recognized HVAC trade school, community college, or university program.

MIACCA will continue to keep you posted on the bills progress.

# The ACIP Votes on COVID-19 Vaccination Phases 1b and 1c

MIACCA's Executive Director, M.J. D'Smith, attended The Center for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) Hearing on Sunday, December 20th regarding proposed allocation of the COVID-19 vaccinations.

MIACCA submitted [this letter](#) requesting that the committee move HVACR workers to Phase 1b, however they did not. Phase 1a is already underway providing vaccinations to Health Care Providers and Long Term Care Facility seniors ages 75+.

Important highlights are summarized below, however, you can view the complete presentation [here](#)

## ACIP Vote – Interim Recommendation

As an update to ACIP recommendations for vaccination in Phase 1a (health care personnel, and long-term care facility residents), if COVID-19 vaccine supply is limited, the following groups should be offered vaccination:

**Phase 1b:** persons aged  $\geq 75$  years and frontline essential workers

**Phase 1c:** persons aged 65–74 years, persons aged 16–64 years with high-risk medical conditions, and other essential workers

## Essential Workers\* (total ~87M)

### Frontline Essential Workers (~30M)

- First Responders (Firefighters, Police)
- Education (teachers, support staff, daycare)
- Food & Agriculture
- Manufacturing
- Corrections workers
- U.S. Postal service workers
- Public transit workers
- Grocery store workers

### Other Essential Workers (~57M)

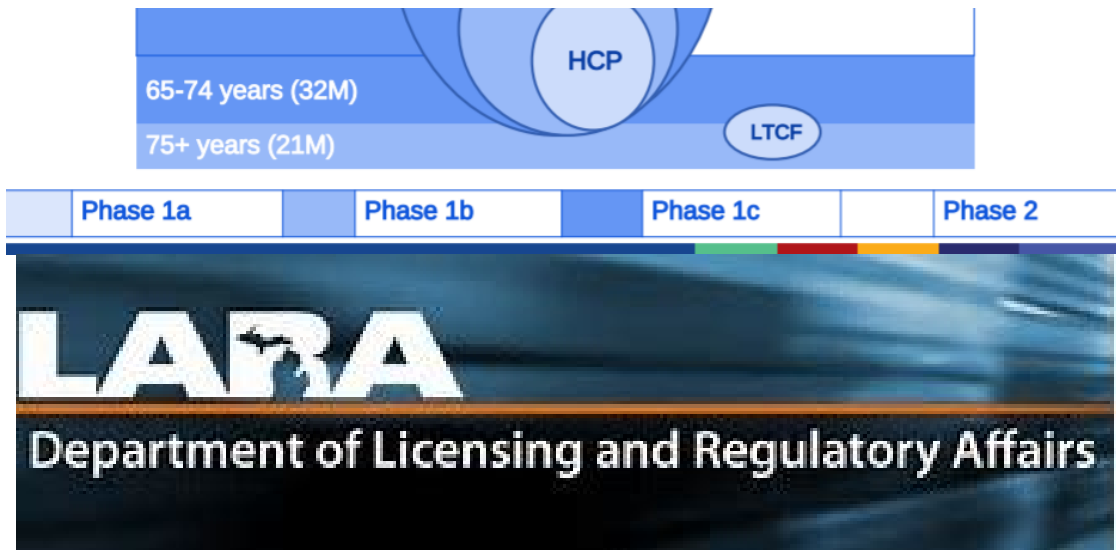
- Transportation and logistics
- Food Service
- Shelter & Housing (construction)
- Finance
- IT & Communication
- Energy
- Media
- Legal
- Public Safety (Engineers)
- Water & Wastewater

**Frontline Essential Workers:** workers who are in sectors essential to the functioning of society and are at substantially higher risk of exposure to SARS-CoV-2

CDC - Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers: <https://www.cdc.gov/news/2020/08/18/cdc-releases-updated-guidance-essential-critical-infrastructure-workers>

## Proposed Phases of COVID-19 Vaccination





## BCC Public Hearing for STRA on January 8th

DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS BUREAU OF  
CONSTRUCTION CODES

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Skilled Trades (ORR# 2019-101 LR)

Plumbing Board (ORR# 2019-106 LR)

Electrical Administrative Board (ORR# 2019-110 LR)

Boiler Rules (ORR# 2019-115 LR)

Board of Mechanical Rules (ORR# 2019-126 LR)

Building Officials, Plan Reviewers, and Inspectors (ORR# 2019-109 LR)

The Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, Bureau of Construction Codes, will hold a public hearing on the Skilled Trades rules and the following repealed acts State Plumbing Board Act ; Electrical Administrative Board Act ; Boiler Act; Board of Mechanical Act and Building Officials, Plan Reviewers, and Inspectors Act. The public hearing will be held virtually using Zoom on January 8, 2021, at 9:00 am.

The proposed rules are published here [in the January 1, 2021, Michigan Register](#). You can view all of the changes there. The proposed rules have several changes that will affect the HVACR industry, such licensing and exam changes. The following rule sets are being rescinded and the Skilled Trades Regulation Rules will take place of the following rules: Board of Boiler General Rules, Board of Mechanical Licensing Examination Rules, Building Officials, Plan Reviewers, and Inspector Rules, Electrical Administrative Board General Rules and State Plumbing Board Licenses Rules. The Department's belief is that these are outdated and do not provide uniform licensing, complaint investigation, and enforcement provisions for skilled trades licenses.

It is important to know that one drastic change, under the Mechanical Rules, R 338.903, which MIACCA advocated for it's continuation, has been rescinded. The removal of this will needlessly put those who enter buildings with mechanical systems at risk; including but not limited to homeowners, tenants, guests, the public, first responders, mechanical inspectors, mechanical technicians and others. Therefore, MIACCA believes it is important that the Legislature required mechanical work experience be verified by the Bureau of Construction Codes or the Board of Mechanical Rules.

MIACCA has been active in submitting testimony and comments to protect our industry.



MIACCA will also continue advocating for the Board of Boiler Rules to have it's own standard appeals process, following suit with the other boards and commissions that fall under the BCC have in place. This would benefit contractors having to go through the expense of having their appeal heard through a Circuit Court process.

Oral comments may be presented in person over Zoom on January 8, 2021. Whether a public meeting is held in person or remotely, written comments can always be submitted by email no later than 5:00 p.m., January 8, 2021 to [LARA-BCC-Rules@michigan.gov](mailto:LARA-BCC-Rules@michigan.gov).

All members of the public may attend and participate in this meeting by visiting the following link or dialing the phone number below at the time of the meeting. **If you would like to speak at the meeting please email [LARA-BCC-Rules@michigan.gov](mailto:LARA-BCC-Rules@michigan.gov)** with your name and who you are representing by January 6, 2021, so an attendance list for speakers can be made. The meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. All participants may access the meeting at the below web link or phone number 15 minute before it begins.

**Web Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83244233086?pwd=NHNlMTliTCtQjUxcjJBNlRVbzVPUT09>

**Phone Number:** (877) 873-8017

**When prompted, please enter the following Password/Conference Code:** 109987

**MIACCA will be submitting written public comment and if you have anything you would like us to address, please submit this to us at [mjdsmith@miacca.org](mailto:mjdsmith@miacca.org) by 3:00 p.m. this Thursday.**

## Statewide Permit Update

The Construction Code Commission (CCC) last met on July 22, 2020, and MIACCA's proposed statewide permit was on the agenda and discussed. MIACCA's Executive Director once again advocated the need for the CCC to prescribe the form on which all permits are to be applied for while allowing each authority having jurisdiction to set their own fees. The CCC and the Bureau of Construction Codes (Bureau) acknowledged the Director Hawks' response to MIACCA's Request for Declaratory Ruling on this subject; which indicated that the CCC has the statutory authority to prescribe such permit forms. After much discussion the CCC has decided to start the process of coming up with statewide permit forms by asking for feedback from stakeholders and municipalities. The Bureau made an initial suggestion to include the statewide permit forms as part of the upcoming code change cycles in 2020-2021. MIACCA would like more detail on how to include permit forms with the new codes when the CCC needs to approve the permit forms and the Director adopts the new codes.

The Statewide permit was an agenda item on the CCC meeting for October 14th to create a committee, but the meeting was cancelled. Their next meeting is January 27th at 10:00 a.m. You can [check here](#) for the zoom meeting info.. MIACCA will continue to advocate for this and keep our members posted on the progress.





Our valued MIACCA Members should start seeing membership renewals coming your way. Please feel free to pay conveniently online or mail in a check. MIACCA works hard for our members and is committed to protect, advocate and educate our industry. We are Michigan's only HVACR experts. If you have any questions, please contact our Executive Director, M.J. D'Smith at [mjdsmith@miacca.org](mailto:mjdsmith@miacca.org) with any questions. Thank you for your continued support!

## **Workforce Development Update**

### **HVACR Apprenticeships**

MIACCA has been working on the development of an Apprenticeship program for several years and we wish to make it happen for everyone.

With C-19, the schools have gone almost entirely "on line" & they are failing to educate the trades to an appropriate level & at ridiculous costs. As industry leaders & employers, we can do much better. Our student employees report that "they learn more in a few weeks in the field, than they do over a full semester, while getting paid great wages & benefits".

Our Michigan schools are not integrated & coordinated with their trade's curriculum. They do not utilize the same books & testing methods, therefore they do not teach the same trade, equally or well. Academia is on an extended fully paid vacation, while the industry is being fleeced & this generation of students is being financially abused.

Our industry manufacturers and distributors have entered the education business & do their best, yet they are targeting their products & needs only. They do not teach the fundamentals that only the employers can. We understand the strengths & weaknesses of the crews like nobody else. We are the true customer's of the schools, yet they don't see it that way. There is a very real shortage of educated, experienced skilled tradesmen in all of the many disciplines & HVACR covers many. The schools do not have the time, the resources & open labs, much less enough qualified educators at the top levels to teach Piping, Sheet Metal, Electrical, Refrigeration, Controls & all of the many things that we need.

[Continue Reading Here](#)



## **Risk Management - Look Back to Look Forward**

When you think about your past year in risk management, what sticks out to you? What worked? What didn't? What can you improve? Did you have an above-average safety record? Maybe one of your employees was injured. Did your attitude toward workplace safety help or hinder your success? Now is a good time to take stock of the past 12 months, as unusual and unprecedented as they were, and move forward using the experience you gained. Here are a few ideas to help get you thinking about how to use 2020 to create a better 2021.

Your people are your priority. Your employees are your number one asset. Whenever you create or revise policies and procedures, do it with their well-being in mind. If your employees are working safely, they are more productive, your operation is more efficient, and you are more likely to meet your organization's goals.

Make risk management a part of your company culture. Creating a safer workplace is not a one-time task. It requires attention and participation at all levels — but it starts at the top. When leaders show passion and commitment, employees will naturally follow.

Control what you can; prepare for what you can't. Risk management is a mixture of affecting variables and adjusting to outside influences. For example, you can train your employees on proper ladder use, helping reduce their chances of injuring themselves while climbing. However, you can't prevent a weather event from damaging your facilities, but you can make a plan to react to such events to help keep your business operating as smoothly as possible under the circumstances.

Strengthen your existing policies and practices. Even if your risk management program is already strong, it can always get better. Are you giving new employees information and tools for success? Can you use technology to help increase safety and efficiency? Examine your risk management activities and look for opportunities for development.

Don't let lessons go to waste. If your business had a safety incident like an auto crash or workplace injury, use the experience to help guide your efforts. Don't let an unfortunate event be in vain.

Watch out for emerging risks. Businesses face new threats to their success every day, so keep an eye on what's happening in the world and in your industry. Risks like cybercrime, and rises in punitive court judgments for auto liability have become more prominent in recent years.

Risk management is an ongoing process. One of the most important parts of that process is learning from your experiences. But be careful not to dwell on the past. Instead, use it as a valuable resource on your journey to success.



## January is National Radon Awareness Month

Remind your customers to test their homes.

Radon is an odorless, colorless gas that can seep into a home from underground. If radon accumulates, it may lead to lung cancer – in fact, radon is the leading cause of lung cancer among non-smokers. According to Gina McCarthy, EPA assistant administrator for the Office of Air and Radiation, radon can be found in every state in the country, and elevated radon levels occur in as many as one in 15 homes.

"Testing for radon is an easy and important step in protecting the health of your family," McCarthy stressed.

EPA offered information on how residents can protect themselves from radon:

**Test.** EPA and the U.S. Surgeon General recommend that all homes, both with and without basements, be tested for radon. Affordable do-it-yourself radon test kits are available at home improvement and hardware stores and online. A qualified radon tester also can be hired.

**Fix.** EPA recommends taking action to fix radon levels above 4 Picocuries per Liter (pCi/L). Addressing high radon levels often costs the same as other minor home repairs.

**Save a Life.** Testing and fixing elevated levels of radon in the home can help prevent lung cancer.

Save a Life. Testing and fixing elevated levels of radon in the home can help prevent lung cancer while creating a healthier home and community.

[Read Full Article Here](#)



## 13 HVAC Market Trends Expected To Heat Up in 2021

This promised to be a year of change. Suffice it to say, 2020 over-delivered on that front, as the HVAC industry endured changes from day to day.

Do you know what HVAC market trends your peers and industry insiders anticipate this year? Let's take a look at 13 trends experts believe HVAC business owners and professionals need to prepare for in 2021.

[READ FULL ARTICLE HERE](#)



### How to Own & Grow Your Company's Real Estate with SBA 7(a) Loans

The more areas your business services, the more territory you can cover over your competitors. But where do you start creating a second (or third or fourth) location?

On January 7th, Brandon Bolen of Live Oak Bank joins Service Nation 101 to share how to expand your business territory and create growth through SBA loans!

This webinar includes:

- How to buy, renovate, or build home real estate for your business
- The benefits of SBA loans
- The financing process and what it looks like in terms of third-party reports and other documents required

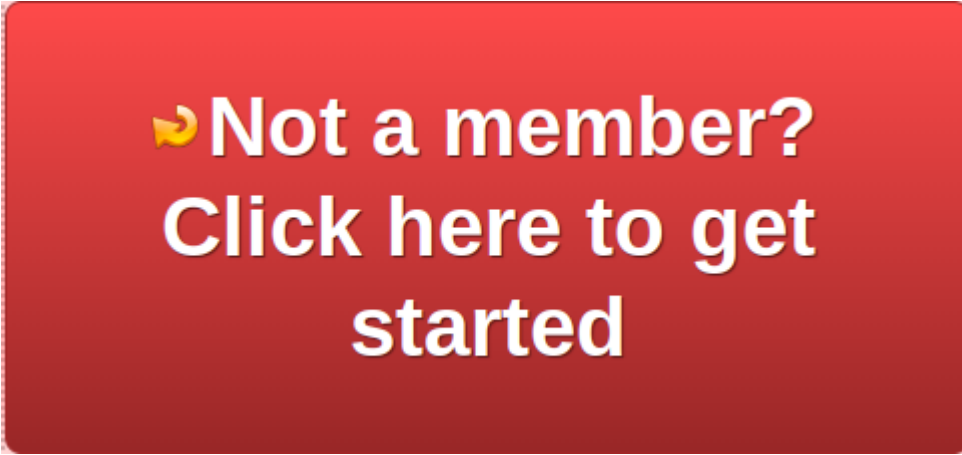
Brandon Bolen is the Vice President of Service Contractors for Live Oak Bank. His focus is on



BRANDON BORTH IS THE VICE PRESIDENT OF SERVICE CONTRACTORS FOR LIVE OAK BANK. HIS FOCUS IS ON providing long-term business financing to HVAC, Plumbing, and Electrical contractors throughout the United States. Before this role, Brandon was an analyst on the emerging markets team at Live Oak, where he helped launch new industry concentrated lending divisions, including service contractors.

Expand your territory with the help of Service Nation 101 and Live Oak Bank!

January 7th at 2 p.m. EST [REGISTER HERE](#)



## Supported by our Corporate Partner Members





**Williams**  
**Distributing**

[Unsubscribe](#)