

Subject **MIACCA April 2020 Newsletter**  
From MIACCA <mjdsmith@miacca.org>  
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Date 2020-04-05 07:04 PM



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

## NEWSLETTER, APRIL 2020



**MICHIGAN**  
AIR CONDITIONING CONTRACTORS  
ASSOCIATION

### **Edition Highlights**

- [MIACCA Calendar of Events](#)
- [MIACCA Advocates to Governor Whitmer to keep HVACR Businesses open amidst COVID-19 Shut downs](#)
- [SBA Resources](#)
- [State of Michigan COVID-19 Update Resource](#)
- [Consumers Energy and SEMCO to provide customer lists](#)
- [MIACCA submits Joint Declaratory Ruling -Permit Application to LARA](#)
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- [Product Spotlight - Building Connect+](#)

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## **Michigan Legislative & Regulatory Update**





## **MIACCA Advocates to the Governor to keep HVACR businesses open amidst COVID-19 shut downs**

In this letter ([MIACCA letter to Gov Whitmer re COVID19.pdf](#)) MIACCA urges Governor Whitmer to allow HVACR businesses to remain open during the COVID19 shutdowns.

## **SBA has tools and resources to help you through this pause in business**

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) has tools and resources available to help small business through this pause in business. Check out [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): Small Business Guidance & Loan Resources](#) and take advantage of these resources to help you get through this.

### **State of Michigan COVID-19 Up to Date Information**

During these risky and uncertain times, please keep yourself informed by using this resource and visiting: <https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus> The State of Michigan is updating this page constantly to keep Michigan Residents informed.

## **New Employee Rights for Paid Leave**

Starting April 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act requires certain employers to provide their employees with paid sick leave and expanded family and medical leave for specified reasons related to COVID-19 along requirements to [post this notice of employee rights](#). More information can be found at the U.S. Department of Labor [COVID-19 and the American Workplace](#) webpage.

## **Consumers Energy and SEMCO gas utilities to provide customer lists**

Both Consumers Energy Co. and SEMCO gas utility have started providing customer lists to those who have requested them using the information provided on the [MPSC VAPS Website](#). While DTE has not been as forthcoming, they are working through its issues. If you do make a VAPS Information Sharing request, please share your experience with MIACCA as we want to know if the process is working well for you.

## **MIACCA Provides Statement on MPSC Case No. U-20697 Rule 413**

On March 18, 2020 MIACCA submitted [this statement](#) to the Honorable Sally Wallace regarding the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) on Case No. U-20697 Rule 413. The Michigan Public Service Commission had sent out notice of Consumers Energy first electric rate case since its filing of Consumers Energy 2018 VAPS Annual Report. This is where the electric utility costs directly attributable to the ASP's use of the monthly electric bill for the ASP billing and payment processing is supposed to be allocated.

## **Executive Order 2020-21 (COVID-19)**

With [Executive Order 2020-21](#) in place, the temporary requirement to suspend activities that are not necessary to sustain or protect life. Please see [this response letter](#) that Governor Whitmer sent to the Honorable Mike Shirkey, Senate Majority Leader, that applies directly to the construction field.

# Statewide Permit Update- MIACCA submits joint Declaratory Ruling - Permit Application to LARA

On March 26, 2020, MIACCA sent this [Joint Declaratory Ruling - Permit Application](#) to LARA Director Orlene Hawks in an order to expedite the implementation of having a statewide mechanical permit form. As you know, we have been working on this for the Michigan HVACR industry with great efforts. We will keep you posted of any response.

## HOPE4HOMES Legislation

BPA members across the country have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic that has brought home performance contracting to a stand-still. While Congress has passed stimulus funding to ease the burden on small businesses, we are calling on Congress to help provide learning resources to contractors while they are at home AND support homeowners and contractors around the country with a residential retrofit program when contractors allowed to provide their services again.

*Congress is already compiling proposals for the next stimulus legislation and [HOPE4HOMES](#) should be in the mix!*

Please join us in signing [this letter](#) to congressional leaders reminding them that investing in America's residential workforce and buildings protects and creates jobs while saving money on utility bills and providing for a sustainable energy future. We will ensure it gets in the hands of your legislators and their staff.

Please help us share your voice with members of Congress.

[Sign Letter Here](#)

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### Contractor Success Hour - Free Webinar April 15, 2020

Are you ready to take your business to the next level? Tired of working in your business rather than "on" it? Wonder how other company owners manage to take family vacations and spend time away, but you can't? We can show you how our members grow their profit by 30% each year!

Make plans now to find out how our members create their own success when you join us for this business-building seminar for owners of contracting business companies. On **APRIL 15, 2020**. Valued at \$749, this meeting is **FREE** for invited guests - and you are invited!

[REGISTER HERE](#)

## Message from President

## *Phil Forner*

During these interesting times please know that MIACCA has been continuing to advocate for your HVACR businesses and will continue to do so. Given that you may be eligible to, and should self-declare, your HVACR business as an essential business. However it is also important to maintain essential preventative practices at your business and on job sites as indicated in a recent article in the NEWS titled "[Comprehensive Guide: HVAC Service Calls During COVID-19](#)".

I would encourage everyone not focus so much on the negative but instead choose to make the best of these times, like taking this opportunity to better train your workforce, to have the technicians clean and organize their tools and trucks, clean and organize your shops and offices, develop or improve processes within your business and take other action to make your business more profitable once this pause ends and this great country gets back to work.

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

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### **Product Spotlight Building Connect+**

Today's facility managers have greater control options for building management than ever before. One such option: [Building Connect+](#), a new cloud-based controls software package from Mitsubishi Electric.

The simple, secure platform was designed to serve light commercial and multifamily applications. The software integrates management of up to 50 Mitsubishi Electric CITY MUTLI® Variable Refrigerant Flow systems, up to five third-party BACnet® devices and up to eight hardwired devices into one convenient interface.

#### **In Application**

With its web-based portal, Building Connect+ can reduce commissioning time, initial installation and pairing costs.

The platform requires minimal programming and doesn't need additional software or licenses to control multiple units and devices. This makes it a great fit for light commercial and multifamily applications.

Once installed, Building Connect+ uses an on-site panel to connect a central controller and third-party equipment to the internet. The panel then auto-discovers the units and devices and connects them using digital inputs and outputs. All configuration is done through a simple web portal.

Account managers can add and manage independent users, giving specific access to certain parties.

#### **[Read More Here](#)**



## **Federated Insurance Responds to COVID-19**

As a valued client, we want to personally share how Federated Insurance is proactively taking steps to prevent the spread of COVID-19, or coronavirus. We are a company committed to risk management and enhancing client success, and our highest priority is supporting the health and safety of you, our employees, and our communities. Please know that the entire Federated team stands beside you and all of the 38,000+ businesses we have the privilege to serve during these uncertain times.

[READ MORE](#)

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