

Subject **MIACCA July 2020 Newsletter**
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Working hard to Protect, Promote & Educate our Profession

NEWSLETTER, JULY 2020



MICHIGAN
AIR CONDITIONING CONTRACTORS
ASSOCIATION

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Michigan Legislative & Regulatory Update





Boiler Division Now Checking Mechanical License Classification for CSD-1 Inspections

Be advised that the inspectors for the State of Michigan Boiler Division are now checking to see if the mechanical contractor has the correct mechanical license service classification for the boiler on which the CSD-1 inspection has been performed. The "limited heating service" classification only goes up to 400,000 Btu on boilers that are not sectional boilers and 1,000,000 Btu for sectional boilers. An "unlimited heating service" classification is required for all boilers above those Btu limits.

MI Symptoms Web Application

In an effort to help reopening businesses safely reengage in the economy, the [MI Symptoms Web Application](#) is a cost-free way for employers to comply with [Executive Order 2020-97](#) and implement a COVID-19 symptoms screening questionnaire for employees.

Designed primarily for employers and employees, the online tool is also available to all Michigan residents. Users enter information daily to help identify symptoms that might be caused by the virus and to make decisions about when to seek appropriate medical care. Local and state public health will also use the collective data to help identify the potential for new outbreaks of the disease.

Some employers may ask or require employees to use MI Symptoms as they return to work to help identify potential cases of COVID-19 before it can spread. Employees will have an objective tool to inform their employer that they should not be coming to work without having to share symptom-specific information.

[READ MORE HERE](#)

SBA Provides Disaster Loans to Small Businesses in Response to COVID-19

In response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, small business owners in all U.S. states, Washington D.C., and territories are able to apply for an Economic Injury Disaster Loan advance of up to \$10,000. This advance is designed to provide economic relief to businesses that are currently experiencing a temporary loss of revenue. This loan advance will not have to be repaid. Recipients do not have to be approved for a loan in order to receive the advance, but the amount of the loan advance will be deducted from total loan eligibility. SBA will begin accepting new Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) and EIDL Advance applications on June 15 to qualified small businesses and U.S. agricultural businesses.

The new eligibility for U.S. agricultural businesses is made possible as a result of the latest round of funds appropriated by Congress in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Applicants who have already submitted their applications will continue to be processed on a first-come, first-served basis. For agricultural businesses that submitted an EIDL application through

the streamlined application portal prior to the legislative change, SBA will process these applications without the need for re-applying.

[Apply Here](#)

MIOSHA Launches New Site for COVID-19 Workplace Safety

The Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration (MIOSHA) within the Dept. of Labor and Economic Opportunity (LEO) launched a new online COVID-19 Workplace Safety site – [Michigan.gov/COVIDWorkplaceSafety](https://www.michigan.gov/COVIDWorkplaceSafety) – the site provides guidance and a toolkit of resources to keep workplaces safe as sectors of the state's economy reopen.

With the continued risk of COVID-19 spread, everyone in the workplace must take necessary precautions. The site includes MIOSHA issued guidelines, posters for employees and customers, factsheets, educational videos and a [reopening checklist](#) – all of which will help businesses safely reopening their doors.

"As we reengage our economy and begin the long road back to our normal routines, it's critical that we do so safely," LEO Director Jeff Donofrio said. "[Michigan.gov/COVIDWorkplaceSafety](https://www.michigan.gov/COVIDWorkplaceSafety) is designed to make the process of reopening safely easier and equip businesses and their staff with the resources necessary to protect themselves from the spread of COVID-19."

In addition to the general workplace guidelines for [employer](#) and [employees](#), MIOSHA provided further clarification on necessary steps several other sectors must take when reopening, including:

- [Construction](#)
- [Manufacturing](#)
- [Offices](#)
- [Research laboratories](#)
- [Restaurants and bars](#)
- [Retail](#)
- [Outpatient healthcare](#)

[Read More](#)

As Schools Prep for COVID-Era Return, Feds Estimate 36,000 Have Air-System Problems

A federal watchdog estimates that [41 percent of school districts](#) need to update or replace heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems in at least half their schools, underscoring a significant infrastructure need for schools even as they prepare for the novel coronavirus when they reopen.

In a report published Thursday, the Government Accountability Office said that several schools it visited had HVAC systems that leaked and caused damage, and that if not addressed, "such problems can lead to indoor air quality problems" and even force schools to temporarily close while the issues are fixed. In all, the GAO estimated that 36,000 schools need HVAC updates.

The GAO report does not deal directly with the specific challenges posed by COVID-19; the report says that the "hazardous conditions" it refers to that can lead to school closures don't include the virus.

However, while school infrastructure is regularly a focus of education legislation and lobbying on Capitol Hill, it could become more important during the pandemic. Last month, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [released long-awaited guidance to help schools reopen](#), and among the [recommendations](#) is that schools should "ensure that ventilation systems operate properly" and should increase ventilation of outside air by opening windows and doors, unless it creates concerns for students with asthma.

[Continue Reading](#)

What to Expect with Michigan's New Auto Insurance

Law set for July 1st

In 1973, Michigan passed a no-fault auto insurance system. If you are hurt in a car accident under this system, you'll make a claim on your own auto insurance, no matter who caused the accident. The system was designed to lower costs by eliminating the need for suing other drivers in order to get payment for injuries.

Michigan also previously required that drivers purchase "unlimited lifetime medical benefits" for personal injury protection, often called [PIP insurance](#). Under that law, people injured in car accidents would receive "reasonable and necessary" medical expenses for their entire lifetime. Michigan was the only state with this requirement.

Michigan also has some of the highest auto rates in the nation. Critics of the state's no-fault system point to the unlimited lifetime medical benefits as one of the primary reasons for inflated car insurance costs.

In an effort to address the high premiums and to lower costs, Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer signed no-fault auto insurance reform legislation on May 30, 2019. Drivers in Michigan have new coverage options to choose from for policies issued or renewed after July 1, 2020. As a result, you may be able to reduce your premiums based on your coverage selections.

[Read More](#)

State of Michigan COVID-19 Updates and Resources

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.

Heat Related Illness

With the Dog Days of Summer ahead, it is important to keep yourself and crew safe. Here is a chart of what to look for in heat related illnesses and what you should do.

HEAT-RELATED ILLNESSES	
WHAT TO LOOK FOR	WHAT TO DO
HEAT STROKE	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• High body temperature (103°F or higher)• Hot, red, dry, or damp skin• Fast, strong pulse• Headache• Dizziness• Nausea• Confusion• Losing consciousness (passing out)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Call 911 right away-heat stroke is a medical emergency• Move the person to a cooler place• Help lower the person's temperature with cool cloths or a cool bath• Do not give the person anything to drink
HEAT EXHAUSTION	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Heavy sweating• Cold, pale, and clammy skin• Fast, weak pulse• Nausea or vomiting• Muscle cramps• Tiredness or weakness• Dizziness• Headache• Fainting (passing out)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Move to a cool place• Loosen your clothes• Put cool, wet cloths on your body or take a cool bath• Sip water <p>Get medical help right away if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• You are throwing up• Your symptoms get worse• Your symptoms last longer than 1 hour
HEAT CRAMPS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Heavy sweating during intense exercise• Muscle pain or spasms	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stop physical activity and move to a cool place• Drink water or a sports drink• Wait for cramps to go away before you do any more physical activity <p>Get medical help right away if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cramps last longer than 1 hour• You're on a low-sodium diet• You have heart problems



Message from President *Phil Forner*

With the summer heat in full swing, and a heatwave headed our way, I know how busy you all are and will continue to be.

I just want to stress the importance of staying safe in the heat. We have included a heat illness awareness chart on what to look for and what to do for your convenience. Please share this with your employees and staff, so everyone is aware of what to look for. Also please be sure to keep plenty of water available in coolers on your work vehicles for yourself and techs.

MIACCA continues to provide you with up to date information and resources that we feel are fitting to our industry.

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!



ACCA Super S.T.A.R Award goes to Dave Boelcke

The Air Conditioning Contractors of America (ACCA) announces that Dave Boelcke of [Boelcke Heating and Air Conditioning](#) in Stevensville, MI received [Federated Insurance's](#) ACCA Super S.T.A.R. Award.

ACCA Corporate Partner, Federated Insurance selects an ACCA Super S.T.A.R. Award winner annually, choosing an ACCA member who prioritizes the four components of the award: safety, teamwork, accountability, and responsibility. To be eligible for the award, a contracting company must be an ACCA member and a Federated Insurance client.

Boelcke is one of many ACCA members worthy of this recognition. Fully embracing risk management, Boelcke is a past chairman of ACCA's Safety Committee from 2016-2019, a current codes committee member since 2015, and is a current vice-chairman of ACCA's Board of Directors. He is also a graduate of Federated Insurance's highly regarded Contractor Risk Management Academy.

"Dave Boelcke is an ACCA member who believes that every one of his employees has the right to return home from work safely each day to their families and loved ones," said Nate Oland, senior national account executive, Federated Insurance. "His sound business practices serve as proof of what he believes and hopefully inspires other contractors to do the same."

"Driving safety and our company's driving policy is very important to me," says Boelcke. We take the safety and well-being of our employees very seriously and have a check-in process in place to report safety concerns and accidents. If an accident does occur, we require the employee to write out steps to prevent it from happening again. We also have safety meetings every other week to ensure everyone is doing their part to stay safe."

[Read More](#)



Webinar: The benefits of live chat for residential contractors

On July 9th, at 1:00 p.m., Jon Scott of ApexChat joins Service Nation 101 to share how you can provide stellar service through live chat for residential contractors!

This webinar discusses:

- The benefits of live chat and other messaging methods
- Converting new visitors to your site
- How to qualify leads

Jon has been working with ApexChat for the past five years, and in that time has helped hundreds of small to medium-sized businesses improve their website conversion rates through the power of live chat. He lives in the San Francisco Bay Area with his wife and two dogs. When not in quarantine, he enjoys going to the movies, hiking, and traveling.

Join Service Nation 101 with ApexChat to see how you can better your business with the latest technology!

[Register Here](#)

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5 Best Practices for Operating Ventilation and Portable Cooling Devices during the COVID-19 Coronavirus Pandemic

Increasing ventilation for your workplace is an effective strategy since outdoor air is highly unlikely to be contaminated by the virus that causes COVID-19. This is essentially a dilution strategy, because increasing outdoor air reduces the overall potential level of contaminated air in your facility. This can be accomplished using permanent equipment such as wall fans, roof ventilators or the temporary use of large mancoolers that are placed in open doors. Here are five of Airmaster's recommendations for safely increasing the amount of fresh air entering your facility and reducing the potential spread of contamination.

1. Do NOT Disable Ventilation Equipment.
2. Remember to Use Common Sense when using Ventilation Equipment.
3. Air Velocity and Direction Should Be Used in Tandem.
4. Cross Ventilation is an Effective Method
5. For Using Air Circulators, Low Speeds and Airflow Direction Must Also be Considered.

[Read full article](#)

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