

Subject **MIACCA October 2020 Newsletter**
From MIACCA <mjdsmith@miacca.org>
To M.J. D'Smith <mjdsmith@miacca.org>
Reply-To M.J. D'Smith <mjdsmith@miacca.org>
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Working hard to Protect, Promote & Educate our Profession
NEWSLETTER, OCTOBER 2020



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Michigan Legislative & Regulatory Update





MIACCA Advocates for Changes in the Residential Code by Submitting Comments Regarding Gas Meter Relocation and Piping

On Thursday, September 17th, MIACCA submitted these comments, on behalf of our members, to the Bureau of Construction Codes:

The Michigan Air Conditioning Contractors Association (MIACCA), would like to submit the following public comments in regards to [Part 5. Residential Code \(ORR# 2019-118 LR\)](#) : MIACCA requests that the Bureau to remove, in its entirety, the Section R105.2(c)(xi) exemption which states (xi) When changing or relocating a gas meter or regulator, a permit is not required when installing gas piping which shall be limited to 10 feet (3 005 mm) in length and not more than 6 fittings.

MIACCA requests that as an alternative to removing Section R105.2(c)(xi) entirely, that the Bureau considers replacing Section R105.2(c)(xi) with the proposed following language: (xi) When changing or relocating a gas meter or regulator, a permit is not required when installing gas piping OUTDOORS which shall be limited to 10 feet (3.005 mm) in length and not more than 6 fittings.

Therefore, MIACCA respectfully requests that Section R105.2(c)(xi) be either removed in its entirety and alternatively replaced with the proposed language, suggested in the above paragraph, and requiring mechanical permits, gas leak testing and mechanical inspections by the third party authority having jurisdiction when gas meters are relocated in residences that includes gas piping after the meter being redone and or installed. If mechanical permits are required for other gas piping done in a residence, then so should the gas piping done when relocating a gas meter.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this and hope that you will strongly consider our suggestions, as we believe it is to the benefit of the profession and our members.

[READ SUBMITTED LETTER HERE](#)

MIACCA's Efforts on Bill, Which Would Allow Contractors Reasonable Work Experience Credit, Passes Senate and Heads to the House

SB 827 was passed by Senate roll call on September 30th with 38 yeas and 0 nays It was then referred to the House Regulatory Reform Committee.

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 goes to school to learn a skilled trade and successfully completes a recognized HVAC trade school, community college, or university program.

MIACCA encourages you to reach out to these House Regulatory Reform Committee members of this committee in your district and encourage them to introduce the bill to the House of Representatives:

[Michael Webber](#) (R) Committee Chair, 45th District

[Ryan Berman](#) (R) Majority Vice-Chair, 39th District

[Kathy Crawford](#) (R), 38th District

[Diana Farrington](#) (R), 30 District

[Ben Frederick](#) (R), 85th District

[Michele Hoytenga](#) (R), 102nd District

[Graham Filler](#) (R), 93rd District

[Matt Hall](#) (R), 63rd District

[Pauline Wendzel](#) (R), 79th District

[John Chirkun](#) (D) Minority Vice-Chair, 22nd District

[Frank Liberati](#) (D), 13rd District

[Sara Cambensy](#) (D), 109th District

[Jewell Jones](#) (D), 11st District

[Alex Garza](#) (D), 12nd District

[Cynthia Neeley](#) (D), 34th District

[Molly Wingrove](#), Committee Clerk
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MIACCA would like to thank it's members, Roger Mullennix of Williams Distributing, Ken Misiewicz, of Pleune Service Company, Doug Young of Behler-Young,, Glenn VerMurlen, Michigan Building & Mechanical Inc and Phil Forner of Allendale Heating Company for their efforts in reaching out to Senators to get this in front of the Senate Regulatory Reform Committee.

A special thanks to Senator Roger Victory and his staff for introducing the bill and their efforts in getting this passed and to Senator Aric Nesbitt for getting the bill heard before the committee.

Another way MIACCA is working for you. We will continue to keep you posted on the progress.

MIACCA Submits Testimony to not have Sealed Drawings Required for Single Family Dwellings

On August 27th, the Bureau of Constructions Code held a public hearing on Part 9a of the Mechanical Code changes [found here](#). MIACCA submitted written testimony in regards to not having sealed drawings required for single family dwellings, gas meter piping and a consistent appeals process. To view our testimony, [CLICK HERE](#).

It is MIACCA's understanding that [1980 PA 299, MCL 339.101 to 339.277](#), still could be interpreted, as was done in the past by the Bureau, to require sealed mechanical drawings on one- and two-family dwellings when the heating or cooling system is under 375,000 Btu's. Such an interpretation would cause a great deal of hardship and expense for our members. Therefore, like with what is being proposed, to keep the 3,500 square feet and government subdivision or state agency exemptions, we think it is relevant and necessary that Part 9A Mechanical Code contains all of the language of the Stipulation Agreement filed in [Case No. 97-87125-CZ](#). Hence we would ask that the Bureau not strike or remove Section 106.3.1 Exceptions 2.a, being: "One- and 2-family dwellings when the heating or cooling input rating is 375,000 Btu's or less".

MIACCA is seeking input on the importance of this issue to our business and profession. Please take a moment to answer these questions

[PLEASE TAKE OUR SURVEY HERE](#)

LARA CCC September Trades Connection

Skilled Trades Regulation Act Citation Implementation

Many of you should have already received notice of an upcoming change to BCC field operations. As a reminder, BCC will begin implementing its authority to issue citations in accordance with MCL 339.553 and MCL 339.5537 to maintain compliance with the Occupational Code, 1980 PA 299, and the Skilled Trades Regulation Act, 2016 PA 407. Individuals licensed/registered as building officials, inspectors, plan reviewers, residential builders, maintenance & alteration contractors, electricians, plumbers, mechanical contractors, and boiler tradesmen may be subject to a citation being issued.

Effective October 1, 2020, a BCC team member may issue a citation to a person that is licensed under 1980 PA 299, or 2016 PA 407, or required to hold a license or certificate under these acts if staff observes from an investigation, inspection, or complaint that conduct or conditions exist or have existed that violate these acts or rules promulgated or orders issued under these acts. Please be advised that citations will not be issued for violations of the code as there are existing remedies to resolve code deficiencies.

[READ MORE](#)

Permitting Requirements for Boilers Installed in Commercial Locations

To install a boiler in a commercial location, you may be required to obtain up to four different permits:

- Boiler
- Electrical
- Mechanical
- Plumbing

[READ MORE](#)

Boiler Rule 408.4027 and CSD-1, Maintenance of Controls and Safety Devices

Boilers supply hot water or steam to heat buildings, provide domestic hot water, operate machinery, or deliver steam for power or process uses. To accomplish these ends, boilers contain a lot of energy in the form of high temperature water or steam under pressure. A sudden and uncontrolled release of this energy can result in extensive property damage and personal injury. To safely contain this energy within the boiler, it is fitted with certain controls and safety devices.

[READ MORE](#)

Upcoming Renewals

**Renewals can be done online 90 Days Prior to December 31, 2020 or the expiration date of your license/registration. **

Notices of required renewal will be mailed to licensees.

Boiler Installer, Repairer, Inspector, and Operator renewals occur on a yearly basis and are due by December 31, 2020. If you fail to complete your renewal, you may be subject to licensing action if you are found to be doing work on a boiler.

[READ FULL ISSUE HERE](#)

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.



Is your workplace or home fire proof? Each year, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) celebrates National Fire Safety Month in October with Oct. 7th-13th being national fire prevention week and Oct. 13th being National Home Fire Drill Day. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, in 2016, there were 88 occupational fatalities as a result of workplace fires or explosions. This is down from 2015, in which there were 121. While the statistics show that the number of fatalities due to fires or explosions in the workplace is on a downward slope, any number other than 0 is unacceptable and demands the attention from management, safety professionals and employees in every company. Not only do fires present a severe life safety hazard, they also can be detrimental to business success due to the possible destruction of business equipment and facilities. This campaign serves as a reminder to us all of the importance of fire safety awareness in both the workplace and our home lives.

Fire safety awareness in the workplace should be second nature and should be translated into our personal lives to keep our loved ones safe in the event of a fire as well. Take time this month to have a fire safety talk with your department at work. Review your emergency action plan, communicate supervisory roles, and walk evacuation routes with your team. In times of crisis, it is of human nature to rely on memory created through practice. October is the perfect time to conduct a fire drill before a real-life event occurs. Ensure nobody is left behind and all are in tune with their life safety route!

[READ MORE](#)

**Message
from
President**
Phil Forner

FIRE SAFETY

October is Fire Safety Month and Fire Prevention week starts October 9th. I encourage you to utilize the resources found here in the newsletter to stay safe from fire devastation.

Since 1922, the NFPA has sponsored the public observance of Fire Prevention Week. In 1925, President Calvin Coolidge proclaimed Fire Prevention Week a national observance, making it the longest-running public health observance in our country. During Fire Prevention Week, children, adults, and teachers learn how to stay safe in case of a fire. Firefighters provide lifesaving public education in an effort to drastically decrease casualties caused by fires.

Fire Prevention Week is observed each year during the week of October 9th in commemoration of the Great Chicago Fire, which began on October 8, 1871, and caused devastating damage. This horrific conflagration killed more than 250 people, left 100,000 homeless, destroyed more than 17,400 structures, and burned more than 2,000 acres of land.

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!



Find Fire Before Fire Finds

You

A pile of oily rags; an old power strip; a cigarette discarded in the wrong spot — fire risks can be anywhere. That's why it's important to be on the lookout for the hazards that can injure your employees and make your business go up in smoke. During 2020 Fire Prevention Week, October 4–10, review and revamp your business's fire-safety measures to help increase the chances that you'll find fire before fire finds you.

Read More



ACCA Announces Fall Webinar Series

- The Air Conditioning Contractors of America (ACCA) announces its first Fall Webinar Series, with innovative and educational offerings to help contractors grow their business, from October 19-23, 2020.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, ACCA suspended its annual in-person Fall Meetings event, opting to offer this online alternative.

"I strongly encourage ACCA members and non-members to attend the ACCA Fall Webinar Series," said Barton James, ACCA president and CEO. "This series offers accessible and useful resources right at your fingertips, and we have a great lineup of speakers and

trainings."

The Fall Webinar Series offers 10 online sessions, over 5 days. The sessions are offered twice daily at 11:30 AM EST and 3:00 PM EST.

Sessions include but are not limited to:

- **Common Myths Around Training**, presented by Chris Crew of Blue-Collar Success Group
- **How to Engage Your People and Build Their Confidence**, presented by Alisha Lawrence of Classic Air's One Hour Heating & Air Conditioning
- **Steps to Reduce Your Cyber-Vulnerability**, presented by Nate Oland of Federated Insurance

The webinar series is free for ACCA members and \$29/per webinar for non-members. To purchase all 10 webinars as a bundle package is \$199.

For more information about ACCA's Fall Webinar Series and to register, click [HERE](#).

For additional information, please contact Deb Weiner, ACCA manager of communications and strategic partnership at deb.weiner@acca.org or (703) 824-8862.



MIOSHA

**Releases new
COVID-19
Construction
Industry &
Outdoor
Operations
Guidelines as of
September 28,
2020**

MIACCA strongly encourages its members to thoroughly review these new guidelines [FOUND HERE](#). It is extremely important to stay in compliance as MIOSHA is actively inspecting businesses. Fines can start as much as \$13,494 for not having the proper COVID-19 posters displayed in your business, alone. Please use this resource to avoid fines and fees.

Links to find some downloadable free posters can be found at:

https://www.michigan.gov/leo/0,5863,7-336-100207_101270--,00.html

<https://www.osha.gov/pls/publications/publication.athruz?pType=Industry&pID=651>

MIACCA will continue to keep you up to date on all COVID-19 industry issues. Please feel free to

email M.J. D'Smith,
MIACCA Executive
Director with any
questions
at mjdsmith@miacca.org.

STAY SAFE!!!

**Your HVAC
Preventive
Maintenance Sales
Strategy Should
Include Social Media**

How do HVAC preventive maintenance plans fit into your overall [sales strategy](#)? They should be a priority, a service that you market aggressively. Maintenance agreements, which some HVAC contractors sell as memberships in a "care club" or "comfort club" can be an easy sell -- especially when you use social media to extol their benefits.

Typically, these service agreements cover your customers' regular maintenance needs, repair needs and sometimes replacement needs, offering your clientele peace of mind -- and making their annual costs more predictable. Many contractors offer a range of plans at a variety of price points.

Most plans include two annual system tune-ups -- one in the fall, for heating equipment, and one in the spring, for cooling equipment. Many contractors also offer discounts on repairs as well as other perks for customers with maintenance agreements.

HVAC preventive maintenance agreements can accelerate your cash flow as customers pay the plan fees. They also boost profits by opening the door for opportunities, for example, to replace worn-out parts or systems.

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