



HPBAC Government Affairs Committee Report to HPBAC Board of Directors

November 15, 2010

Committee Members

Martin Miles	Roger Gripton	John Johnson	Paul Hebert
Tom Pugh	Andrew Vickers	Alan Murphy	Vince Aubé
David Lively	Eric Dufour	Marc-Antoine Cantin	

Staff

Tony Gottschalk

British Columbia

The Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Healthy Living and Sport intend to review and revise the Solid Fuel Burning Domestic Appliance Regulation in keeping with the commitments set out in the B.C. Air Action Plan.

An intentions paper outlining proposed revisions to the Solid Fuel Burning Domestic Appliance Regulation was posted in the spring of this year. HPBAC national and its western chapter both submitted comments.

A Summary of Public Comments document is now available for the Solid Fuel Burning Domestic Appliance Regulation Intentions Paper on the ministry's website:

<http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/epd/main/ip-list.htm>

Ontario

The Ontario Ministry of Environment is in the process of preparing a document designed to give guidelines to municipalities that want to pass by-laws controlling all types of burning. On seeing the first draft, HPBAC met with the Ministry and persuaded it to delay publication by at least six months. The first draft was full of errors and completely unbalanced in regard to our industry. A constructive on-going dialogue has ensued. Further meetings have taken place and the third draft was due in June. It has been delayed. At HPBAC's request, the document is now to be split into two, with guidelines for our industry's products being separated from guidelines on open burning.

Gas Showrooms in Ontario

An advisory was issued by the Technical Standards and Safety Authority (TSSA) in Ontario July 2009 concerning requirements for product hook-up in gas showrooms. The TSSA is a provincial body, only

operating in Ontario. HPBAC became aware of the advisory towards the end of last year as inspectors starting knocking on doors. The requirements are extremely onerous. HPBAC has been in discussions with TSSA with the objective of finding a way to achieve the safety objectives without putting retailers out of business. Industry meetings were held in May in Ottawa, Toronto and London to which TSSA staff were invited. The meetings were extremely well attended and proved very fruitful. The gas safety code allows for different hook up requirements for temporary installations such as trade shows and TSSA, at HPBAC's instigation, has agreed in principle to extend the provision to gas showrooms. Two trials are now being conducted. TSSA will require an automatic CO alarm and cut-off. HPBAC has assisted in the sourcing of this device.

Gas Fireplace Efficiency

Following the DOE final rule on hearth products, Natural Resources Canada (NR Can) contacted HPBAC to "discuss the future of gas fireplace efficiency in Canada." An informal meeting took place in June. It seemed productive. There seems to be an understanding that decorative products should not be subjected to minimum efficiencies but some confusion as to how to differentiate them from heating appliances. NR Can seems to be waiting for the outcome in the US.

The next meeting of CSA's Technical Committee on appliance efficiency has been postponed until December.

There have been further developments which will be discussed at the November Board meeting.

HRTC

The home renovation tax credit ended on January 31, 2010.

EcoEnergy Retrofit Program

The federal ecoEnergy Retrofit Program was unexpectedly terminated in March of this year. The future of the provincial programs remains unclear at this time.

R2000

R-2000 is a voluntary energy efficiency standard for new houses in Canada. It was developed by the Office of Energy Efficiency of Natural Resources Canada in cooperation with Canadian home-building professionals and the housing industry. It is not widely used. Previous and current versions have effectively excluded many of our industry's products. In an attempt to increase the appeal of the program across Canada, the R2000 governing committee has recently approached HPBAC with the intent of incorporating high efficiency hearth appliances and biomass central systems, in their next revision. A meeting is due to take place this fall.

Manitoba

There is an energy efficiency amendment to the Manitoba Building Code to take effect on December 1st of this year which mandates direct vent gas fireplaces with no standing pilot lights. Tony Gottschalk has sought clarification that pilot on-demand systems will be allowed and has received verbal assurances that this will be so and if confusion exists in the field further clarification will be issued by the Office of the Fire Commissioner of Manitoba which is responsible for enforcement. We have contacted all members

in Manitoba to ensure they are informed. We will be pressing for a period of grace to allow for clearance of existing non-conforming inventory.

Annapolis Valley Air Shed

In response to anti-wood burning campaign in the Annapolis Valley, NS where air shed quality issues exist, a public meeting has been called for later this month to discuss the issue. David Lively from SBI who heads up the Atlantic Chapter's newly formed Government Affairs Committee will be attending the meeting and hopes to be able to deliver a thirty minute presentation. John Crouch from HPBA and HPBAC national are assisting David in his preparation and he will be supported on the day by several other members from the Atlantic Chapter.