



October 3, 2016

Update on Furnaces for Temporary Heat

In the spring, the Heating, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Institute of Canada (HRAI) notified CHBA that furnace manufacturers would change installation manuals to state that furnaces were not permitted to be used for construction heat as of May 1, 2017. CHBA National and local CHBA's corresponded with HRAI over the summer, noting the challenges this would cause for the industry and offering some potential options. CHBA – Alberta met with the Sheet Metal Contractors' Association of Alberta this summer to look at the logistics around the use of construction furnaces. CHBA at all levels has clearly indicated to the manufacturers that the industry has no cost-effective options that are as safe as furnaces. Talks will continue at the CHBA National TRC meeting in late October, but to date no resolution has been reached.

U of C Releases Results of Calgary Radon Testing

Over the past three years, the University of Calgary School of Medicine has collected data on the levels of household radon. They have conducted radon mapping in Calgary, Cochrane, Airdrie, Okotoks, High River, Chestermere, Symons Valley and other smaller towns in the surrounding area. Results of the mapping will be released at a public radon awareness event on November 19 in Theatre 4, of the Health Sciences Complex, Foothills Medical Campus, University of Calgary.

To sign up to attend one of the Nov 19th radon awareness events, please [click this link](#) to the CARST website and look under the upcoming events section. Tickets are free but are required to ensure seating.

Radon Mitigation Webinar

BC Housing is collaborating with the BC Lung Association, the Canadian Home Builders' Association of BC and the Building and Safety Standards Branch to present "**Building Smart with Radon**". This webinar will cover radon basics, testing solutions, cost estimates and mitigation options for new and existing construction. It will also cover the results of Canada's largest community-wide radon testing project in Prince George, BC, as well as findings from two BC communities using various mitigation strategies. Facilitating homeowner understanding of radon health risks and the steps that can be taken beyond the current BC Building Code are discussed. The certification process for the Canadian National Radon Proficiency Program ends the session.

Webinars will take place **October 18, 2016**. Click the [link](#) to register.

Update on Gypsum Tariff

Beginning September 6, 2016, the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) enacted provisional duties on gypsum board imported from the United States to western Canada. These duties are set at a very high rate – from 105.2% to as much as 276.5% - depending on the supplier. More information can be found [here](#). In response, CHBA - Alberta contacted CBSA directly, along with the Alberta

Premier's Office, Alberta Minister of Economic Development and Trade, and the Minister of Seniors and Housing. CHBA National is working on this file at the federal level, but CHBA – Alberta will continue to contact decision-makers to make them aware of the impact the tariff will have. We believe the provincial government will offer support in this dispute, as it greatly impacts the rebuild in Fort McMurray as well as some of their major projects such as the building of new schools. Moving forward, we will make our voice heard leading up to the final stages of this process in December and January. We encourage you to review the facts with your procurement departments, suppliers and contractors. For many of you it may also be pertinent to review this with your legal counsel, who can explain the details of how to become involved in the process more fully.

Reminder: 2015 Plumbing Code Anticipated in December

Municipal Affairs is currently reviewing the 2015 National Model Plumbing Code and anticipates the adoption of the code in Alberta will occur on **December 30, 2016**. The plumbing code will be adopted without a transition period. The key changes in this edition of the Alberta code will be:

- Removal of several Alberta amendments that are no longer done in Alberta. These are not likely to affect residential construction.
- Changes to some fire sprinkler requirements;
- Changes to maximum length of p-traps;
- Reduction in water flows for toilets from 6.0 litres to 4.8 litres as well as reduction in flow rates for taps and urinals. The toilet water reduction will create some issues of drain line carry for some applications.

Municipal Affairs will release more information in the fall and CHBA – Alberta will work with them on articles and other communications. The formal announcement of adoption will go out through the [STANDATA List Subscription](#) Services.

CHBA – Alberta Submission to Energy Efficiency Advisory Panel

In September, CHBA – Alberta submitted suggestions to the Alberta Energy Efficiency Advisory Panel. The submission focused on CHBA – Alberta key messages. To read the submission [click here](#).

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