

NEXT BOARD MEETING: DECEMBER 7, 2017



Alabama Board of Heating, Air Conditioning & Refrigeration Contractors

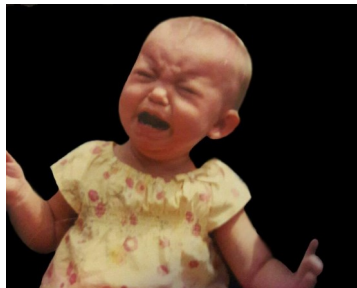
DON'T WHINE WHEN YOU ARE FINED!!!

Since the law's inception in 2009, 292 contractors have been fined for not displaying their name and/or numbers on work vehicles, advertisements, websites, etc. Code of Alabama 1975 § 34-31-24(b) requires that every certified contractor display, in a prominent, legible manner, their State of Alabama Board of Heating, Air Conditioning & Refrigeration Contractors certification numbers and business name on all documentation, forms of advertising, and ALL WORK VEHICLES.

The certification numbers on work vehicles must be at least two inches in height and placed on no less than two sides of the vehicle. Acceptable examples of how this requirement should be should be as follows:

AL CERT# 00000, AL# 00000, AL CERTIFICATION NUMBER 00000.

If you hold both a refrigeration certification for your company as well as a heating and air conditioning license, you must display both license numbers on your vehicle, documentation and forms of advertising. You may read more about this requirement in our rules and regulations section 440-x-5.06.



WINTER 2017-2018

ALABAMA BOARD OF HEATING, AIR CONDITIONING AND REFRIGERATION CONTRACTORS

2017 BOARD MEMBERS

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HOW DO A/C SYSTEMS EFFECT INDOOR AIR QUALITY (IAQ)?

By Susan Bolt

Below are some things that we see in the field when we are doing IAQ inspections in houses.

Let's first address the size of the A/C unit. We see many systems that are oversized and this can lead to a mold issue inside. If the unit is oversized, it may not run long enough to drop the excess moisture out of the indoor air. This is the primary function of the A/C system. Because it doesn't run long enough to pull the moisture from the air, the relative humidity remains elevated. Elevated humidity in a home can allow conditions that are favorable for mold growth on walls and furniture.

Moisture issues associated with the A/C system are also commonly found when the duct work is not properly insulated.

Improper insulation can allow excess moisture to penetrate the floors, ceilings or be deposited into the crawl space. Any excess moisture concerns can contribute to conditions that allow mold to grow and affect the indoor living space.

Another common IAQ issue that we see is systems with inside insulation that don't have the edges sealed or buttered. We see this in general assembly as well as the returns. As air flows across these raw edges, particles can break loose and be introduced into the indoor air. These particles are small fiberglass shards that people can inhale from their inside air. This can cause irritation to a person's body ranging from itchy eyes, runny nose, sore throat, skin irritation and more.



Blown insulation can also produce this problem due to breaks in the ductwork and around the return plenum if it is not sealed properly. The pull of the return air can produce a venturi effect and suck loose insulation particles through unsealed areas around the plenum. When the return plenum is under the house, the same venturi effect can draw dust and dirt from the crawl space. These unwelcomed intruders can cause the same discomforts to people as mentioned above.

Air Conditioning systems play a huge role in the comfort of our homes. They also can be a critical link to enjoying good IAQ.

*Paragon Industrial, LLP is owned by Rick and Susan Bolt and specializes in Indoor Air Quality for both Commercial and Residential Customers. HVAC #02206 & #02199

REGULATORY CONTACTS

Alabama Plumbers and Gas Fitters Examining Board:
www.pgfb.alabama.gov

Alabama Electrical Contractors Board: www.aecb.state.al.us

Alabama Home Builders Licensure Board:
www.hblb.alabama.gov

Alabama General Contractors Board:
www.genconbd.alabama.gov

Legal Contractors Who Place Themselves At Risk

Certified Contractors who allow uncertified individuals and uncertified companies to use their state certification should think twice. Contractors who allow an illegal contractor the use of their certification to pull permits are in violation of state law.

Those contractors who circumvent state law and enable such work outside Board rules place their certification at risk and subject themselves to a fine of \$2,000 per incident. Every violation of state law will be taken very seriously. Protect your

certification, don't let an uncertified contractor use you!

**Disciplinary Action Taken Against Contractors**

Disciplinary action is being taken against contractors where work performed violates minimum standards set by the Board, as well as against those contractors who fail to comply with the Board's rules and regulations in such matters as displaying their numbers on their service or work vehicles

and loaning their license to unlicensed contractors. This discipline can be in the form of a letter of reprimand, a monetary fine, additional continuation hours, suspension or revocation of their license.

A complete investigation is conducted by the Board's investiga-

tors in each instance where suspicion of misconduct is presented. Once final, a report is submitted to the Board's Investigative Committee.

Every aspect of a job or issue being investigated is carefully reviewed and the Committee determines what, if any, discipli-

nary action should be taken against the licensee.

The Board will continue to take disciplinary action against contractors where code violations or noncompliance with Board rules and regulations exists.

The Board's disciplinary powers have been in existence since the Board was created in 1982.

Report Illegal Activity

Recently there has been a number of complaints against uncertified contractors working illegally. We would like to remind our certified contractors to keep a look out for individuals working without a

license. Remember uncertified contractors are not only committing a crime, they are also taking away from your business.

The Board would also like to urge city officials to be sure to ei-

ther call the Board or check our website to verify if a contractor is licensed before issuing any permits.

If you know of a contractor working illegally you can contact the Board any-

ways at (866) 855-1912 or fill out the "Report and Unlicensed Contractor" form online and fax or mail it to the Board. All information will be kept confidential

COMPLAINTS AND DISCIPLINARY ACTION



As a reminder, in an effort to improve customer satisfaction, do not wait until your customer files a complaint. Try to resolve the issue beforehand. Contact these consumers to determine the problem and resolve the issue. Consumers are interested in personal attention and having their units properly operating. Contacting the consumer from the beginning will reduce the hassle for you and the possibility of administrative action against you by the Board.

Disciplinary action is

being taken against contractors where work performed violates minimum standards set by the Board, as well as against those contractors who fail to comply with the Board's rules and regulations in such matters as displaying their numbers on their service or work vehicles and loaning their license to unlicensed contractors. This discipline can be in the form of a letter of reprimand, a monetary fine, additional continuing education hours, suspension or revocation of their license.

A complete and thorough investigation is conducted by the Board's investigators in each instance where suspicion of misconduct is presented. Once final, a report is submitted to the Board's Investigative Committee. Every aspect of a job or issue being investigated is carefully reviewed and the Committee determines what, if any, disciplinary

action should be taken against the licensee. The Board will continue to take disciplinary action against contractors where code violations or noncompliance with Board rules and regulations exists.

Parts Supply Houses Selling Equipment to Uncertified Individuals



The Board does not have the statutory authority to prevent the sale of equipment to unlicensed persons. State law only prohibits installation, service, or repair of heating and air conditioning or commercial refrigeration by uncertified con-

tractors.

The Board has a list of parts houses that are allegedly selling equipment to non-certified persons. Even though the Board does not agree with this practice, it cannot be prevented. The Federal Fair Trade Law pre-

vents the Board from demanding that supply houses only sell to certified individuals. The Board is grateful to the supply houses that require proof of certification prior to a contractor being allowed to purchase equipment from them.

2017 COMPLIANCE IN ACTION

UNLICENSED CONTRACTOR COMPLIANCE

Eric Glenn
Billy Jay Helms
Brandon Landers
Michael White
Joseph Wehby
Anthony Moore
Dillion Jeter
Juan Duenas
Joshua Nelson
Michael Welsch
Don Nichols
James Locklear

UNLICENSED CONTRATORS NON-COMPLIANCE

Roderick Traveno Parks
Jerome Ball
John Charles Wilker
Carlos Dennis
Robert Church
Scott Faulk
Allen Horton
Eric Jason Webb
Paul Buscato

WARRANTS

Moran John Edward
Cecil Ray Roberts
Joseph Adcock
Bryan Andrews
Terrance Faulks
Hector Machura
John Goldberg (2)
Dwain Henderson
Kevin Stange
Jimmy Giddens
Mark Boggan
Jason Walder
Kenneth Williams

LICENSE REVOICATIONS

Mark Young
Larry Turner
Billy Wright

REVOKED PENDING APPEAL

Von Arthur, Jr.

Duct Air Tightness Testing Mandatory

The Alabama Residential Energy, Code of Alabama 1975, Section 305-2-4-.10 mandates that duct pressure testing is required on all new construction and full system change-outs regardless of what jurisdiction a contractor performs installation of an HVAC system in the State of Alabama. In addition Section 34-31-24(b)(1) mandates that any individual who engages in the practice

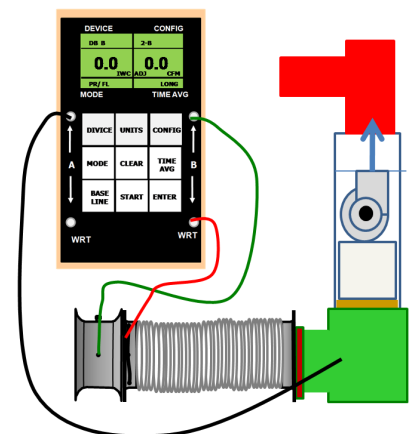
of testing and verifying duct air tightness, in conjunction with the installation, service, or repair of heating and air conditioning systems, is required to be registered with the Board. Since the inception of the law in 2015, the code has changed making the duct leakage less than 4% at rough-in. Once each test is performed and passes, the contractor who performed the test is re-

quired to report the results to the Board on a duct air tightness testing verification form.

Forms can be found under the forms section of the Board's website at www.hacr.alabama.gov. For contractors who are interested in whole home energy compliance, there is a Alabama Residential Energy Code Compliance Calculator on ADECA's

website:

www.adeca.alabama.gov/energy



GENERAL CONTRACTOR AND LIQUEFIED PETROLEUM LICENSING REQUIRED FOR HVAC CONTRACTORS. DOES THE FOLLOWING APPLY TO YOU?

The Alabama Board for General Contractors' law requires that any HACR contractor performing a job over \$50,000 hold a subcontractor or prime contractor license issued by the General Contractors Board. If you have any questions about this requirement please contact the Heating, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Board at (866) 855-1912 or the General Contractors Board at 800-356-6361 or online at: www.genconbd.alabama.gov

The Alabama Liquefied Petroleum Gas Board law requires that any HACR contractor involved in the installation, service or repair of a gas furnace connected to liquefied petroleum (LP) gas hold the appropriate certification with their agency. If you have any questions about LP Gas requirement please contact the Heating, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Board at 866- 855-1912 LP Gas Board at 800-545-9246 or online at: www.lpgb.alabama.gov

THANK YOU CERTIFIED CONTRACTORS

The Board appreciates the hard working licensed contractors who are determined to deliver quality services to Alabama's consumers. These contractors spend a number of hours and money to meet the requirements necessary to maintain their certifications while unscrupulous contractors attempt to take business from the certified contractor by lowering prices and doing substandard work.

The Board often receives calls from certified contractors who are discouraged by the continued presence

of uncertified contractors working without obtaining the proper certification. The Board's investigators attempt to find as many of these uncertified contractors as possible, however, when you see or know of a possible uncertified contractor working in your area, you should notify the Board in order for our investigators to check on the validity of these contractors.

The Board takes proactive action against uncertified contractors, that

includes issuing cease and desist orders, levying fines and obtaining warrants for their arrest, in an effort to stop such illegal activity.

The Board is appreciative of the supply houses that post bulletins warning illegal contractors of the consequences of working without a license.

The Board is committed to supporting certified contractors and make every effort to protect the reputation of the contractors that strive to follow the rules and regulations of the heating, air conditioning and commercial refrigeration industry.

BOARD STAFF

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Deputy Director

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Supervisor of
Investigations

Greg Nuby

Waylon Spivey

Mike Smith

Administrative Staff

Amber Moncrief

Licensing & Bonding
Specialist

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Accountant

Crystal Johnson

Accounting Assistant

Jennifer Hudson

Complaint Specialist

Contact us at

Ph:(866) 855-1912

Fax:(334)265-0570

www.hacr.alabama.gov