

Welcome to RACCA Watch.....a monthly newsletter distributed to RACCA members by email. We ask you to take note of the information contained in this edition. Let other members know if you are conversing with them.

RACCA Watch is a means of providing regular communications to our membership and other interested parties. We welcome both your input and feedback. Thank you to those members who have contributed.

RACCA Watch is YOUR communication tool.

EECA - Warm Up New Zealand: Heat Smart RFP Process.

The administration centre has had a significant number of member queries relating to this programme. RACCA & IRHACE completed a joint request to EECA as to the RFP process. The main concerns surround the issues of:

- Reduction in number of service providers.
- Member concerns that EECA are reducing competition in Heat Pump market as consumers are naturally looking for subsidies through EECA service providers.
- The successful EECA service providers are requiring a referral fee for Heat Pump leads to be given to local installers.

The EECA response to IRHACE and RACCA concerns is available on www.racca.org.nz or www.irhace.org.nz. Feedback from members is encouraged so we can table at our next meeting with EECA. Members please note that this meeting will take place on Tuesday 20th October and feedback will be via RACCA Forum at the national conference.

REGISTER NOW! IRHACE Seminar AS/NZ 3666

“Air-Handling and Water Systems of Buildings - Microbial Control - Design, Installation and Commissioning/Operation and Maintenance”

This seminar will be particularly relevant to designers, contractors, IQPs, Government Officials, TA officials, etc. Our Presenter Clive Broadbent is well renown and experienced in the area of air quality having over 40 years of engineering experience. Clive was on the committee that produced AS/NZS 3666. This seminar will focus on complying with the NZBC requirements which reference Parts 1 & 2 of the standard.

- Wellington Tuesday 17th November
- Christchurch Thursday 19th November
- Dunedin Friday 20th November
- Auckland Monday 23rd November
- Hamilton Tuesday 24th November

All seminars will start at 11.30am with a networking lunch followed by an interactive presentation concluding around 4.30pm. Early registration is encouraged as all seminars have minimum/maximum number requirements. Register now by going to www.irhace.org.nz www.racca.org.nz or email admin@irhace.org.nz.

Certification/Licensing of RAC Industry

The joint IRHACE/RACCA committee are presently completing the final document relating to the structure and classes of certification for RAC refrigerants. MTA and Appliance Repair Associations have also been consulted with and are providing supporting documentation with the proposal.

REVISED MINIMUM ENERGY PERFORMANCE STANDARDS (MEPS) FOR REVERSE CYCLE AIR CONDITIONERS OR HEAT PUMPS

From December 2009: all new listings for heat pumps manufactured or imported into NZ will need to be listed, and meet the requirements of the revised MEPS and Labeling Standard (AS/NZS 3823.2: 2009). The new labels must be used on all newly listed models.

From 1 April 2010: Regulations will apply to all heat pumps manufactured or imported into NZ or Australia. At this time, if you wish to continue importing models listed to the old MEPS, you will need to re-list them to the new MEPS and use new labels.

Note: Old stock which was listed to the older standard, may be sold and may display the old label until the old stock is depleted, but new stock must meet the new requirements.

From 1 April 2011: MEPS levels will be based on annual EER/COP (this includes an element of stand-by energy consumption). The minimum power factor requirement will be 0.85.

From April 2012: Demand response capability will be required on all models. For further details on heat pumps including the new Energy Rating label, a guide for consumers, a guide for installers and the new Winter performance specification for ENERGY STAR see the EECA website: <http://www.eeca.govt.nz/standards-and-ratings/minimum-energy-performance->

standards-and-labelling.

It is planned to implement minimum energy performance standards (MEPS) for commercial chillers rated 350 kW or greater, no earlier than December 2009. From the date the MEPS comes into force in the Energy Efficiency (Energy Using Products) Regulations 2002, all commercial chillers imported into NZ or manufactured in NZ must comply with the standard AS/NZS 4776.2:2008 for Energy Efficiency. However old stock imported before this date may be sold. To comply products must be registered on www.energyrating.gov.au.

Commercial chillers are generally used in large commercial buildings to provide chilled water or air for space cooling equipment. Chillers are typically the largest energy using space conditioning equipment in a commercial building. The MEPS for commercial chillers takes into consideration public comment received following the release of a regulatory impact statement in 2007. The energy performance standards for commercial chillers are: AS/NZS 4776.2-2008 covers MEPS and compliance requirements AS/NZS 4776 1.1-2008 covers the method for rating AS/NZS 4776 1.2-2008 covers the method for testing. The details can be found on www.standards.co.nz.

FATAL ACCIDENTS INVOLVING IGNITION OF FLAMMABLE VAPOURS

INCIDENTS

On 4 and 15 September 2009, there were two fatal workplace accidents involving the explosion of flammable vapours during the cutting of metal tanks. These tragic accidents highlight the dangers of working on tanks and containers that contain, or used to contain, flammable liquids.

CIRCUMSTANCES

The first fatality occurred while a person was working on top of a tank that contained heated bitumen. It is believed that flammable vapours from the tank vent were ignited by electrical equipment.

The second occurred when a worker was dismantling a tank that had contained petrol. It is believed that a gas cutter ignited flammable vapours within the empty tank.

GUIDANCE

The risks of doing “hot work” - involving torches or flame cutting equipment - on containers that previously contained flammable substances, are well known.

Examples of flammable substances are petrol, aviation fuel, diesel, and bitumen.

The Department of Labour recommends the following steps are taken before work begins on or near tanks that previously contained flammable substances:

- Realise that doing “hot work” around

flammable substances creates an extreme danger of explosion or fire.

- Identify the hazards that can be created when you work on or near tanks and containers that hold, or have held flammable substances.
- Assess the hazards and ensure the correct controls are in place.
- Plan the work so you eliminate all sources of ignition from the area.
- Provide employees with appropriate information, training and supervision so they can work safely around flammable substances.

REFERENCES:

- Hot Work on Drums and Tanks, Department of Labour (1988) <http://www.osh.dol.govt.nz/order/catalogue/229.shtml>
- Health and Safety in Welding, Department of Labour (2006) <http://www.osh.dol.govt.nz/order/catalogue/welding.shtml>
- Code of Practice for the Transportation and Disposal of Underground Petroleum Storage Tanks and Related Wastes, Department of Labour (1995) <http://www.osh.dol.govt.nz/order/catalogue/193.shtml>
- Code of Practice for Disused Below-Ground Stationary Tanks on Farms, Environmental Risk Management Authority New Zealand (2007) <http://www.ermanz.govt.nz/resources/publications/pdfs/COP19-1.pdf>

DON'T FORGET THE RACCA & HVAC CONFERENCE 2009

Your support is important to the success of the conference

When: Friday 30th October 2009

Where: Wairakei, Taupo

Theme: Improving Business Effectiveness - Special RACCA Forum

When: Saturday 31st October

Where: Wairakei

Theme: Feedback from EECA meeting re Heat Smart Programme – Supplier Contracts

The registration form is available at www.racca.org.nz. A Café, Art & Garden Partner tour is also being arranged. Education, networking and relaxation will all be part of the day.

Presenters will cover the following subjects:

1. Business Banking & Finance – National Bank
2. Business Liability Insurances and Workmanship Guarantees –ACM Ahlers
3. Mobile communications – Link to Business Effectiveness – Telecom NZ
4. Health & Safety – Drug Awareness and Business Responsibilities – Elite Dog Services
5. Maximising Supply Chain & Procurement – GSB Supplycorp

The timing will allow you to stay over for a leisurely Taupo weekend experience

CONFERENCE SPONSORS: RACCA would like to thank the following sponsors for the National Refrigeration Air Conditioning Conference, Wairakei, 30th October 2009.

MAJOR SPONSORS



SUPPORTING SPONSORS



GSB SUPPLYCORP

Member feedback has been very positive. Making the difference to our members bottom line through this membership, value add, is very satisfying for the RACCA Committee.

10 YEAR DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN

Matthew Darby will be attending on behalf of RACCA the 10 Year Draft Strategic Plan presentation on strategies to increase the energy efficiency of non domestic refrigeration in Australia & New Zealand. This is being held at the Stamford Plaza Hotel, Sydney Airport on Friday 13th November 2009.

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YOUR RACCA COMMITTEE

- Wally McCrory – Chairman
 Matthew Darby – Chairman Elect
- Mike Dubey
 - Rob Morgan
 - Graham Sharp
 - Darren Rawnsley