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OFFICIAL MAGAZINE

President Obama Signs Efficiency Legislation Supported by Coalition Including IAPMO

President Obama on Thursday, with the support of the High-Performance Buildings Congressional Caucus Coalition, which the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO®) chairs, signed into law the Energy Efficiency Improvement Act of 2015, a package of provisions expected to yield approximately \$4.6 billion annually in energy and water savings by 2030.

Sponsored by U.S. Sens. Jeanne Shaheen (D-N.H.) and Rob Portman (R-Ohio), the new law aims to reduce energy and water use by the biggest consumer in the U.S. economy — the built environment — by such means as encouraging efficiency in leased spaces, allowing the use of grid-enabled water heaters for demand response programs, and benchmarking of energy usage in commercial buildings.

"What we've seen is a coming together of Republicans and Democrats who are going to facilitate us being much smarter in terms of building buildings, how we use energy and, as a consequence, we're going to save money for consumers, we're going to save money for businesses, and we're going to deal with issues like climate change that have an enormous economic and health impact on Americans as a whole," President Obama said before signing the legislation into law.

The Energy Efficiency Improvement Act is comprised of three bills: the Better Buildings Act, the Water Heater Efficiency Act, and the Energy Information for Commercial Buildings Act. IAPMO worked with other organizations to ensure water efficiency and its related environmental and financial benefits was included in the drafting of the bills that make up the new law.

"Seeing this piece of legislation enacted into law is a wonderful sight," said Dain Hansen, IAPMO's vice president of Government Relations. "Early versions of this bill were void of any water related provisions, but this bill, now law, includes key water conserving provisions, which is a victory for everyone. IAPMO is pleased to have worked closely with Senate and House leaders to find a path forward for inclusion of such important language."

"I'm pleased the president has signed my bill into law because it is good for the economy and good for the environment," Sen. Portman said. "This is an important part of our energy plan for America that can help bring jobs back, help make our manufacturers more competitive, and actually help to protect the environment. I'll continue to work for passage of my larger bill and a national energy strategy that boosts American workers while protecting the environment at the same time."

"Granite Staters want to see Washington working together for the good of New Hampshire and the country," Sen. Shaheen said. "Today, the President signed a bipartisan energy efficiency bill into law that creates jobs, saves consumers money, and reduces pollution. It's always tough to convince Washington to not play politics with a good idea. But persistence has paid off and this legislation is a small but significant victory over legislative gridlock. Much more work on energy efficiency needs to be done and getting this legislation over the finish line demonstrates that there's broad support in Washington for job-creating efficiency legislation. I will continue to reach across the aisle to pass more common-sense energy efficiency bills because it's good for our economy and it's good for our environment."

For more information on the legislation, contact Hansen at (202) 414-6177 or dain.hansen@iapmo.org.

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New Construction Starts in March Slide Back 13%

New construction starts in March retreated 13% from the previous month to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$633.3 billion, according to Dodge Data & Analytics. The decline followed strong gains in January (up 9%) and February (up 17%), when construction was lifted by the start of several massive projects valued each in excess of \$1 billion, including four liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminal projects, a petrochemical plant, and a solar power facility. While the March statistics did include the start of a \$2.3 billion highway project in Florida, the boost coming from projects in excess of \$1 billion was substantially less than what occurred during the first two months of the year. By major sector, March showed diminished activity for nonresidential building and nonbuilding construction, while residential building held steady. For the first three months of 2015, total construction starts on an unadjusted basis were up 28% from the same period a year ago. If projects in excess of \$1 billion are excluded, the result for total construction starts would be a 4% gain in March on a seasonally adjusted basis relative to February, and an 11% gain for the first three months of 2015 on an unadjusted basis relative to the same period a year ago.

The March data produced a reading of 134 for the Dodge Index (2000=100), compared to a revised 155 in February and a 132 in January. For all of 2014 the Dodge Index averaged 124. "The presence of unusually large projects will affect the month-to-



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BPPS MAGAZINE



Backflow Prevention & Plumbing Standards (BPPS) magazine is the only monthly trade publication dedicated to the backflow prevention and plumbing industries. BPPS is specifically designed to address each of our audiences - including contractors, plumbers, sprinkler fitters, irrigation personnel, backflow prevention assembly installers and testers, water utilities, water operators, inspectors and manufacturers - in each and every issue.

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month pattern for construction starts, and that's certainly been true during the early months of 2015," stated Robert A. Murray, chief economist for Dodge Data & Analytics. "The elevated activity in February exceeded the underlying trend for construction starts, and the March pullback returns activity to a more sustainable pace, at the same time showing an industry that's still in the midst of expansion. While nonresidential building lost some momentum in March, the broad pattern over recent months reveals more growth for commercial building combined with strengthening for several institutional structure types, most notably school construction. Although there's concern that public works construction will be dampened by the uncertainty caused by the soon-to-expire federal transportation legislation, a healthy amount of highway and bridge work has reached the construction start stage so far in 2015. And, while residential building still awaits renewed upward progress by single family housing, the multifamily side of the housing market continues to strengthen, as low vacancies and rising rents in numerous markets provide the justification for more construction.

Nonresidential building in March fell 19% to \$183.5 billion (annual rate), after surging 43% in February. The manufacturing building category in March plunged a steep 57% from its elevated February pace. Although March did feature the start of several large manufacturing projects, such as a \$751 million polyethylene plant and a \$150 million cement plant expansion, both located in Texas, the prior month had included the start of a \$3.0 billion ethane cracker and propane dehydrogenation plant, also located in Texas. The commercial building group in March settled back 10%, after climbing 20% in February. Office construction registered a 20% slide in March, although the latest month did include the start of several noteworthy projects, including the \$225 million expansion of the Nike headquarters in Beaverton OR, the \$120 million Bristol-Myers Squibb office building in Lawrenceville NJ, and the \$82 million office portion of the \$100 million Exchange Plaza mixed-use project in San Francisco CA. Also reporting a double-digit decline in March was warehouse construction, which fell 26%. Hotel construction, down 1%, held virtually steady in March, as it benefitted from the groundbreaking of the \$203 million Fairmont Austin Convention Hotel in Austin TX and a \$67 million Courtyard by Marriott hotel in New York NY. Store construction was the one commercial structure type able to report a March gain, rising 13% after a lackluster February.

Read the full report: <http://construction.com/about-us/press/New-Construction-Starts-in-March-Slide-Back-13-percent.asp>

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IAPMO R&T Enjoys Successful Showing at WQA Aquatech USA 2015

IAPMO R&T, North America's premier third party testing and certification body for plumbing, mechanical and water treatment products, last week concluded the WQA Aquatech USA 2015 show in Las Vegas, the largest trade event in the United States for point-of-use and point-of-entry water treatment equipment, bringing together water treatment manufacturers, dealers, regulators, wholesalers, plumbers, and custom builders for residential and commercial water treatment applications. The show was co-located with the National Automatic Merchandising Association (NAMA) and the International Carwash Association.


IAPMO R&T introduced the launch of its Water Systems product certification program. This program will provide testing and certification services to the water treatment industry. The IAPMO R&T booth was busy as representatives promoted a comprehensive menu of product testing and conformity assessment services. Prospective clients learned about the marketing advantage and code compliance achieved by procuring thirdparty product certification through IAPMO R&T.

IAPMO R&T is accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) in the United States, the Standards Council of Canada (SCC) in Canada, and entidad Mexicana de acreditacion, a.c. (ema) in Mexico. The IAPMO Group also offers testing and certification services globally, with offices strategically positioned on five continents. IAPMO R&T's certification marks of conformity carry the organization's more than 70-year reputation for integrity and accountability and are readily recognized throughout North America.

"WQA Aquatech was a huge success for IAPMO R&T," said Tom Palkon, a senior vice president with IAPMO R&T. "It provided an exceptional platform to introduce our testing and certification services to water treatment equipment manufacturers."

WQA Aquatech 2016 will be held in Nashville. For more information, direct your web browser to WQA.org.

For details about IAPMO R&T's North American certification programs, contact Brenda Madonna (brenda.madonna@iapmort.org) at (909) 472-4100, or visit



WATER FOR LIFE
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IAPMO Communications Staff Wins Four Communicator Awards

Members of the marketing and communications staff of the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO) have been named recipients of one Gold Award of Excellence and three Silver Awards of Distinction from the International Academy of the Visual Arts for entries in the 2015 Communicator Awards.

The awards recognize the staff's efforts in promoting IAPMO, the association's services and the plumbing and mechanical industries through various media, including *Official* magazine.

Staff Writer Mike Flenniken won an Award of Excellence, the competition's highest honor, in the category of Writing — Feature Article for his in-depth profile of the city of Minneapolis' Construction Codes Services department titled "Cranes, Trains and Automobiles" (*Official*, Summer 2014). Flenniken was also awarded an Award of Distinction in the same category for his feature about high school students who led a fund-raising effort to fund a desperately needed freshwater well in Swaziland titled "A Thirst for Change" (*Official*, Summer 2014).

Official Co-Editor Jeff Ortiz won an Award of Distinction in the category of Magazine — Interior Design for his layout of the article titled "Reinventing the Wheel" (*Official*, Spring 2014).

Senior Writer Geoff Bilau earned an Award of Distinction in the category Writing — News Release for his June 24, 2014, press release "IAPMO Joins Plumbing Industry Coalition in Support of Energy Efficiency Legislation."

This marks the seventh consecutive year IAPMO staff has won awards in the Communicator competition.

The Communicator Awards is the leading international awards program honoring creative excellence for communications professionals. The 2015 Communicator Awards received more than 6,000 entries from companies and agencies of all sizes, making it the largest and most prestigious award of its kind.

The Gold Award of Excellence is given to those entries whose ability to communicate puts them among the best in the field. The Silver Award of Distinction is given to those entries that exceed industry standards in quality and achievement.

The Communicator Awards is sanctioned and judged by the International Academy of the Visual Arts, an invitation-only body consisting of top-tier professionals from a "Who's Who" of acclaimed media, communications, advertising, creative and marketing firms.

The New Cool: LSU Physicist Discovers New Material Set to Change Cooling Industry

Refrigeration and air conditioning may become more efficient and environmentally friendly thanks to the patent-pending work of LSU physicists. The team of researchers led by LSU Physics Professor Shane Stadler has discovered a breakthrough

magnetocaloric material that may change the energy industry, including air conditioning and food refrigeration.

"The world refrigeration market is expected to increase by about \$7-8 billion by 2018," Stadler said. Therefore, his breakthrough has a significant economic impact as well as an impact on the energy industry and environment.

Stadler's research focuses on the next generation of magnetic cooling technologies, which are simpler in design, quieter and more environmentally friendly than conventional compressed-gas systems currently used.

"LSU's basic research into low temperature physics and materials science has potential applications in areas related to energy, electronics and the environment," said Michael L. Cherry, chair and professor, LSU Department of Physics and Astronomy. "Professor Stadler's magnetocaloric materials program is an example of this research that appears to be directly relevant to energy development and Louisiana's economy. It also provides excellent training opportunities for Louisiana's students."

In this new technology, a magnetic field magnetically orders the material at ambient temperature, which raises its temperature above ambient. The excess heat is removed through a thermal medium, such as water or air, bringing the material back to ambient temperature. The magnetic field is then removed, the material becomes magnetically disordered and its temperature drops below ambient temperature leading to a cooling effect. This "solid state" cooling process is significantly more energy efficient than the conventional, compressed gas systems currently on the market today.

"We've studied these systems for a long time and were fortunate to discover a system in which a magnetic transition coincided in temperature with a structural transition," Stadler said. "That this magnetostructural transition occurs near room temperature is what makes it a strong candidate for magnetocaloric cooling devices of the future."

Stadler's team's technological discovery is a promising alternative for refrigeration and air conditioning that can reduce the use of harmful gas fluorocarbons.

"We are excited about the potential applications that are available for Dr. Stadler's technology," said Andrew Maas, assistant vice president for research over technology transfer and director of the renamed Office of Innovation and Technology Commercialization. "The Department of Energy, General Electric and other companies around the world have been working with magnetocaloric materials for some time. Dr. Stadler's solution addresses many of the issues that these big players have encountered."

Currently, a local group of entrepreneurs have expressed interest in this advanced technology. After further testing, they will look into developing commercialization opportunities utilizing it for the heating and cooling industry.

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California Contractors State License Board, Bonney Plumbing Reach Settlement

Company agrees to multiple terms, including consumer restitution and new business plans

Source: www.cslb.ca.gov

SACRAMENTO — The [Contractors State License Board](#) (CSLB) and Bonney Plumbing Heating Air & Rooter Service (Bonney), of Rancho Cordova, have agreed to a stipulated settlement to end an administrative case that could have led to revocation

of the company's three contractor licenses (#696355, #983208, and #987387), as well as the sole ownership license of long-time company owner Richard Mark Bonney (#397205).

CSLB filed an accusation against the licenses in September 2014, after receiving several consumer complaints about the company overcharging customers, failing to pull necessary building permits, misrepresenting work that needed to be done, and using unregistered salespeople when contracting for home improvement work. Several of the customers were in their 80s and 90s.

The founder and initial qualifier of Bonney Plumbing, Mark Bonney, disassociated from the company's main license (#696355) in November 2014. The complaints were filed for work done while Mr. Bonney was responsible for the company's operations.

Under the settlement, CSLB has agreed to withdraw its accusation to suspend or revoke Bonney's licenses; instead, CSLB is issuing six citations, per [Business and Professions Code section 7099](#). Those citations carry a total fine amount of \$12,000, and will be disclosed on CSLB's license look-up feature for five years.

"We are pleased that Bonney's new owners addressed this matter promptly," said [CSLB Registrar Cindi A. Christenson](#). "The company has agreed to provide restitution for financially injured customers, and develop a series of business plans to avoid the potential for future contracting law violations."

As part of the settlement, CSLB also will have increased authority to review Bonney contracts and related documents.

The Bonney Plumbing case highlights the need for consumers to understand the difference between a service and repair contract and a home improvement contract.

A "service and repair" contract is used when immediate or emergency work is needed and the total cost will be under \$750, such as for a broken air-conditioner or plumbing issue; and the "home improvement contract," which is any job that is not an emergency and will cost \$500 or more in combined labor and material costs.

It's important that consumers understand which type of contract they're entering before signing. A service and repair contract is for immediate work and has no cancellation clause, but a home improvement contract provides the consumer with a three-day right to cancel, which enables time to obtain estimates from other contractors.

If, during a repair visit, the technician identifies other non-immediate mechanical or safety concerns, CSLB recommends getting additional bids from other licensed contractors before hiring someone. If the work happens to be immediately necessary and is more than \$750, keep in mind that the contract you sign should be a home improvement contract, which provides additional consumer protections, such as who will pull the necessary construction permits from the local building department.

Also be aware that a home improvement contract can only be negotiated by the license's personnel of record, or a registered home improvement salesperson (HIS). If the work is part of a home improvement contract, the contractor is not allowed to charge more than 10 percent of the total cost or \$1,000, whichever is less, as a down payment.

In California, any contractor who offers a bid that is \$500 or more in combined labor and material costs must be licensed with CSLB in their specific trade. If a contractor uses salespeople to represent the company, each must be registered with CSLB as an HIS. Both contractors and salespeople are issued pocket cards by CSLB with their license or registration information. Consumers can ask to see the pocket card and a

photo identification to make sure the information is accurate.

CSLB encourages consumers to always "Check the License First" by visiting www.cslb.ca.gov or calling CSLB's toll-free automated line 800.321.CSLB (2752). Also, visit CSLB's website for [tips](#) about how to hire a contractor and to sign up for [CSLB email alerts](#).

The California Contractors State License Board operates under the umbrella of the Department of Consumer Affairs. CSLB licenses and regulates California's 290,000 contractors, and is regarded as one of the leading consumer protection agencies in the United States. In fiscal year 2013-14, CSLB helped recover nearly \$51 million in ordered restitution for consumers.

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Walmart Closes 5 Stores Due To Plumbing Problems

Last week, retail giant Walmart surprised everyone when it temporarily closed five stores putting 2,200 people out of work Monday. The reason for the shut down: plumbing problems, according to the retailer. Two of the stores are in Texas, and the others are in California, Florida and Oklahoma. They will be closed for "extended repairs" for approximately six months, the company said. The stores closed at 7 p.m. Monday, after workers were notified just hours before that they were losing their jobs.

"Everybody just panicked and started crying," said Venanzi Luna, a manager of the deli department at the Pico Rivera, Calif. store.

The news came as a surprise to the 295 full-time workers and 248 part-time staffers there. Both full-time and part-time workers were put on paid leave for two months, during which time they can try to transfer to a different Walmart location. Full-time employees who don't get another Walmart job by June 19 may be eligible for severance.

"This is the first time we're hearing of their sewer problems," city manager Rene Bobadilla said.

In Livingston, Texas, where 422 people were laid off, city officials met with Walmart representatives on Monday. They were told that the plumbing problems have been "ongoing and pervasive," said Marilyn Sutton, the Livingston City Manager. Walmart intends to reopen the stores as soon as the problems are resolved. These five stores had the most plumbing problems over the past two years, but don't have anything else in common, a spokesman said.

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July 15, 2015	San Diego, CA	UPC Sizing Workshop
Aug. 31 - Sept. 4, 2015	Ontario, CA	Backflow Prevention Assembly Tester 40 hr Course and Exam
September 4, 2015	Ontario, CA	Cross Connection Control Recertification - 8 hr Course and Exam
October 7, 2015	San Diego, CA	2012 UPC Residential and Commercial Inspection
COLORADO SEMINARS		
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July 13-17, 2015	Brighton, CO	Backflow Prevention Assembly Tester 40 hr course and Exam
July 18, 2015	Brighton, CO	Cross Connection Control Recertification - 8 hr Course and Exam
August 17-21, 2015	Grand Junction, CO	Backflow Prevention Assembly Tester 40 hr course and Exam
August 21, 2015	Grand Junction, CO	Cross Connection Control Recertification - 8 hr Course and Exam
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MAINE SEMINARS		
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May 28, 2015	Anoka, MN	2012 UPC Code Update Workshop
June 22-26, 2015	Elk River, MN	ASSE 5110 Backflow Tester Class 40 hours
June 22-25, 2015	Elk River, MN	Minnesota Rebuilder Certification to ASSE 5110 Tester and ASSE 5130 Repairer Certification
June 22-24, 2015	Elk River, MN	Minnesota Tester to ASSE 5110 Tester Certification
June 29, 2015	Anoka, MN	2012 UPC Code Update Workshop
August 10-14, 2015	Elbow Lake, MN	ASSE 5110 Backflow Tester Class 40 hours

August 10-13, 2015	Elbow Lake, MN	Minnesota Rebuilder Certification to ASSE 5110 Tester and ASSE 5130 Repairer Certification
August 10-12, 2015	Elbow Lake, MN	Minnesota Tester to ASSE 5110 Tester Certification
NEW JERSEY SEMINARS		
May 30-31, 2015 & June 6-7, 2015	East Brunswick, NJ	Backflow Prevention Assembly Tester 40 hr Course and Exam
June 7, 2015	East Brunswick, NJ	Cross Connection Control Recertification - 8 hr Course and Exam
PENNSYLVANIA SEMINARS		
June 15-19, 2015	Scranton, PA	Backflow Prevention Assembly Tester 40 hr Course and Exam
June 19, 2015	Scranton, PA	Cross Connection Control Recertification - 8 hr Course and Exam
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