



August 25, 2016

Climate Leadership Committee Gets Underway

In July CHBA – Alberta established the provincial Climate Leadership Committee. Chaired by Doug Owens of Brookfield Calgary, the two goals of the committee are to become the industry resource for the provincial government and to encourage members to become leaders in energy efficiency and reduction of environmental impacts. Currently the committee is working on a submission to the provincial government's Energy Efficiency Advisory Panel. The panel has created a discussion paper on energy efficiency that can be found [here](#). CHBA national has submitted a paper to the federal government which can be found [here](#).

Siding Contractors Offer Seminars on Healthy Walls

The Siding Contractors Association of Alberta is offering a half-day seminar on wall performance and healthy wall construction. The seminars will be held September 15 in Edmonton and September 22 in Calgary. The presenter is an industry favorite, Darrell Paul. The session discusses existing and new wall designs that will meet the 2014 Alberta Building Code requirements for energy efficiency under section 9.36. For more information and to register, follow the links to the registration forms for [Edmonton](#) or [Calgary](#).

2015 Plumbing Code Adoption 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.

Trade Dispute Will Cause Uncertain Pricing for Gypsum Board

A preliminary inquiry of the International Trade Tribunal has found evidence to support allegations by CertainTeed Canada that U.S. companies are dumping gypsum in western Canada below market costs. A tariff of up to 23.2% could be imposed on U.S. produced gypsum board as soon as September 6, 2016. U.S. based manufacturers have noted they would not supply to Canada under such a tariff. Other Canadian gypsum companies such as CGC are opposing the tariff. The company

does have Canadian based manufacturing and distribution, but it does not have enough capacity to meet supply over the long term. CertainTeed has announced a price increase of 12% in western Canada and combined with potential shortage from other North American manufacturers, this may create unstable and potentially higher pricing for gypsum in the short term. It is unclear how offshore manufacturers will be affected but builders should be on the lookout for off-shore product and confirm it meets North American standards. CHBA – Alberta will be writing to the tribunal cautioning about the potential effect of the tariff on Alberta’s housing market. More information can be found [here](#).

First Homes Qualify Under Net Zero Energy Labelling Program

In July CHBA National qualified five Net Zero Energy (NZE) homes and the first Net Zero Energy ready (NZEr) home under the Association’s Net Zero Energy Labelling Program Pilot. To read more about the CHBA Net Zero labeling program click [here](#). Mattamy Homes in Alberta has also completed a home under The Owens Corning Canada National Net Zero Project. Information can be found [here](#).

CHBA National Launches new Website

CHBA National has created a new www.chba.ca website with essential, easy to grab information for the public, government and members. Committee information is now under a password protected area. If you have never been on the website, we would encourage you to take a look.

Issues and Potential Solutions for Tripping Arc-Fault Breakers

CHBA – Alberta has been monitoring issues related to installation of arc fault circuit interrupters and has found these issues:

- Some breakers from some manufacturers are more sensitive;
- Certain equipment and certain manufacturers have a “start-up” surge that can trip the breakers, most often microwaves and window mounted air conditioners.
- Tools and equipment may trip breakers

Potential solutions:

- Change arc fault breaker manufacturer;
- Research equipment that you use to see if it has an initial high power draw on start-up and change these out;
- Switch manufacturers to use AFCI breakers that seem to be less sensitive;
- Provide higher amp breaker;
- Provide direct dedicated circuits for high-arc potential appliances such as dishwashers, built-in vacuums, microwaves.
- Some dishwashers may not require plug arc-fault protection if they are direct wired.

For more information contact:

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