

CLEARING THE AIR

Residential Ventilation Issues

by Dara Bowser & Bob Allison

HRAI Certification Card System Expanded to Include Residential Heat Loss & Gain, Residential Duct Design.

In the November 1996 Journal, we reported on the new HRAI Ventilation Certification system which involved the use of a wallet-sized card to prove certification. This has been expanded (effective January 1st, 1999) to include Residential Heat Loss & Gain as well as Residential Duct Design Certifications.

What is "HRAI CERTIFICATION"?

Essentially, HRAI certifies that the individual in question has taken a course of study and has received a passing grade (75%) on a written examination. Certified individuals agree to abide by the Arbitration/Decertification process set out by HRAI. Certified persons must renew their certifications periodically and meet whatever upgrade requirements are set for that renewal by HRAI. This may range from no requirements, to reviewing written updates to attending in class workshops or writing challenge examinations. There is no insurance requirement (unlike the APEO or AATO stamp program). Only individuals are certified, not companies or organizations.

Arbitration-Decertification

This process is based on an agreement which each certified person signs, binding them to install and/or carry out the system design according to the applicable codes, standards and regulations. If a concerned individual (homeowner or building official) complains about the work of a certified person, HRAI will investigate, mediate and arbitrate a settlement. If appropriate, an individual's certification will be revoked.

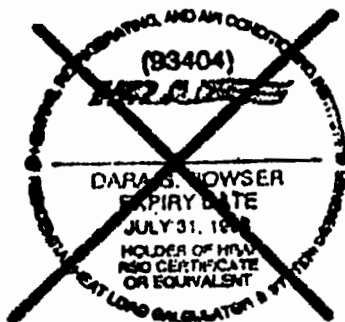
Complaints (written please) can be sent to Gord Arnott at HRAI:

5045 Orbitor Dr. #11-300
Mississauga, Ont. L4W 4Y4
email: garnott@hrai.ca

If you don't have a complaint but just need some information, contact Gord at any of the numbers at the end of this article.

Old "Rubber stamp" System

In the past, individuals who were certified in Residential Heat Loss and Gain and Residential Duct Design were issued a rubber-stamp with an expiry date (see illustration). This system was costly to maintain (reissuing and mailing the stamps was costly) and there was no method of



giving a proof of certification to someone who had qualified for Heat Loss and Gain but not for Duct Design. These rubber stamps have been invalid since December 31st 1998.

New "Certification Card" System

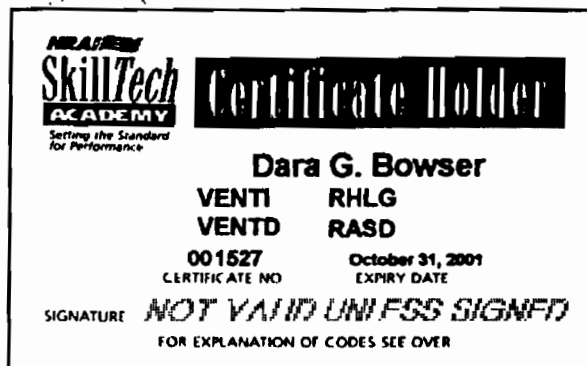
The new card system

has slightly different artwork than the older one and will carries one or more of the following codes according to the qualifications of the individual:

VENTI	Ventilation Installation
VENTD	Ventilation Design
RHLG	Residential Heat Loss & Gain
RASD	Residential Air System Design (Residential Duct Design).
SCHL	Small Commercial Heat Loss and Gain
SCDD	Small Commercial Duct Design

The unique code number (e.g. 001527 in the illustrated card) is assigned to the certified individual and remains the same even if the certifications change.

HRAI may add additional certifications to the card in future such as *Combo Heating Systems Design*.



List of Certified Persons

A list of certified persons is also available on request from HRAI. The certification list is available in printed or electronic format and in the near future, will be able to be downloaded directly from HRAI's website: *www.hrai.ca*. For the time being, lists can be requested directly from Lynn Bartoshuk at HRAI (*lbartoshuk@hrai.ca*).

Proof of Certification

The new card allows an individual to prove that he/she is certified by showing the card. The card can also be transferred onto drawings or calculations by:

- scanning and "electronic pasting", or
- putting the card down on the photocopier glass when copying the original, or
- applying a label with the image of the card (requires a little reduction and some scissors to create a sheet of 2" x 4" photocopier labels)

It is recommended that the certified person over-sign images used in this way to prevent unauthorized duplication.

Summary

This program is intended to make the Building Official's job easier by identifying individuals who have specialized training in the these specific HVAC areas.

Used properly, the certification card and the arbitration-decertification process can be a simpler, more effective method of obtaining compliance and enforcing HVAC requirements.

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NOTE: Although this column has appeared under the title "HRAI Commentary" in the past, readers should note that HRAI no longer endorses the content. The opinions expressed in this column are those of the writers and do not reflect the views of HRAI, OBOA or any other agency, corporation or individual.