DATE: October 10, 2014

TO: All Master HVAC Contractors and Authorities Having Jurisdiction

FROM: Roger D. Banks Jr., Assistant Director *RB*
             Division of HVAC

RE: Recent Changes to HVAC Statutes, Regulations, and Codes.

This correspondence is to serve as notification to all Master HVAC Contractors and Authorities Having Jurisdiction. Recent months have seen a great deal of change in statutes, regulations and codes pertaining to HVAC. Please be aware of the following changes as they may affect the way you conduct your business:

Qualifications for HVAC Licensure – Effective July 15, 2014, HVAC Statutes were amended to reflect changes made in House Bill 337. Experience in HVAC outside of Kentucky will now be recognized and considered for licensure. Master contractors (or the equivalent) from a jurisdiction other than Kentucky with at least five years of experience in that role may now qualify for master licensure in Kentucky. HVAC technicians with a minimum of four years of experience in a jurisdiction other than Kentucky may now qualify for journeyman licensure. HVAC experience gained in the U.S. military will also count as equivalent to experience gained in Kentucky under a Kentucky master. In all three scenarios, the appropriate level of testing is still required to obtain licensure.

Changes in Reinstatement and Inactive Status – Prior to July 15, licenses expired 91 days after the last day of a licensee's birth month were void. The only way to obtain licensure again was to re-test and submit a new application. Now a licensee has a 60 day grace period to renew his license once expired followed by a three year period to apply for reinstatement, which does not require re-testing. Additionally, once regulations take effect establishing a fee, a journeyman will have the option to place his or her license into inactive status; an option originally only offered to master contractors.

Ducts in unconditioned spaces - All types of residential ducts located in unconditioned spaces must be sealed by means of tapes, mastics, gaskets or other approved closure systems and pressure tested. There has previously been an exception to the pressure test agreed upon by the HVAC Board which includes a visual inspection of the sealed joints and seams. At the time, the Board agreed that the visual inspection met the intent of the code. After two years of duct pressure tests and visual inspections, the Board has agreed that the visual inspection is not equivalent to pressure testing and therefore does not meet the intent of the code. Effective July 1, 2015, all residential duct systems located in unconditioned spaces must be pressure tested in accordance with section 403.2.2 of the 2009 International Energy Conservation Code. The Division of HVAC will recognize a duct pressure test performed by an employee of a HVAC master contractor, the builder, or a certified energy rater. Additionally, reports generated by equipment software may be submitted at the rough or final inspection in lieu of witnessing by the inspector if the report contains the following information: the date the test was performed; the building address; the testing company's name, address, phone number, and technician; test type; and test equipment type.

Code update – If you are not aware, Kentucky has adopted the 2012 version of the ICC International Energy Conservation Code for commercial applications only. Kentucky will continue to use the 2009 Energy Code for Residential structures. This change became effective October 1, 2014.

Please check the Department website periodically to stay up to date on code changes and/or interpretations.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact our office or your regional State HVAC Inspector.