



In 2023 the Board decided to focus more deeply on Education for its contractors, by taking a positive and proactive approach to address educational needs in the State. By offering multiple training opportunities throughout the year, the Board demonstrates a commitment to enhancing education and professional development for individuals across different regions.

In March of 2023 the Board collaborated with the Plumbers and Gas Fitters Examining Board to organize the First Annual Master Class for HVAC Contractors with master gas and MPG licenses. The contributions of the staff of Alabama Power HVAC Training Center, Bevill State Community College, Home Builders Association of Alabama, Alabama Plumbers & Gas Fitters Examining Board, Alabama Liquefied Petroleum Gas Board, and the Mobile County (Mechanical) Inspections Department made this a successful day of training. This type of collaborative effort contributes significantly to the professional development and expertise of individuals in both the HVAC and plumbing industry.

In October of this year we offered our first education conference at the Hoover Metropolitan Complex. Contributors to the success of this conference were: Mark Dunn and Phillip Hyche with the City of Hoover Inspections Department, Dale Hall with the City of Homewood Inspections Department, Tim Jordan with Mobile County Inspection Services Department, Mark Roberts with International Code Council, Jason Reid with the Home Builders Association of Alabama (HBAA), Jimmy Morgan with the Alabama Plumbers & Gas Fitters Examining Board, and Christopher Stokes with the Alabama Liquefied Petroleum Gas Board. We believe that speakers from various municipalities and the Board serve as a platform for knowledge exchange, networking, and possibly even future collaborations.

By offering these in-person training opportunities the Board was able to provide approximately 20 percent of its licensees with free continuing education for this and future licensing years.

Newsletter Contents

Permitting	2
Rules and Regulations	2
HBAA Grants	3
Online Profiles	4
GC & LP Requirements	4
Compliance Report	5
Board Officers and Meeting Dates	6

**ALABAMA BOARD OF
HEATING, AIR CONDITIONING
AND REFRIGERATION
CONTRACTORS**

2023 BOARD MEMBERS

Chairman

Susan Bolt, Opelika

Vice Chairman

Wilber Webb, Mobile

Secretary

Tim Jordan, Mobile

Board Members

Bret Warren, Albertville

Eddie Harper, Foley

Albert Davis, Birmingham

Joel Owen, Jasper

Misty Forbus, Titus

Barrett Richard, Cullman

Dr. Heshmat Aglan, Tuskegee

Brett Hall, Eva

Dink Myers, Guntersville

PERMITTING IS IMPORTANT!

The Board cannot emphasize enough the importance of the 2018 International Mechanical Code/ 2018 International Residential Code requirements to pull permits when working in a city or county. Sections 106.1 and 107.1 emphasize the importance of obtaining the necessary permits.

If a contractor fails to pull a required permit, it can lead to disciplinary action by the Board, as outlined in Section 440-X-6-.01 of the Board's rules and regulations. This action may include an administrative fine. Additionally, if the Board receives a consumer complaint related to the lack of proper permits, they will notify the relevant city and/or county officials.

To avoid these potential consequences, the advice is clear: contractors should not take chances and should ensure they pull the necessary permits for their projects. If there's uncertainty about whether a permit is required in a specific city or county, the recommendation is to contact the Board for assistance in connecting with the appropriate authority.

It's crucial for contractors to be aware of and comply with local building codes and permit requirements to ensure the safety and legality of their HVAC or commercial refrigeration projects. Keep in mind that codes and regulations may vary between jurisdictions, so staying informed and following proper procedures is essential.

UPDATED RULES AND REGULATIONS

We want to remind all contractors that the newly revised rules and regulations are now available. In 2022 the Board's Working Group on Rules together with the Executive Director diligently worked on amending rule sections 440-X-1 and 440-X-2, and repealing and replacing the Board's rules and regulations in their entirety beginning with section 440-X-3. The rule section is finally complete and posted on the Board's website as a direct link to the Alabama Administrative Code and as a downloadable file in PDF format.

To view the entire section of the Alabama Administrative Code referencing the Board's Rules and Regulations, please visit the Board's website which has a direct link to the Code at:

<https://admincode.legislature.state.al.us/search?agencies=440&text=heating>

To download the law, rules and regulations in their entirety visit:

<https://hacr.alabama.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Law-Rules-and-Regulations.pdf>

CLASSROOM ASSISTANCE BY THE ALABAMA HOME BUILDERS FOUNDATION

In 2013 legislation was passed that allowed the transfer of any funds exceeding 25% of the Board’s budget at the end of each fiscal year to the Alabama Home Builders Foundation, a 504 (c)(3) non-profit organization. The funds transferred to the Foundation are to be used exclusively for classroom training tools at educational facilities that provide heating, air conditioning and/or refrigeration curricula.

To date the Board has transferred in excess of \$55,000.00 to the foundation and will assisted the Foundation in distributing grants to educational facilities for the 2024 school year.

The three facilities that were awarded grants for the 2023-2024 school year are pictured below. If you are the administrator or instructor for a heating, air conditioning and/or refrigeration curriculum in the State of Alabama and need assistance with training tools or supplies, we encourage you to apply by May 1, 2024, for the chance to obtain assistance by grant. To learn more about the Foundation visit: <https://ahbfoundation.org/>.



Elmore County Technical Center led by Roger Willis—\$1,000.00

Pictured:
Kory Boling—HBAA Foundation
Roger Willis—ECTC
Jeffrey Becraft—Executive Director



Southern Union Community College HVAC Program led by David Burdette—\$1,000.00

Pictured:
Erik Wagner—SUCC
Susan Bolt—Board Chairman
David Burdette—SUCC
Jeffrey Becraft—Executive Director
Kory Boling—HBAA Foundation



T.L. Faulkner Career Technical Center led by Harold Williams—\$1,000.00

Pictured:
Jeffrey Becraft—Executive Director
Kory Boling—HBAA Foundation
Harold Williams—TL Faulkner
Tim Jordan—Board Secretary
Wilber Webb— Board Vice Chairman

BOARD STAFF

Executive Director

Jeffrey M. Becraft

Compliance Officers

Waylon Spivey
Compliance Supervisor

Greg Nuby
Compliance Officer

Brandon Johnson
Compliance Officer

Mike Smith
Compliance Officer

Legal Staff

Ellen Leonard
Attorney

Jennifer Hargrove
Legal and Compliance
Assistant

Education Staff

Glenn Nuby
Education Administrator

Amber Moncrief
Assistant Education
Administrator

Administrative Staff

Amy Mashburn
Administrative Assistant

Nelda Claybrook
Accountant

Kelly Brendle
Accountant

Crystal Johnson
Accounting Assistant

GENERAL CONTRACTOR AND LIQUEFIED PETROLEUM LICENSING REQUIRED FOR HVAC CONTRACTORS

The Alabama Board for General Contractors' law requires that any HACR contractor performing a job over \$50,000 hold a subcontractor or prime contractor license issued by the General Contractors Board. If you have any questions about this requirements please contact the General Contractors Board directly at 800-356-6361 or online at: www.genconbd.alabama.gov.

Additionally, the Alabama Liquefied Petroleum Gas Board law requires that any HACR contractor involved in the installation, service or repair of a gas furnace connected to liquefied petroleum (LP) gas hold the appropriate certification with their agency. As of October 15, 2022, The Plumbers and Gas Fitters Examining Board and the Liquefied Petroleum Gas Board (LPGB) reached a reciprocal agreement with regards to obtaining a license with either Board. This applies to contractors who hold a Master Gas Fitters Card with the Plumbers and Gas Fitters Board (PGFB) or a Employee Competency Card with a Service Technician (Residential & Commercial) endorsement from the Alabama Liquefied Petroleum Gas Board. If you have any questions about LP Gas requirement please contact the Heating, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Board at 866- 855-1912, LP Gas Board at 800-545-9246, or online at: www.lpgb.alabama.gov

ONLINE PROFILES

Last year the Board audited all contractor files housed in the office. During the auditing process, the members of the staff manually entered any and all exam scores a contractor received while sitting for their contractors exam into the appropriate online contractor file.

The Board urges every contractor to login to their online profile to review the information posted within it. If you login and see that the information posted is incomplete or incorrect please let us know.

If you are not familiar with the online profile system please visit www.hacr.alabama.gov/licenses/ then click on the "Online Profile" icon. From the profile, a contractor can now change their status, change business names, and change demographics, such as address, phone number, and email addresses.

If you created an online profile and do not remember your login contact the Board at staff@hacr.alabama.gov to get your login information or reset your profile.

LEGAL CONTRACTORS PLACING THEMSELVES AT RISK!

Certified Contractors that allow uncertified individuals or an uncertified company to use their state certification should think twice. Contractors that allow an illegal contractor to use their certification to pull permits and/or perform HVAC-R work, are in violation of state law. Those contractors who circumvent state law and enable such work outside state law, place their certification at risk and subject themselves to a fine of \$2,000 per incident. Every violation will be taken very seriously. Protect your certification, don't let an uncertified contractor use you!

Parts Supply Houses Selling Equipment to Uncertified Individuals

State law is non-existent as to the sale of heating and air or commercial refrigeration installation equipment to uncertified contractors. The Board does not have the statutory authority to prevent the sale of equipment to unlicensed persons.

The Board has been given a list of parts houses which are allegedly selling equipment to non-certified persons. Even though the Board does not agree with this practice, it cannot be prevented. The Board can only ask that supply houses not sell to uncertified individuals. The Board is grateful to the supply houses that require proof of certification prior to a contractor being allowed to purchase equipment from them.

Federal law does, however, mandate that you must hold an EPA Freon Certification Card to purchase items which contain any type of refrigerant . To learn more about the EPA's refrigerant regulations visit: <https://www.epa.gov/section608>

2022 COMPLIANCE IN ACTION

UNLICENSED CONTRACTOR COMPLIANCE

Andrew Gunnells
Johnathan Andrew Smith
Paul Price
John Weston Thomason
James Eddie Mathis
Kenneth Baker
Matthew Perkins

UNLICENSED CONTRACTORS NON-COMPLIANCE

Chris Knott
Conner Norman
Jeremy Wayne Bruner
Chris White
Jason Kirkland
Derrick Richard Lawrence
Michael Bridges
Torey Holloway

WARRANTS

Kenneth Hale
Cody Hitt
Robert Carden
Colston Jones
Ben Jones
Cason Mizell
Barry Mizell

LICENSE REVOICATIONS

To view a quarterly report of the Board's disciplinary actions visit:

<https://hacr.alabama.gov/disciplinary-actions/>

Disciplinary Action Taken Against Contractors

Disciplinary action will be taken against contractors where work performed violates minimum standards set by the Board, as well as against those contractors who fail to comply with the Board's rules and regulations in such matters as displaying their numbers on their service or work vehicles and loaning their license to unlicensed contractors. Discipline can be in the form of a letter of reprimand, a monetary fine, additional continuation education hours, suspension or revocation of their license.

A complete investigation is conducted by the Board's investigators in each instance where suspicion of misconduct is presented. Once the investigation is finalized a report is submitted to the Board's Investigative Committee.

Findings of the investigation will be carefully reviewed, and the Committee will determine what, if any, disciplinary action shall be taken. Code violations or non-compliance with Board rule and regulations will result in disciplinary action.

The Board's disciplinary authority was put into effect when the Board was created in 1982, however, the disciplinary regulations have been revised. These revisions became effective on March 31, 2022.

All disciplinary action taken against any certified contractor is posted on the Board's website for public viewing beginning with cases from January 2020.

2024 Board Officers

At the November 15, 2023 meeting, the following Board members were elected to seats outlined below:

Wilber Webb - Chairman. Mr. Webb is from Mobile, Alabama, the owner of Webb's Heating & Air Conditioning, and has been a member of the Board since 2017.

Tim Jordan - Vice Chairman. Mr. Jordan is also from Mobile, Alabama, the owner of Hurricane Force Air, the Deputy Director of Mobile County Inspections Department, and has been a Board member since 2020.

Misty Forbus - Secretary. Mrs. Forbus is from Titus, Alabama, and the Parts Team Leader-Business Operations Support for Trane Technologies North America, and has been a Board member since 2021.

2024 Meeting Dates

Wednesday, February 17, 2024 at the Board Office in Montgomery at 11:00 a.m.

Thursday, May 22, 2024 location to be determined at 11:00 a.m.

Wednesday, August 7, 2024 at the Board Office in Montgomery at 11:00 a.m.

Wednesday, November 13, 2024 at the Board Office in Montgomery at 11:00 a.m.

Meetings dates are subject to change and are open to the public. A request to speak must be submitted to the Board at least 14 business days prior to the meeting in order to be put on the agenda.

Thank you Contractors

The Board appreciates the hard-working licensed contractors who are determined to deliver quality services to Alabama's consumers. These contractors spend a great deal of time and money to maintain their certifications to ensure quality work. The Board takes proactive action against uncertified contractors who are not properly trained, which includes issuing cease and desist orders, levying fines and obtaining warrants for their arrest, to protect consumers.

The Board is committed to supporting certified contractors and makes every effort to protect consumers. To report unlicensed activity visit: <https://hacr.alabama.gov/unlicensed-activity/>