



Oregon Air Conditioning Contractors Association

The Pacific NW Heating Cooling Association
Serving Oregon and SW Washington

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February 8, 2017

Senate Committee on Business and Transportation
Chair Beyer and members of the committee;

First, allow me to introduce ORACCA (Oregon Air Conditioning Contractor Association). We are a trade association with approximately one hundred HVAC/R (Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning/Refrigeration) contractors and associate member companies. As an association we are very interested in raising the level of expertise in our industry. To this end we plan our annual calendar of events and meetings to be eligible for CEU's. Our annual calendar of events affords attendees the ability to accumulate up to eighteen CEU hours toward any certification they may have. These CEU's could easily become CCB-CE's

ORACCA would like to take this opportunity to urge you to support Senate Bill 25. Our members feel very strongly that continuing education is a must for any industry, but wish to not be burdened with requirements for types of education that do not involve our specialty. The current rules have a net effect of restricting our contractors' knowledge of the innovation and best practices for HVAC/R, which is very expensive, but does not presently count toward the CCB requirement. We are in favor of allowing HVAC/R contractors to receive credit for product specific education, the same as various commercial contractors do now.

Our association supports and train/tests for the North American Training Excellence (NATE) program, which is a requirement of many manufacturers in order for a HVAC contractor to qualify as a dealer for those lines of product. We train/test for the Oregon requirement for Brazing certification. We also offer training/testing for the Federal section 608 of the Clean Air Act, refrigerant handling certification. We also offer training/testing for the Air Conditioning Contractors of America (ACCA) industry standards, such a Manual J and Manuals D.S and T. These deal with the Heat Loss of the building and how to size the home for heat and air conditioning, plus the proper duct sizing, etc.

We have recently converted two of our presentations to on-demand video to allow individual training for test participants. ORACCA has two more such videos in the works and plans to explore videoing some of our meetings to allow members to expose their entire staff to such education.

The association is also actively co-operating with the Oregon Mechanical Officials Association (OMOA) to provide a source for their CE requirements via quarterly combined meetings. We offer the technical expertise of expert suppliers to the industry to clarify code enforcement issues and to work toward consistent interpretations of HVAC related installations across jurisdictions. This would provide the OMOA with up to eight hours of CE for the year.

We would again like to take this opportunity to urge you to support Senate Bill 25. It just makes good sense.

Respectfully;

R.E. Stilwill

R.E. Stilwill
Executive Director

Not a member? We'd love to serve you, too.