



## **TDLR BLAST** - *Newsletter of the Texas Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Licensing Program*

### **Welcome to the TDLR Blast**

Our newsletter is intended to keep city officials, contractors, wholesalers, technicians and consumers throughout Texas informed of the Texas Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Licensing Act and TDLR's efforts to enforce the associated requirements. To receive news and updates on the Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Program go to <http://www.license.state.tx.us/newsletters/TDLRnotificationLists.asp>.



### **Local Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Requirements**

A new web page listing the local air conditioning and refrigeration requirements has been posted using data received from city officials throughout our state. We encourage you to reference the municipal requirements list at <http://www.license.state.tx.us/acr/acrcities.htm>. For city officials who have not had a chance to provide TDLR with their local air conditioning and refrigeration licensing requirements, please download our [Municipal Air Conditioning Requirements Questionnaire](#) and get the information to us as soon as you can. Your input and information is invaluable!



### **REMINDER - HB463 Registration of Air Conditioning Technicians**

As of June 30, 2008, all persons assisting Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Contractors in the performance of air conditioning and refrigeration maintenance work (i.e. service, repair, limited replacement, etc...) must be registered with TDLR.

This includes residential and commercial...

- **Service Technicians**
- **Sub-Contractors**
- **Installers**
- **Helpers** and
- **Any Other Personnel** who will be performing air conditioning and refrigeration maintenance unless specifically exempted by statute.

Air conditioning and refrigeration "*maintenance work*" means all work (including repair work) required for the continued normal performance of an environmental air conditioning system, a process cooling or heating system, a commercial refrigeration system, or commercial refrigeration equipment. "*Repair work*" is defined as diagnosing and repairing problems with air conditioning, commercial refrigeration, or process cooling or heating equipment, and remedying or attempting to remedy the problem. **NOTE:** "*maintenance work*" does not include "*total replacement of a system*". Reference Chapter 1302 of the Occupations Code or contact us for more information.

### **Register as an Air Conditioning Technician - It's Easy and It's the Law!**

It only costs \$20 dollars and takes just a few minutes. To register online go to [https://www.license.state.tx.us/App\\_Online](https://www.license.state.tx.us/App_Online). If you are unable to register online, you can register by mail - just go to <http://www.license.state.tx.us/acr/Forms/actechapp.pdf> for a downloadable application.



### **How Contractors Can Avoid Enforcement Action**

Don't get caught by surprise - make sure to double-check that your employees/subcontractors hold and maintain the appropriate license/registration. Failure to obtain the required license or registration can result in substantial enforcement actions including penalties as high as \$5,000 per day - per violation. To view the TDLR Enforcement Plan which lists available penalties & sanctions by program, go to <http://www.license.state.tx.us/enforcement/acrsanctions.htm>, click on "Penalties and Sanctions by Section", and then click "Air Conditioning".



### **Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Advisory Board**

The Board met on August 13, 2008 in Austin to discuss agenda items including recommendations regarding wholesale distribution of refrigerants to unlicensed individuals. To listen to the meeting and get more detail on the outcome of these matters go to: <http://www.license.state.tx.us/acr/acrmeet.htm>.



### **Air Conditioning Examination Review Committee**

If you would like to be considered for participation on our Air Conditioning Examination Review Committee, please send your contact information to [air.conditioning@license.state.tx.us](mailto:air.conditioning@license.state.tx.us). We will add your name to our list of willing participants.

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## **TDLR Compliance Staff (Other Notable Activities)**

- In October, the state's ACR Program Specialist, John Lain, was a guest of the "ON THE AIR" radio program out of Houston (with host Gary Parr) where he discussed ACR Technician registration.
- John Lain gave presentations to the Austin, Lubbock, Waco, and San Antonio ACCA Chapters on ACR Technician registration requirements.
- John Lain has contacted wholesalers and contractors in Central and South Texas, including Austin, Victoria, Corpus Christi, Houston, and various cities throughout the Valley providing reminders to those who must be registered as Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Technicians. Be on the look out - he may be visiting your city soon.



## **Consumer Safety Matters**

The Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) strongly encourages consumers to do their homework before hiring a contractor and safeguard their family by making sure the contractor is licensed and that their technicians are registered. Hiring unlicensed/unregistered workers to perform maintenance on your heating or air conditioning unit puts your family at risk.

Consider this...

- Unlicensed/unregistered workers have not undergone a criminal background check. These people will be working in and around your home - can you afford the risk?
- Unlicensed contractors have not been verified as meeting minimum competency requirements. This can result in improperly serviced or wired equipment that may cause fires or emit hazardous levels of carbon monoxide and endanger your family.
- Unlicensed contractors pose a financial threat to consumers. They often do not carry insurance to cover the cost of the repairs should their work prove to be defective.

TDLR offers these two simple tips to help identify licensed contractors who have undergone criminal background checks, met minimum competency requirements, and hold the required insurance:

- Look for state-issued license numbers which begin with "TACL" on company vehicles, business cards, and invoices. If no license number is evident, the contractor is most likely not licensed to work in the state.
- Check the status of the license or registration using the "Search License by License Type" feature on the TDLR website at [www.license.state.tx.us](http://www.license.state.tx.us) OR by calling TDLR's customer service lines at 1-800-803-9202.



## **Additional Contact Information:**

For general questions about the Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Program you may contact TDLR at (512) 463-6599 or toll-free (in Texas) (800) 803-9202. For the hearing impaired, Relay Texas - TDD is available at (800) 735-2989. You can also obtain information via the internet...see examples below.

- You may email questions to: [air.conditioning@license.state.tx.us](mailto:air.conditioning@license.state.tx.us)
- For our most Frequently Asked Questions/Answers go to: <http://www.license.state.tx.us/acr/acrfaq.htm>
- To file a complaint or report a violation go to: <http://www.license.state.tx.us/Complaints/>



## **Did You Know?**

A person may not purchase a refrigerant or equipment containing a refrigerant in this state unless the person holds:

- (1) a state or municipal Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Contractor License, or
- (2) a Certificate of Registration (to purchase refrigerant) issued by the Department

Additionally, unless specifically exempted by law, a person who purchases a refrigerant must provide to the seller evidence of the person's compliance with the applicable license or registration requirement under this chapter. Reference Chapter 1302.353 and 1302.355 for more information.



## **Subcooling to Superheat**

Your participation/input is critical! If you have any questions, concerns, comments, or observations, please contact us - we want to hear from you. You may reach John Lain, the state's Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Program Specialist, at (512) 539-5667 or e-mail him at: [JohnL@license.state.tx.us](mailto:JohnL@license.state.tx.us). Please feel free to take this information and **PASS IT ON!**