

GET THE LEAD OUT!

THE FOUNDATION'S VISION PRIMES PLUMBING INDUSTRY FOR LEAD FREE REALITY

Led by the PHCC Educational Foundation, the Get the Lead Out Plumbing Consortium has trained more than 2,200 professionals to date on upcoming regulations.

When the PHCC Educational Foundation discussed the new federal "Reduction of Lead in Drinking Water Act" at its April 2012 Board of Directors meeting, the law's effective date of January 4, 2014 sounded like a long time off - almost two years away. But it didn't take long to realize that was actually very little time to train an entire industry on the mandatory changes resulting from the new law, which will make it illegal to sell or install pipes, fittings and fixtures in applications that convey water for human consumption that have a weighted average lead

content exceeding 0.25% (the previous national standard was 8% maximum).

Those Board members had the vision to realize this new regulation would be a "game changer" for everyone from plumbing distributors and engineers to contractors and inspectors, especially considering the amount of stock in trucks and warehouses that would become obsolete, as well as new products that would require different techniques for soldering.

Putting the Plan in Motion

With that foresight, the Foundation led efforts to form the "Get the Lead Out Plumbing Consortium" – a cross-section of the plumbing industry comprised of leading trade associations and manufacturers (see sidebar on page 2). With an aggressive plan to train the industry, the Consortium has developed a comprehensive web site – www.GetTheLeadOutPlumbing.com. The site includes:

- Interpretation and enforcement issues related to the new law.
- Information about Lead Free products, basis for Lead Free product selection and compliance, material factors impacting the ability to solder Lead Free alloys effectively and solder-flux considerations.
- Upcoming training opportunities, including webinars, seminars, and trade association events.
- Step-by-step action plans for distributors, engineers, contractors, and code officials on how to prepare for the federal Lead Free law.

Continued on page 2...



Making a Difference

Realizing that awareness is the key to compliance of the new requirements, the Consortium has also been crossing the nation to spread the word, presenting training programs at 42 industry events and chapter meetings. To date, the group has trained more than 2,200 plumbing professionals. Over 20 PHCC chapters will host Lead Free training events by the end of the year.

“This is a great example of how – with the proper vision, leadership and resources – PHCC has been able to not only prepare contractors to be ready for these new changes so they won’t get caught with material they won’t be able to use, but train them on the new products and techniques as well,” says Cindy Sheridan, chief operating officer of the PHCC Educational Foundation. “We wouldn’t be able to make this kind of impact without the gifts of our members and contributors who truly are invested in this industry.”

As testament to the vision of the Foundation and the work of the Consortium, this network of information and education already has reached and trained thousands of professionals. However, the January effective date of the federal law is fast approaching, and the Consortium urges all plumbing professionals to stay tuned to www.GetTheLeadOutPlumbing.com for new information and changes as they become available. “If you haven’t been preparing, you need to now,” Sheridan warns. “This law is coming, and everyone needs to be ready!”



Led by the PHCC Educational Foundation, the Consortium represents a cross-section of the plumbing industry comprised of the following trade associations and manufacturers:

- American Society of Plumbing Engineers (ASPE)
- American Supply Association (ASA)
- International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO)
- International Code Council (ICC)
- Legend Valve
- Milwaukee Valve
- NIBCO INC.
- Plumbing Heating Cooling Contractors - National Association (PHCC)
- PHCC Educational Foundation
- Plumbing Manufacturers International (PMI)
- Reliance Worldwide
- Viega, LLC
- Watts Water Technologies

The screenshot shows the website for GetTheLeadOut Plumbing Consortium. The navigation bar includes Home, Events, News, Members, FAQs, History, and Resources. The main content area features the mission statement: "The mission of the Consortium is to provide widespread education about the manufacture, distribution and installation of Lead Free™ plumbing products." Below this, there are two video thumbnails with play buttons, one titled "Lead Free Training Presentation Video" and another "Conversion Specialist Check With Us About The New Regulations and Offer Advice to Contractors". A large banner reads "The national law is coming... Are you ready?" with a countdown timer showing 205 14 56 45. A "Frequently-Asked Questions" section is also visible, with a sub-section titled "UNDERSTANDING THE LAW" containing text about the Reduction of Lead in Drinking Water Act (RDWA) and its effective date of January 1, 2014.

INDUSTRY'S FIRST HVAC APPRENTICE CONTEST TO DEBUT AT CONNECT 2013



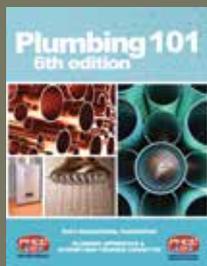
Be sure to check out the plumbing and HVAC apprentice contests, which will be in the center of the trade show floor at the CONNECT 2013 event in Las Vegas, Nevada, in October. Twenty plumbing apprentices and twelve HVAC apprentices from around the country will compete for top honors and prizes.

For more than 20 years, we've been witnessing the impact of our popular Plumbing Apprentice Contest, held every year at our annual conference. Not only does the next generation of contractors get an opportunity to test their knowledge and skills on actual products, but the PHCC Educational Foundation then donates some of the materials used during the contest to local schools, which use them to train students interested in a future in our great industry. The impact of this event grows and grows; it's truly a win-win! Adding an HVAC Apprentice Contest to CONNECT is yet another win for the industry. For more information, email_hall@naphcc.org.

Thanks to our committed sponsors: A.O. Smith, Copper Development Association, Delta Faucet Co., NIBCO, RIDGID, and Viega.



Plumbing E-Books to Debut on Kindle, Nook, and Apple



The Foundation's popular plumbing textbook series is making its debut on Kindle, Nook, Apple, and CengageBrain.com. Plumbing 101, the first year plumbing apprentice textbook, is due to become available on these platforms before the end of June. The remaining textbook titles will follow during summer 2013, offering apprentices and other plumbing students a choice in selecting an electronic or print version of the textbook. Watch for the release of these books at your favorite e-book retailer. For additional information, e-mail Merry Beth Hall at: hall@naphcc.org.

Training the Trainers - Regional Instructor Workshops



In May & June, the Foundation delivered two great workshops for apprentice & trade school instructors. Instructors from across the country picked up new skills for teaching tradespeople & adult learners and heard tips on using technology to teach in the classroom. Sessions on new power tool innovations and how to properly solder new lead-free fittings were provided to keep attendees up to date on industry trends & regulations.

"The plumbing and HVACR industries are very technologically-driven," says Merry Beth Hall, Foundation Director of Apprentice and Journeyman Training. "Our biggest challenge as an industry is to

address our image and demonstrate that our jobs are on the forefront of technology and are critical to society. Starting with our classroom instruction, we can help improve our industry's image in the minds of parents, students, and administrators."

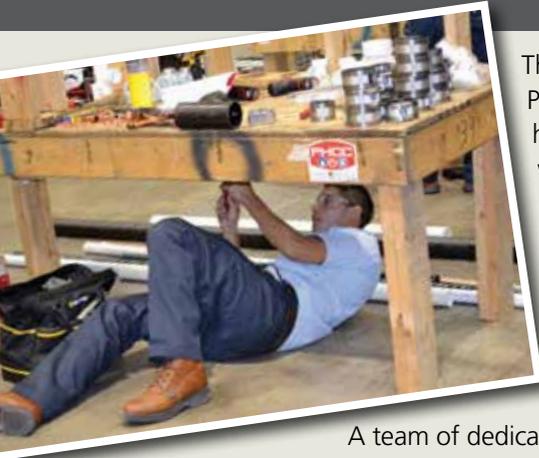
Our thanks to Brasscraft, Copper Development Association and Kohler for their headline sponsorships of these workshops.

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WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO RUN THE SKILLSUSA PLUMBING CONTEST?



The annual SkillsUSA Plumbing Contest is a hands-on competition where around fifty students are each required to rough-in a small residential plumbing system. How much work does that take to set-up? Put simply – **“A LOT!”**

A team of dedicated Foundation contractor volunteers and staff begin months in advance to secure all the materials & equipment the contestants will need. It requires masterful logistics to handle the transport of materials & set-up of the fifty wooden workbenches the contestants will use as the floor system for their rough-in. A package of all the plumbing materials each contestant needs must be assembled, with no missing pieces. The volunteers act as judges & review all the contestants' work. But the job isn't done when time is called – when the contest is over, all of those materials and the benches must be broken down, sorted and stored for the next year's contest. It is a massive effort that must be completed on a very tight schedule to be ready for the contestants on the front end and out of the meeting hall quickly on the tail end of the event.

In June, Foundation contractor volunteers take on this challenge again in Kansas City at the National Leadership and Skills Conference. Our fifty-two plumbing contestants this year will join nearly 6,000 other young people in a meeting hall packed with vocational competitions for every field imaginable – from baking to bricklaying to welding. The Foundation is also represented on the advisory committee for the SkillsUSA HVAC competition.

Our thanks to the contractor volunteers and generous sponsors who make our participation in this competition possible.



2013 SkillsUSA Plumbing Contest

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- UA Local #8

FOUNDATION & AUXILIARY PARTNER TO PROVIDE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

"I would absolutely love to send my project manager to the class. It looks like it would be perfect for us. I would love to encourage him to go after more work - I just don't want him out there unprepared. But it's just beyond what we can afford right now."

This statement came from a small PHCC contractor business owner after examining the costs to send his project manager to the Foundation's *Essentials of Project Management Course*. Foundation staff refused to accept that as the end of the conversation, instead pointing the business owner to an application for an educational grant available from the PHCC National Auxiliary. The grant was created by the Auxiliary to help unlock educational opportunities for PHCC business owners in difficult financial situations.

The business owner completed the

Auxiliary educational grant application and soon received word back that the grant had been approved. The Foundation was able to offer a reduction in the course registration fee as well. Working together, the Foundation & Auxiliary were able to provide over \$2,250 in assistance toward the company's cost to send the project manager to the four-day program.

"I have to say, I was surprised that everyone was willing to do so much to help us. Thank you so much to everyone who made this possible. My PM brought back some really great ideas from the class that I know will help our company. Thanks again." – John Hicks, Owner of Griffin Heating and Air Conditioning in North Carolina

"The class was awesome. It was an intense four days, packed with info and I would sit through it all

again. I'm sure I would learn just as much as the first time, if not more. It opened my eyes to the world of project management and I use what I learned daily. I want to thank PHCC for the opportunity to attend this class, as without their help I would have missed out on some valuable information." – Eric Rhyne, Project Manager at Griffin Heating and Air Conditioning in North Carolina



FOUNDATION & VIEGA TRAIN USA'S WORLDSKILLS PLUMBING CONTESTANT



WorldSkills is the global version of the SkillsUSA competition. It is held every two years to allow youth from 17 to 22 years old demonstrate their excellence in skilled professions. Training a contestant to participate in WorldSkills is a huge undertaking, in part due to the use of products and techniques that are not used in the United States. Contestant Nick Michalenko and his advisor, PHCC member Bob Hahn, traveled to New Hampshire to work with Viega to learn the European products and techniques that will be used in the competition in Germany. Viega's trainer, Jeremy Ferriter, spent a day working with Michalenko and Hahn to

ensure they were comfortable using the German products and tools so Nick will have a competitive edge at the July international competition.

STILL WORKING TO ADOPT TECH TOOLS? YOU ARE NOT ALONE!



“How many of you work for companies where every foreman has an iPad or tablet computer for use in the field?”

That simple question was posed by instructor Kirk Alter during the Foundation’s recent **Advanced Project Management Workshop**, sponsored by Viega & hosted at their educational facility in Nashua, New Hampshire.

The response was just a couple hands raised in a room of 27 project managers from some of the nation’s largest & most successful plumbing & mechanical subcontractors. What followed was an excellent discussion of the technology tools being used (and not used) by those in the room.

Attendees cited the usual reasons for not keeping pace with technology, with cost being the most frequent excuse. “So how much does it cost to give a foreman an iPad?” asked Alter. “Do it right and it costs NOTHING! The savings in management time, the ability to track data & communicate between the field and office systems –

really, it’s free!” This was backed up by a video showing an analysis of the return on investment of using iPads on a single construction project. The simple analysis showed that the devices had paid for themselves several times over by the end of the project.

During the workshop, attendees discussed Building Information Modeling (BIM), Big Data and how to use technology to recruit younger workers to our industry. Another video about the use of 3-D scanner technology prompted a discussion on how powerful it could be for difficult renovation projects – allowing everyone on the project to explore the workspace and plan their work without disturbing the current occupants.

Apps and high dollar software can be greatly beneficial if used properly, but even basic office tools like Excel can be used to manipulate data & produce sophisticated charts on project costs, optimal manpower loading schedules and more. The attendees left the workshop with access to a cloud-based shared file loaded with the class handouts, links to the videos shown in class and some of the tools discussed during the program.

Check future issues of this newsletter and the Foundation’s e-newsletter for details on the 2014 offering of this workshop.





PHCC Educational Foundation

Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors-National Association

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AS OF
JUNE 13TH



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