

# the NEWS

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## fyi INDUSTRY BRIEFS

# Congress Approves Repeal of 1099 Reporting Requirement

### Contractors

- The Dwyer Group Inc. (Waco, Texas) has appointed Mark Dawson to the newly created position of national account liaison across all of The Dwyer Group's brands.
- GreenHomes America (Saratoga Springs, N.Y.) announced that A. Johnson Heating, Cooling and Plumbing has joined its national member network.

### Manufacturers

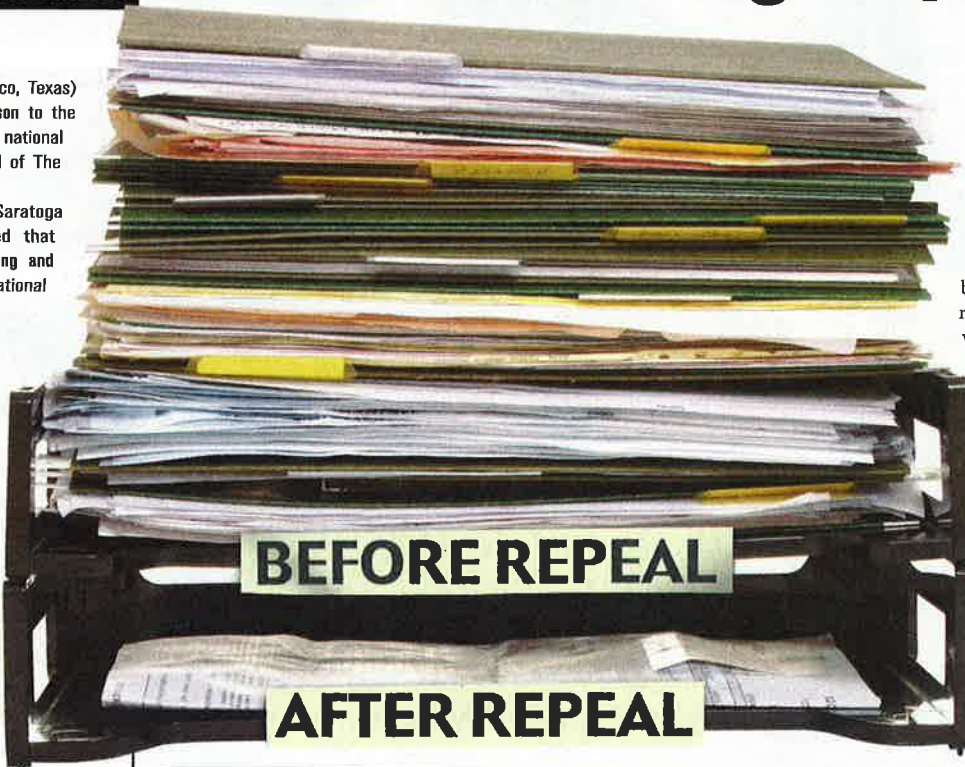
- Calmac Corp. (Fairawn, N.J.) has joined the California Energy Storage Alliance (CESA) to promote a more efficient electric grid using renewable energy in tandem with energy storage.
- ClimateMaster (Oklahoma City) promoted Tony Landers to director of marketing-commercial products and Jake Bailey to commercial sales engineer.

### Distributor

- Modern Supply (Knoxville, Tenn.) has hired Chris Holbert as an outside sales representative covering Knoxville and the surrounding area.

### Organizations

- RISI announced a collaboration with Pellet Fuels Institute. RISI will conduct the RISI and PFI Pellet Manufacturing Survey, a monthly North American pellet survey of prices, production, fiber sourcing, inventories, and end use markets.  
— compiled by Cherie Preville



By Kimberly Schwartz  
Of The NEWS Staff

**O**n April 14, President Obama signed into law House Resolution 4 (H.R. 4), which repealed an unpopular provision of the new health care law that would have created a paperwork burden for many small businesses. The passage of H.R. 4, which repealed the 1099 reporting requirement, was the culmination of many months of effort by small businesses across many industries to convince lawmakers to repeal the provision before it became effective in January 2012.

This repeal was hailed by many contractors in the HVAC industry as providing needed relief from an onerous IRS regulation.

### AN UNPOPULAR PROVISION

In March 2010, President Obama signed the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) into law. Included in the PPACA under Section 9006

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# Clearing Up Zoning Misconceptions

By B. Checket-Hanks  
Of The NEWS Staff

**R**esidential zoning systems have come a long way in recent years, both in terms of the equipment itself, and in an increased understanding of how to apply it correctly. Yet there are still many misconceptions about these systems that zoning experts are trying

to dispel. These experts emphasize that zoning systems are increasingly installed in retrofits as well as new construction; that they improve airflow control; and that they are not necessarily for a comfort customer or an energy-saving customer.

Don Prather, technical services specialist for the Air Conditioning Contractors of America (ACCA), said the top misconceptions about residential zoning are that

it always saves energy; that zones can be designed properly without doing a Manual J8 load calculation; that installing a zoning damper and additional thermostat to an existing system always improves operation; and that zoning always solves all of the comfort issues on an existing HVAC system.

Dick Foster, president of ZoneFirst Corp., said the misconceptions are that it

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# ACCA Zoning Standard

By B. Checket-Hanks  
Of The NEWS Staff

**Z**oning systems can be extremely beneficial to both homeowners and the HVAC contractors who install the systems. However, their complexity can sometimes lead to confusion, and perhaps avoidance among contractors.

A new standard developed by the Air Conditioning Contractors of America (ACCA Manual Zr, Residential Zoning Design) aims to help contractors with zoning design to improve the installation and operation of zoned systems.

According to Don Prather, technical services specialist for ACCA, "The standard was developed to address the complex issues related to zoning and to provide HVAC system designers with consensus, industry guidance for making good design and application decisions."

He added, "Manual Zr provides the zoning industry and HVAC contractors with a common platform for developing design and sales tools for various types of zoning approaches and customer needs."

With the release of Manual Zr, Prather said, HVAC contractors will benefit from having an ANSI-recognized standard to use "as the definitive tool to aid them in the numerous, often complex considerations they must make when selecting and designing zoned HVAC systems."

## WORK IN PROGRESS

According to Prather, the standard has been under development for over a year. ACCA has completed the development process and Manual Zr is being released for an ANSI public review period; the 45-day comment period is to start by mid-May.

Upon completion of the ANSI public review period, resolution of received comments, and subsequent public review of any resulting substantive changes, the finalized manual will become available as an ANSI-recognized standard before year-end.

Manual Zr is being written to reflect "sound industry practices and design approaches," stated

an earlier announcement from the association.

According to ACCA, "Residential zoning and VAV systems ... achieve their full potential and benefit when properly designed." The new manual will address:

- Benefits and cost (comfort, energy, installed cost).
- Load calculations for zoned systems (peak block load for equipment size; peak zone load and peak room load for air distribution; glass performance, internal and external shading issues).
- Zoning strategies and protocols (diversity issues; MJ8 block load output flags for zoning, and room load output flags rooms that have large load peaks; multi-level construction; glass direction; bonus rooms in attic, in basement, or above garage; open floor plan versus isolated spaces; variation in room and zone cfm for winter and summer; personalized temperature control; internal loads for hobby rooms; continuous fan option).

• Types of zoned systems and attributes (local baseboard or duct coil heating, multiple furnaces or refrigeration cycle units, central heating-cooling with VAV dampers, split coil refrigeration cycle with multiple indoor coils).

• Equipment options and attributes (electric or hot water baseboard, or local duct coil; window units; PTAC and PTHP; central furnace with cooling coil; central air-source or water-source heat pump; split coil equipment).

• Controls and control strategies (bypass air issues for VAV; types of VAV dampers; VAV damper sizing; multispeed or variable speed; airflow management by microprocessor logic).

• Manufacturer performance data and equipment sizing procedure (governed by Manual S).

• Supply and return grille selection (constant-volume versus VAV device).

• Duct airway sizing (governed by Manual D).

• Energy and operational cost issues.

• Additional design procedures, reference tables, equations, and a glossary. ■

FOR MORE INFORMATION...  
Visit [www.acca.org](http://www.acca.org).

## ZONING OPINIONS

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can't be done or does not work; that nobody wants it or will pay for it; that it's too expensive; and that it's easier to put in multiple units or a mini-split.

"Most contractors want to take the quick in and out, and not take the time to run a load calc, look at the existing system, and try and fix it," Foster said. "However, hydronic zoning with zone valves and circulators has been done for years. It works for boilers, and a boiler, circulators, and zone valves are more expensive than a furnace and zone dampers. People pay a lot more for in-floor zoned radiant heat than a forced air zoned system.

"It is long overdue that zoning should be recognized by the HVAC industry and energy regulators as a simple solution to save energy," he continued. "No one would think of only having one light switch for their entire home, but we do this with heating and cooling when we only have one thermostat."

## RETROFIT SITUATIONS

"The first misconception is that the need for zoning is driven by architecture," said Dennis Laughlin, Arzel Zoning. "Most people believe that two-story houses, large homes, or homes with

cathedral ceilings are the [ideal customers].

"While architecture is a great indicator, the people who occupy the space determine the need for conditioning," he said. "So if your investigation process does not include some time to seek out your customer's issues and expect-

tations, you may walk right by a 1,800-square-foot ranch home that is a prime candidate."

In retrofit situations, zoning should be considered part of a total solution. "Zoning will not cure oversized equipment," Laughlin said. "Zoning cannot overcome improperly sized o-

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