



eBrief

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Oklahoma SB 1022, Mechanical Licensing Act amended

When the Oklahoma Legislature originally enacted the Mechanical Licensing Act of the Construction Industries Board (CIB), the intent of the act was to apply to operations accessible by the general public. The industrial community of Oklahoma worked with the legislature to ensure the appropriate extent of the new act. The original statute read:

C. The licensing requirements of the Mechanical Licensing Act shall not apply to public utilities, public service corporations, intrastate gas pipeline companies, gas gathering pipeline companies, gas processing companies, rural electric associations, or municipal utilities and their subsidiaries during work on their own facilities or during the performance of energy audits, operational inspections, minor maintenance, or minor repairs for their customers or on their own equipment.

Unfortunately, over the years, the CIB misinterpreted the act and attempted to force contractors to obtain an Oklahoma Mechanical License any time they worked on gas processing company equipment. Many times, GPA and GPA member companies successfully challenged the CIB's misinterpretation, and in 2000 even received an Oklahoma attorney general opinion that contractors of gas processing companies were indeed exempt. Despite our successful track record, CIB continued to interfere with the operations of contractors working for GPA member companies, causing work delays and production shutdowns.

GPA's Oklahoma State Coordinator Danny Nixon, ONEOK, and GPA Director of Government Affairs Jeff Applekamp, identified this problem as a high priority for the 2013 Oklahoma Legislative Session. Nixon and Applekamp worked with Oklahoma Sen. Dan Newberry and Oklahoma Rep. Jon Echols to correct this problem once and for all. Working with lobbyists representing several GPA member companies operating in Oklahoma, we were able to craft amendment language and pass Oklahoma SB 1022 to clearly exempt contractors working for gas processing companies.

Despite pressure from opponents, Oklahoma Gov. Mary Fallin stood with our industry and signed SB 1022 into law with an effective date of Aug. 22, 2013.

Stain tube standards under review

Technical Section B – Analysis & Test Methods has formed a committee led by Ron Carnahan, MarkWest, to update and develop language related to the industry's use of stain tubes. GPA standards relating to stain tubes, 2377-86, 2194-94 and 2188-89, are under review.

Committee members include:

Steve Kinney, Boardwalk Pipeline Partners
Weldon Wright, Energy Transfer
Ray Lesoon, EnviroTrac Environmental Services
Sungi Johnson, SGS North America Inc.
John Renfrow, Unit Petroleum Co.

GPA Standard 2177-13 to be available soon

Standard 2177-13 – “Analysis for Natural Gas Liquid Mixtures Containing Nitrogen and Carbon Dioxide by Gas Chromatography” has been revised and balloted and will be published on the GPA web site and available for purchase by the end of this week. Visit www.GPAGlobal.org/publications.

Plant Project and Design Checklist to be updated

Technical Section A – Facilities Design & Optimization has formed a task force to update the “Plant Project and Design Checklist” manual, which originated in 1997 to assist natural gas processors in developing processing projects. The task force was assigned based on a suggestion to incorporate the checklist into the “Stage-Gate” process for planning and executing a project.

Task force members include:

John Cardone, Aux Sable
Jerry Gump, Baker & O’Brien
Jeff Sawchuk, BP
John Urdaneta, Plains Exploration & Production
Guy Suffridge, S&B Engineers & Constructors

Chromatography school registration reminder

GPA has 65 registered students for GPA’s School of Gas Chromatography scheduled for Aug. 5 – 9 in Tulsa, Okla. GPA will accept up to 100 students this year and does expect the school to sell out once again. If you know of someone who intends to register, please direct them to www.GPAGlobal.org/chromo for registration and hotel information.

Available midstream industry recruiting tool

A guest write-up from Alan Dove, Enogex

At the recent MidContinent regional meeting, the keynote speaker, Mike Stice with Access Midstream, reminded the audience of an ongoing dilemma facing our industry – the ability to attract and keep new talent. This is true across all facets of our business including operators, mechanics, welders, electricians, accountants, engineers, and above all, the individuals whom will lead our companies in the future.

Our industry has a tremendous need over the next 10 years to replace a large number of people who will be retiring. I heard several attendees comment that they felt we should do a better job of selling our industry to the young people in high school, technical school and college.

I believe we work in a vibrant and exciting industry. The midstream industry provides the energy that allows our economy to continue to flourish on a world scale. This caused me to think about how I might go about convincing someone to join our industry. I know I can talk about my company, and maybe even sell it to someone, but in thinking about how I might sell the broader midstream industry, I could not come up with any tools I could use. I wondered what might be available from GPA, so I called Mark Sutton, GPA’s executive director, and asked him about available resources.

Mark mentioned a GPA initiative a few years ago that created a presentation for exactly this purpose. Mark shared this presentation with me and told me that it is available to any employee belonging to a GPA or GPSA member company. I encourage you to download the PowerPoint file and share the presentation when an opportunity presents itself.

To view/download the presentation:

1. Visit www.GPAGlobal.org.

2. Look for the "Account Login" area in the left column. Individuals – members or non-members – can create a user account to order publications, etc. Individuals belonging to a member company will have access to the area in the left column after logging in that says "Members Only Area."
3. Click "Members Only Area"
4. Look for the "Presentations" link in the "Members Only Area."

Convention proceedings to hit mailboxes soon

Those who opted in to receive the 2013 GPA Convention Proceedings should see the flash drives arrive by the end of this month (it will take a bit longer for those with addresses outside of the United States).

Please keep an eye out for the envelope pictured below. If you didn't request a flash drive or didn't attend the convention and would like a copy, the proceedings are available for purchase in the Publications area on the GPA web site by the end of June: <https://www.gpaglobal.org/publications/>.

Chapter Leadership

Congratulations to new leadership teams in several chapters. Please convey a "thank you" to these individuals and their companies for making this commitment.

Houston GPA

Chair - Harvey Hensley, S & B Engineers & Constructors
Vice Chair - Jeremy Bray, Enterprise
Treasurer - Robert Biffle, The Williams Companies
Secretary - Rick Crooker, S-Con

North Texas GPA

Chair - Rick Baldwin, Atmos Energy Mid-Tex Division
Vice Chair - Rick Johnson, Hanlon Gas Processing Ltd.
Secretary - Jon Jasper, EPC Inc.
Treasurer - Jason Randall, Nalco

MidContinent GPA

President - Preston Soell, Enogex
Vice President - Brian Leedy, Exterran
Secretary - Jason Reed, Exterran
Treasurer - Ryan Cocklin, Compressor Systems, Inc.

Permian Basin GPA

Chair - Quentin Mendenhall, DCP Midstream
Vice Chair - Jennifer Corser, DCP Midstream
Treasurer - Jeff Stake, Allied Equipment
Secretary - Colby Norris, Nalco Company

Appalachian Basin GPA to hold inaugural events next week

Support the Appalachian Basin GPA by attending its first luncheon at Lindenwood Golf Club near Cannonsburg/Southpointe, Penn., on June 19 at 11:30 a.m. A golf outing will be held the following day, June 20 at 10 a.m. at the same location.

To register for the events or to become a sponsor, visit www.abgpa.org.

Save the dates: fall chapter events

Fall traditionally brings a full calendar of events for GPA chapter activities. For more information about events listed below, visit www.GPAGlobal.org/chapters.

September

12 - Rocky Mountain GPA Annual Meeting
13 - Rocky Mountain GPA Sporting Clays
20 - MidContinent GPA Sporting Clays

Houston GPA and North Texas GPA traditionally hold September membership events, but dates have not been set.

October

- 3 - Appalachian Basin GPA Luncheon
- 4 - Appalachian Basin GPA Sporting Clays
- 11 - Houston GPA Annual Meeting and Golf Tournament

November

- 6 - North Texas GPA Sporting Clays
- 7 - North Texas GPA Annual Meeting
- 7 - Rocky Mountain GPA Chapter Luncheon Meeting

30th annual GPA Europe conference

Meet your friends and peers in the European gas processing network while attending GPA Europe's special celebration of 30 successful years, Sept. 18 – 20 at the Roxburghe Hotel in Edinburgh, Scotland.

The meeting will include four half-day sessions with 27 presentations, including a keynote discussion forum on the role of natural gas in an era of renewables.

Other sessions will address:

- LNG production and regasification
- Commercial issues
- Offshore applications
- Gas treating

The conference will also feature a young professionals program, golf tournament and companion's tour.

Visit www.gpaeurope.com for more information and to register.

Interested in joining GPA or GPSA?

Memberships in both GPA and GPSA are corporate, meaning any employee of a member company may take advantage of membership benefits.

GPA members are predominately midstream operators, and membership is open to an individual, partnership, firm or corporation which operates or has operational interests in the midstream industry.

GPSA members are service and supply companies that service midstream end-users. GPSA companies may be involved in, but are not limited to, equipment manufacturing and/or sales, material sales, construction work, etc., for the midstream industry.

Company-specific membership benefits include:

- access to research data
- legislative engagement that maximizes the industry's opportunity to have a positive impact
- regulatory assistance
- training
- professional development of employees
- networking opportunities
- special discounts for registrations and publications

Benefits specific to all member company employees include:

- award recognition
- career enhancement
- leadership opportunities
- peer network development

For specific membership information and to apply online, visit:

[GPA](https://www.gpaglobal.org/membership/) (<https://www.gpaglobal.org/membership/>)

[GPSA](http://gpsa.gpaglobal.org/membership/) (<http://gpsa.gpaglobal.org/membership/>)

GPA/GPSA Calendar

June

- 13 Rocky Mountain GPA Chapter Luncheon
- 14 MidContinent GPA Sporting Clays
- 14 Rocky Mountain GPA Annual Golf Tournament
- 19 Appalachian Basin GPA Luncheon
- 20 Appalachian Basin GPA Golf Outing
- 19-21 GPA/GPSA Summer Board Meetings
- 28 Permian Basin GPA Sporting Clays

July

- 11-12 Chapter Leadership Meeting

August

- 5-9 GPA School of Gas Chromatography
- 14-15 Environmental Committee Meeting

Gas Processors Association

6526 E. 60th St.
Tulsa, OK 74128
(918) 493-3872

www.GPAglobal.org

GPA@GPAglobal.org
