FTC Issues New Set of Green Guides

Right now on the desks of Federal Trade Commissioners is the new set of so-called Green Guides that are used by the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to guide enforcement of existing laws. They are the first environmental-marketing guidelines in 12 years and could radically reshape how far marketers can go in painting their products, packaging or even corporate images green.

The Green Guides aren't new laws; rather, they're an update of how the FTC will interpret its mandate to enforce long-standing laws against unfair and deceptive advertising. Still, the FTC will treat them like other new regulations, publishing them in the Federal Register and instituting a comment period before they become final.

They're likely to cover areas such as carbon offsets, packaging claims and environmental seals of approval. Look for requirements that substantiate claims of "carbon neutral," "biodegradable," "recyclable," "biodegradable," or other green or eco-conscious terms. [More]

New ADA Rules Impact Florida Building Code

The Florida Building Commission will conduct a public workshop on the next edition of the Florida Accessibility Code for Building Construction 1:00 PM, October 11, 2010, at the Gainesville, Florida Hilton Hotel Conference Center. The public workshop will review the draft next edition of the Florida Accessibility Code and address potential changes to Florida law necessary for certification of Florida's code by the US Department of Justice.

Background: Florida law directs the Commission to update the Florida Accessibility Code when the US Department of Justice (DOJ) updates the Americans with Disabilities Act Standards for Accessible Design (SAD) to maintain consistency. DOJ issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking June 8, 2008, and on July 23, 2010 announced Secretary Holder signed final regulations adopting the 2004 ADAAG (ADA Architectural Guidelines) and additional criteria that comprise the SAD. DOJ will publish the new 28 CFR 35 and 28 CFR 36 regulations in the Federal Register this fall. Parties must start using the new SAD for compliance with the ADA eighteen months after they
The Florida Building Commission initiated a project February 2009 to integrate Florida requirements established by s.553.501-s.553.513, Florida Statutes, and additional DOJ regulations into the 2004 ADAAG to create a draft next edition of the Florida Accessibility Code for Building Construction. A workgroup comprised of representatives of persons with disabilities and industry developed the draft code that will be presented for public review at the workshop. The goal of the Commission is to amend the Florida Accessibility Code and implement it on or before the date the new DOJ Standards for Accessible Design become mandatory. Changes to Florida law necessary update the Code will be identified and submitted to the Florida Legislature during the 2011 legislative session.

In other Florida Building Code News:

**Proposed code changes** for the 2010 update to the Florida Building Code. are now available for review and comment. The deadline for making comment on the TACs' actions is October 18, 2010.

**FECC Meeting Announced - Sept 27**

The Florida Energy & Climate Commission will hold a meeting on Monday, September 27, 2010, 1:00 p.m. Staff will conduct the meeting from the University of Central Florida, Student Union Bldg, Room Cape Florida CD, 4000 Central Florida Boulevard Building #52, Orlando, FL 32826, where members of the public are invited to attend. Meeting materials will be available prior to the meeting. For more information on the Florida Energy & Climate Commission, please contact Brittany Cummins, Commission Clerk, at (850) 487-3800 or visit www.MyFloridaClimate.com.

**DCA Land Use Rule Hearings Held**

The Department of Community Affairs (DCA) held a development workshop on Rule 9J-5.003 (Definitions), Rule 9J-5.005 (General Requirements), and Rule 9J-5.006 (Future Land Use Element), Florida Administrative Code, to amend the rule to provide greater detail and explanation relating to the statutory requirements that the future land use element be based upon the amount of land required to accommodate anticipated growth and the projected population of the area.

Proposed additions include:

- The local comprehensive plan shall be based on resident and seasonal population estimates and projections.
- Local governments can use either the University of Florida, Bureau of Economic and Business Research
FRACCA, FGBC Partner on Clean Diesel Grant

The Florida Green Building Coalition, as part of a broader regional coalition of related associations, will benefit from a two-year, $1.675-million grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency through the Florida Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Contractors Association (FRACCA). The grant is aimed at upgrading off-road diesel-powered construction equipment to reduce diesel emissions. Construction equipment is being targeted as a major source of air pollution, and state and national environmental agencies are working to reduce the problem. In fact, soon clean diesel certification will be required for companies bidding on public construction projects.

This project targets older (Tier 0-2), off-road diesel-powered construction equipment: backhoes, wheel loaders, dozers, excavators, compactors, material handlers, skid steers, concrete pumps, diesel generators/power units and other non-road equipment. A special emphasis is on open-cab and trenching equipment that expose operators to high levels of pollutants. The grant will provide 100 percent funding for installation of DOCs; 75 percent for replacement of old diesel engines; and 25 percent for equipment replacement. Application packages are available at www.fracca.org.

Appliance Manufacturers Set New National Standards

The Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers (AHAM) and its Major Appliance Division member companies reached a historic agreement with a nationwide coalition of energy and water efficiency supporters to dramatically increase the energy and water efficiency of most major home appliances while incentivizing the development and manufacturing of smart appliances. The agreement, which covers refrigerators, freezers, clothes washers, clothes dryers, dishwashers and room air conditioners, calls for new national minimum efficiency standards, production tax credits for super-efficient appliances and inclusion of "smart grid" readiness as a feature of future ENERGY STAR qualified appliances.
Under the agreement, the new Federal Minimum Energy Standards are:

- Refrigerator/Freezers: 20-30% lower energy use, ice maker energy included, built-ins models recognized. (effective Jan. 1, 2014)
- Clothes Washers: ~40% average energy and water savings, top and front loading differences recognized, top loading standards step up in 2 stages. (effective Jan. 1, 2015)
- Clothes Dryers: 5% increase in efficiency, improve automatic dryer shut off capability to save additional energy. (effective Jan. 1, 2015)
- Room Air-Conditioners: 10-15% increase in efficiency, higher capacity units recognized. (effective Jun. 1, 2014)
- Dishwashers: 14% energy savings, 23% water savings. (effective Jan. 1, 2013)

Former PSC Chair Hired as Senate Energy Committee Staff Director

Former Florida Public Service Commission Chairman MATTHEW CARTER will return to state government as staff director of the Senate Communications, Energy & Utilities Committee, Senate President-designate Mike Haridopolos said Wednesday. Carter, a Jeb Bush appointee to the PSC in 2006, had sought reappointment to the commission, but was passed over by Gov. Charlie Crist. Carter has served on the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners committees dealing with water, infrastructure and international relations. A native of Douglas, Ga., and an army veteran, Carter graduated from Tallahassee Community College and Florida State University's law school. He also has a Master's degree in Theological Science from Smith Chapel Bible University, a Doctor of Ministry degree from Gulf Coast College and Seminary, and is a pastor at Beulah Hill Missionary Baptist Church in Gretna. Carter also ran a public relations firm that concentrated on political campaigns for several years and has worked as a financial consultant.

Also in the Senate, TOM YEATMAN, staff director of the Senate Community Affairs Committee will continue in that job, but also serve as staff director of the Senate's Environmental Preservation and Conservation Committee, as part of Haridopolos' cost-saving personnel efforts, the Senate announced this week.

DAVID BISHOP will be the new communications director for in the Senate president's office, President-designate Mike Haridopolos announced this week. Bishop, who is already on the job, returns to the Legislature - where he started his government career after working as a local television reporter...
Great Green Homes Video Tour
"Dilbert" creator Scott Adam's article on building a green home is full of bad information, but click the "Slideshow" tab for a video tour of great green homes by the rich and famous. [Video]

CertainTeed Paves the Way in Recycling
CertainTeed Corporation's roofing plant in Shreveport, La., is teaming up with a Texas paving company to recycle nearly 100 percent of manufacturing waste. Paving the way with greener operations, CertainTeed is helping to divert approximately 15,000 tons of material from landfills each year. The waste is used by RK Hall of Texarkana to produce asphalt pavement used for highways and bridges.

"By finding an eco-friendly solution for disposing of scrap materials, the Shreveport plant is significantly reducing its environmental impact," says John Hardy, operational excellence leader for CertainTeed Roofing. "As a result of the partnership with RK Hall of Texarkana, the plant has also reduced transportation costs—a testament that going green has both environmental and economic benefits."

Using sustainable manufacturing practices, CertainTeed roofing offers a portfolio of 50 ENERGY STAR® rated products, many of which contribute to LEED certification and are eligible for energy efficiency tax credits through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. CertainTeed is a member of the U.S. Green Building Council, plays an active role in the green building community, and contributes to efforts to make homes more energy-efficient and environmentally sustainable.

- after most recently serving as spokesman for Jeff Kottkamp's unsuccessful campaign for attorney general. Bishop has also worked for Zurich Financial Services and as a communications consultant, in addition to being the voice for several state agencies. He was communications and legislative director at the Office of Tourism, Trade and Economic Development, and before that was at the Department of Community Affairs. Before that, Bishop, a Florida State grad originally from Marianna, worked for Secretary of State Sandy Mortham and before that in the Senate Majority Office.

Home Weatherization Hits 200,000 Milestone

The U.S. Department of Energy's Weatherization Assistance Program helps lower-income families save energy and money by improving the energy efficiency of their homes. According to a recent study by Oak Ridge National Laboratory, weatherization services save families an average of more than $400 in energy costs during the first year after home retrofits are installed. Overall, the Administration is investing about $90 billion through the Recovery Act in clean energy and energy-efficiency projects that cut costs, reduce energy use and create new jobs.

At an event with homeowners and workers who benefited from the program, today in Manchester, New Hampshire, Vice President Joe Biden announced a major Recovery Act milestone—the weatherizing of 200,000 homes under the Recovery Act. As a result of the Administration's unprecedented commitment to energy efficiency, more than 200,000 low-income families have been able to save money on their energy bills while saving energy, and thousands of people have been put to work.

"Thanks to the Recovery Act, thousands of construction workers across the country are now on the job making energy-saving home improvements that will save working families hundreds of dollars a year on their utility bills," said Vice President Biden. "From replacing windows and doors to adding insulation, these are small changes that are making a big difference for American workers, manufacturer and consumers. We've hit the accelerator on the weatherization program, making over 200,000 homes more energy-efficient already, and are now full speed ahead to meet our original target of weatherizing 600,000 homes nationwide." [More]

Sustainable Florida Conference Set for Oct 13-14

Live. Manage. Thrive! The 2010 Sustainable Florida Conference presented by Florida Power and Light is scheduled for October 13-14 and gives individuals from businesses, government, universities and communities a chance to exchange ideas and learn more about creating sustainability and a green culture. Hosted by the Sustainable Florida
movement. For the second consecutive year, CertainTeed has been named ENERGY STAR partner of the year.

program of the Collins Center for Public Policy, the affordable two-day conference features speakers and workshops from public and private sectors that offer information on green building, community planning, energy, waste, transportation, sustainable best practices and more. The conference will feature a keynote presentation from Syd Kitson of Kitson and Partners on the creation of the Smartest City at Babcock Ranch which is to be the world’s first solar powered city. Also speaking will be Bryan Olnick, Vice President at Florida Power & Light, who will talk about the development and solutions offered through smart grid technology. Steve Seibert, Collins Center Vice President for Strategic Visioning, will provide the compelling case for creating the Florida we want today before it’s too late. [More]