



# MONTHLY

News and Views from the Connecticut Association of Home Inspectors, Inc.

May 2005

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## Radon in Water Testing

By Richard Kobylenski

In January of this year, the following letter was sent out to all Connecticut Certified Laboratories and Radon Analytical Providers. Basically it says that the only approved method for testing for radon in water is Liquid Scintillation Counting and that any other method does not meet State Requirements. The laboratory also must be certified by the Connecticut Department of Public Health for radon in water testing.

Many home inspectors in the state are using laboratories that use E-perms for radon in water testing. That method does not meet state requirements and the Laboratory that you are using is not certified for radon in water testing.

You could have a client sue you because your test results showed low radon levels and when they went to sell their house the levels were high, you would lose because you did not use an approved Method for testing.

It is in your best interest to use one of the Certified Laboratories.

## STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
 BUREAU OF REGULATORY SERVICES  
 DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH  
 ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORY CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

### Memorandum

**Date:** January 31, 2005

**DEH Circular Letter # 2005-4**

**To:** All Connecticut Certified Laboratories and Radon Analytical Services Providers

**From:** Jeff Curran, Supervising Environmental Laboratory Consultant  
 Francesca Provenzano, Health Program Associate

**Re:** Radon Testing in Water

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 Recently, the Radon Program has received several complaints from consumers concerning radon test results in water. There appears to be a wide variation in the test results the consumers received when they used more than one laboratory, some of which were not certified by the Department of Public Health Environmental Laboratory Certification Program for radon testing in water.

Per Section 19a-29a of the Connecticut General Statutes and Section 19-4-1 of the

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## Meeting Dates

May 25 *Insulation* - Bill  
 Hulstrunk, National  
 Fiber

Jun 22 *Roofing* - Dan  
 Horton, IKO Roofing  
 Products

Holiday Inn  
 201 Washington Ave  
 North Haven  
 (203) 239-6700

## President's Corner

Dwight Uffer

It appears that the Department of Consumer Protection and the Licensing Board are involved in changing the Standards of Practice as they are presently written. Back in 1998 and 1999, Rich Kobylenski and I (CAHI) sat on a task force of representatives of ASHI (Marshall Hall and Ron Passaro), CAR (Dan Kuhne, Bob Kennedy) and a group from the CT Property Owners Association. This group of individuals worked diligently to provide the legislature with a bill that would license home inspectors in Connecticut. We, as a group, did not want persons not involved in the Home Inspection business dictating what could or would be inspected in a home inspection, as well as what qualifications were to be mandated to become a home inspector. After many lengthy meetings and negotiations, we came to the table with a bill that all of us at that time could live with. In that bill, we used the ASHI Standards of Practice as we felt that to write new standards, when at that time almost 50% of the Home Inspectors in Connecticut were already familiar with these standards, would be both time consuming and unnecessary.

We all have had time to work with these standards and many of us can see some room for improvement. It is, however, imperative that we, as home inspectors in Connecticut, have a say as to how we inspect homes and properties. Our area of the country is somewhat unique in that we have a diverse range of home designs and styles. We inspect homes that were built in 1700 and the next day we inspect homes that were built three hundred years later. The features and principles are entirely different and should be reflected in how we inspect these structures. These are the areas where the Standards of Practice need to be altered or fine tuned and not a wholesale reconfiguration of the standards.

If the Department of Consumer Protection would like to change the Standards of Practice, then set up a committee of three Home Inspectors from the three organizations (present licensing board members excluded) and one or two public members who represent the majority, and let them bring these proposed revisions to the membership for review and a vote.

This should be performed prior to adopting or legislating revisions that may not be in everyone's interest, which includes the home buying public.

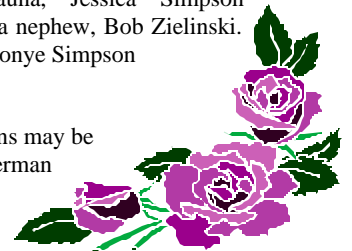
I suggest that all of you e-mail or fax the members of the licensing board your feelings on this matter so that they can get a true feeling of our resolve.



## In Memorium

**John N. Simpson**, a long time member of CAHI, aged 77, died Sunday, May 1, 2005, in his home. A lifelong resident of Stratford, he was born on February 9, 1928, a son of the late Harold and Minnie Synder Simpson. A graduate of Stratford High School, he served in the U.S. Navy Air Corps during World War II. He married Jean E. Hardy in 1950. A carpenter by trade, he began selling real estate in 1958. In 1961, he acquired a real estate and insurance company, John N. Simpson Real Estate & Insurance, in Bridgeport which he operated at that location until 1975. In 1975, he founded the Connecticut Home Inspection Service. He was active in many youth activities including coaching church basketball teams and Scoutmaster of Boy Scout Troop 72 in Stratford. He was past president of the Greater Bridgeport Board of Realtors, Realtor of the Year in 1972. He had a lifelong love of the water, especially Long Island Sound, starting with Sea Scouts as a youth and a membership in various boating clubs and commodore of the Pootatuck Yacht Club. He is survived by his wife, Jean; two sons, Gary and his wife, Sally, and Greg and his wife, Susan; eight grandchildren, Caitlin, Hayley, Sadie, Shelby, Jason, Shauna, Jessica Simpson and Ian Stern; a niece, Joyce Eirk; and a nephew, Bob Zielinski. He was predeceased by two sisters, Lemonye Simpson and Dorothy Zielinski.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to United Home Hospice, 40 Linderman Drive, Trumbull, CT 06611



### May Keynote Speaker

This month's meeting topic is **Insulation**

Our meeting will feature Bill Hulstrunk as the speaker. Bill is the Technical Manager for National Fiber, Williamstown, VT. He works out of Belchertown Mass. Bill will be discussing types of insulation, their application and other aspects of insulation we find in homes today.

2 hours of Continuing Education Credits

Regulations of the Connecticut State Agencies, laboratories testing for radon in water must be approved by the Department. The Department currently recognizes only one method for radon testing in water (liquid scintillation counting), Method 7500Rn B from Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater, 20<sup>th</sup> ed., APHA-AWWA-WEF. No other methods are currently approved.

Laboratories should note that due to radon's short half-life and volatility, certain precautions must be taken during sampling. Attached are some guidelines for collecting samples for radon testing. All samples must be analyzed within 4 days of collection.

Enclosed is a listing of commercial laboratories currently approved for radon testing in water by the Department. Any testing for radon in water by a laboratory not approved is a violation of the Connecticut General Statutes and the Regulations of the Connecticut State Agencies. If your laboratory wishes to become certified for radon testing in water, please contact the program office.

## Connecticut Department of Public Health Radon Program List of Laboratories Approved to Analyze Radon in Water

Laboratories that analyze for radon in water must be approved by the Connecticut Department of Public Health (CT DPH) Environmental Laboratory Certification Program (per CGS §19a-29 and RCSA §19-4-1). The CT DPH recognizes and approves laboratories that use the liquid scintillation counting method for analysis of radon in water (i.e., Method 7500Rn B from Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater, 20<sup>th</sup> ed., APHA-AWWA-WEF).

The following list includes the names of commercial laboratories currently approved by the CT DPH. Analysis of radon in water by a laboratory that is not approved by the CT DPH Environmental Laboratory Certification program is considered a statutory and regulatory violation.

<b>Lab Name</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Phone Number</b>
RSA Laboratories, Inc.	Hebron, CT	860-228-0721
Aqua Environmental Lab	Newtown, CT	203-270-9973
Homes Plus	Norwich, CT	860-887-5128
Earthwise Analytical Laboratory	New Haven, CT	203-787-6662
Hazen Research, Inc.	Golden, CO	303-279-4501
Northeast Laboratory Services	Winslow, ME	207-873-7711
Westchester County Department of Lab & Research	Valhalla, NY	914-231-1768
MWH Laboratories	Monrovia, CA	626-386-1100

# REWARD



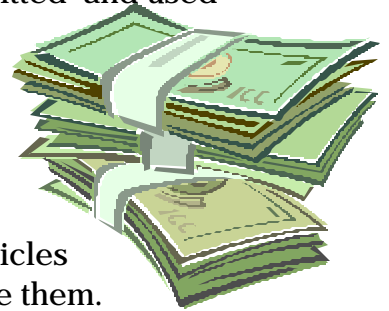
\$25.00

for any article  
used in the newsletter

CAHI will pay members \$25.00 for any article that is submitted and used in the monthly newsletter.

The article must be e-mailed to Rich Kobylenski  
[rkoblenski023@earthlink.net](mailto:rkoblenski023@earthlink.net). Articles should be a PDF or Word document.

Articles should pertain to our industry. We will review articles for content and reserve the right to edit, use and/or refuse them.



## Contact Us

18 Garden Place  
Derby, CT 06418

E-mail: [ctinspect@yahoo.com](mailto:ctinspect@yahoo.com)  
Web: [www.ct-inspect.com](http://www.ct-inspect.com)

### Executive Board

<b>President</b>	<b>Dwight Uffer</b> , Hebron (800) 924-0932
<b>Vice-President</b>	<b>Bob Dattilo</b> , Thomaston (860) 283-8600
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Ken Mita, Sr.</b> , Wallingford (203) 269-0341
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Pete Petrino</b> , Derby (203) 732-8810
<b>Director</b>	<b>Bernie Caliendo</b> , Windsor (860) 285-0332
<b>Director</b>	<b>Woody Dawson</b> , Cheshire (203) 272-7400
<b>Director</b>	<b>Rich Kobylenski</b> , Coventry (860) 724-3272
<b>Director</b>	<b>Barry Small</b> , West Hartford (860) 233-6948

### CT Home Inspection Licensing Board

Bernie Caliendo, Chairman	CAHI
Rich Kobylenski	CAHI
Dana Fox	CAHI
Bruce Schaefer	ASHI
William Stanley	ASHI
Susan A. Connors	Attorney
Denise Robalard	Realtor
J. Andre Fournier	Realtor

The Licensing Board meetings are held at 9:30 am,  
Department of Consumer Protection, Room 117, 165  
Capitol Avenue, Hartford.

*The public is always welcome.*

E-mail Bernie Caliendo for the latest meeting schedule at  
[bsurehomeinspect@juno.com](mailto:bsurehomeinspect@juno.com)

