

Press Release (Industry Trade News)

National Fireplace Institute®

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More Major Manufacturers Join National Fireplace Institute® Advocate Program

Atlanta, GA – National Fireplace Institute® (NFI), the certification agency for the hearth products industry, is pleased to acknowledge nearly two dozen hearth manufacturers as NFI Advocate companies at the 2005 HPBEXPO at the Georgia Congress Center in Atlanta, February 23 – 26. Hearth product manufacturers in full support of the NFI program now include Fireplace Products International Ltd., Travis Industries, Inc., Lennox Hearth Products/Security Chimneys International, DESA Heating Products, Empire Comfort Systems, Inc., Monessen Hearth Systems, Heatilator, Heat & Glo, Quadra-Fire, Blaze King, Country Stoves, ICC Industrial Chimney Company, Harman Stove Company, Hargrove Manufacturing Corp., firegear LLC, Jøtul North America, Associated Energy Systems in partnership with Enviro Products, Robert H. Peterson Company, CFM, Kozy Heat, HearthStone Quality Home Heating Products, Inc., and Selkirk. These industry influentials have fulfilled all requirements to become the agency’s official Advocate companies. The NFI program represents the industry’s shared commitment in promoting excellence in the installation and service of hearth products and systems. Earning an NFI certification means a hearth professional has met the highest standards recognized in the industry.

Each Advocate manufacturer has met specific NFI requirements and adheres to the following guidelines:

- Include the NFI logo in all their instruction manuals along with a statement suggesting that NFI Certified Specialists install their products.
- Strongly recommend that their dealers become NFI Certified.
- Receive accreditation of their training programs with NFI Continuing Education Units (CEUs) to help NFI Certified Specialists maintain their certification.

“The overwhelming response from manufacturers in the hearth profession to become part of the NFI Advocate program has given us incredible momentum toward higher installation and service standards for our industry,” said Sue Kalish, NFI executive director. “Our rapidly growing list of advocate companies helps continue to raise the bar of excellence in hearth product installation and service by partnering with the industry’s recognized credential program, the National Fireplace Institute® certifications.”

The total NFI program, developed under the auspices of the HEARTH Education Foundation, represents over three years of planning, surveying, and writing manuals and exams in the development of a respected program conducted in accordance with national testing standards for technical occupations. NFI currently offers certifications for Gas, Woodburning, and Pellet Specialists.

NFI review courses and exams are offered across the U.S. through HPBA affiliate events by hearth manufacturers and chimney sweep organizations. NFI promotes the importance of certification to hearth specialty retailers and service professionals.

For over twenty years, the HEARTH Education Foundation, an independent nonprofit organization, has served the public interest by promoting safety, understanding and responsibility in all facets of the residential fireside.

To learn more about NFI credentials or to apply to be an Advocate company, call (703) 524-8030.

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