

HAWDC e-HEADLINES



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We Won: D.C. Court of Appeals Affirms Judgment Ordering Online Travel Companies to Remit Unpaid Sales Taxes:



Last week, the D.C. Court of Appeals upheld the District Court's ruling requiring online travel companies Expedia, Hotels.com, Hotwire, Travelscape, Orbitz, Travelocity, and Priceline to pay more than \$60 million in unpaid sales taxes and interest owed to the District of Columbia. The Court affirmed the government's assertion that these companies are liable to pay sales tax on the entire amount they charge to guests, rather than the amount they pay to hotels for the rooms. The District's Attorney General, Karl A. Racine, stated that this win "ensures that online travel companies have to follow the same rules as everyone else."

"We are thrilled that online travel companies will be required to pay their fair share of taxes in the District of Columbia. This decision not only reinforces our position that these taxes are owed to the District but hopefully sends a message to OTCs that the days of misleading consumers are over," said Solomon Keene, President, HAWDC. As you are aware, HAWDC has long held the assertion that these taxes were due to the District, and brought this issue to the attention of the District government. Through HAWDC's efforts, the District Council passed the "Payment of Full Hotel Taxes by Online Vendors Clarification Act of 2010," which clarifies that these online travel companies are required to collect the entirety of the tax collected on the purchase of the rooms. This law was the impetus for the lawsuit that was filed.

HAWDC would like to thank Mayor Bowser, the District Council, and the Attorney General and his team, for ensuring that these companies collect and remit the taxes that are due to the District. This decision is a huge win for the District of Columbia and our industry!

DDOE Hosts Workshop for Building Engineers:

On Thursday, July 30th, from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm, the District Department of the Environment will be hosting a free two-hour workshop for building engineers. The



In This Issue

[We Won: D.C. Court of Appeals Affirms Judgment Ordering Online Travel Companies to Remit Unpaid Sales Taxes](#)

[DDOE Hosts Workshop for Building Engineers](#)

[Allied Member Highlight](#)

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workshop will cover regulations for hazardous materials, air quality and safety for large commercial properties. The workshop will be held at 1200 First Street, NE, 5th Floor, and all participants will receive a "Certificate of Attendance."



Click [here](#) to RSVP.

Allied Member Highlight:



Since 1963, PAC Industries has been the innovative leader in the sale, service and support of commercial laundry equipment. Their customers range from large industrial laundries to small coin laundromats and include nationally recognized leaders in hospitality, healthcare and institutional laundries.

PAC Industries is proud to distribute the finest brands available in the commercial laundry industry. Milnor, Chicago, ADC, and Alliance Laundry Systems make the best equipment and bring you the best value for your investment.

PAC is a 100% employee-owned company. This means that their entire organization - from their dedicated sales team, to their twenty-two factory authorized service technicians, to their management and administrative staff - is dedicated to providing you the best equipment, service and parts in commercial laundry. Your local representative, Scott Benjamin (410-299-4739 or scott@pacindustries.com), has 28 years of laundry experience and can help assist with your laundry needs in every capacity.

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