



## DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

*Henry L. Green*

As we approach the end of an era, Michigan can be proud of the accomplishments achieved during the past 28 years in the built environment. Michigan's safety record in buildings is one to be admired. Since the State Construction Code Act was passed by the legislature in 1972, establishing for the first time in Michigan, requirements for the uniform application of construction regulations throughout the state, we have made continual improvements. This first effort helped to create standards for the construction of buildings and structures that complimented the licensing provisions established for the various construction trades.

Since that initial adoption we have made great strides in improving the built environment. These include improvements in licensing provisions, updating of codes, and the implementation of inspector registration.

We have improved the licensing provisions to make the construction of buildings a friendlier environment by clarifying the regulations by which construction is measured and improving the standards by which individuals are licensed. Improvements such as triennial licensure, improved testing methods, and speedier test results have all aided in this effort.

Improvements in the codes has long been a goal of the Bureau. To this end we have worked to simplify the code

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## Assistant Elevator Chief Appointed

Bob Schumacher has been appointed to the position of assistant chief of the bureau's Elevator Safety Division. Mr. Schumacher will be responsible for review and approval of elevator permit applications, training and technical assistance, direct supervision of state elevator inspectors, and other special projects. Prior to his appointment to this position Bob worked in the elevator industry for 8 years and as a state elevator inspector for 3 years. Mr. Schumacher is very excited about his new challenge and looks forward to continuing his relationship with representatives of the elevator industry. Bob may be reached at (517) 241-9337.

## Plumbing Code Rules Update

The bureau is in the final stages of the Legislative process to update the state plumbing code rules. It is **anticipated** these rules will be filed with the Secretary of State in February with a March 1, 1999, effective date. Rules will be mailed to the clerks of all local units of government, all registered plumbing inspectors, licensed master and journey plumbers, manufacturers of premanufactured units, and approved inspection agencies. If you wish to receive a copy of these rules please send a check for \$2.50 per copy, made payable to the State of Michigan, to the Bureau of Construction Codes, P.O. Box 30255, Lansing, Michigan 48909.

## Inspector Registration Alert

**A REMINDER TO ALL REGISTERED INSPECTORS IN CYCLE ONE:** The deadline for obtaining all training and education hours necessary for re-registration is September 17, 1999. That deadline is less than eight months away. By now, you should have obtained over seventy-five percent of the required hours needed for re-registration.

Please review the Educational Credit Statement you recently received which indicates the number of hours you have achieved to date. Please compare this information with your records. If there is a discrepancy in the number of hours recorded, you should contact our office in writing, or contact the program provider to determine if the attendance rosters for the programs you attended, but have not received credit for, have been forwarded to our office. If you have any questions, you may call the Office of Local Government and Consumer Services at (517) 241-9347.

**Director's Column, continued:**

requirements and to provide tools that assist both the seasoned professional and novice in understanding the technical application of construction standards. These improvements have included specific training programs, the use of technical bulletins that provide information on various technical and legal topics affecting the construction industry, and the participation in on-going code development and standards activities to meet the changes in technology.

In 1986, the first regulations governing inspectors was enacted. Act No. 54 provides a basis to determine minimum qualifications for inspection personnel. These provisions again provided complimentary standards to enhance the built environment and the application of construction regulations.

As we enter a new era, we can look forward to continued efforts to improve our program and enhancements of communications and understanding between code officials and those in the construction industry. Most recently, the bureau installed a new permitting system. While we have more improvements to achieve in this system, it has shown certain advancements we previously did not have available. A new inspector data collection system is on the horizon and will be put in place within the next several months.

It is time to work on other areas to facilitate the submission of applications for permits through such items as common application forms, billing for permits, on-line submission of applications, electronic plan reviews, and the use of current technology to improve the speed and effectiveness in which we communicate with our clients.

The Bureau of Construction Codes looks forward to these and many more opportunities that lie ahead.

## Can an Electrical Utility be a Licensed Electrical Contractor?

Recently, several electrical cooperatives have applied for and received electrical contractors licenses. This has raised questions from several other contractors and from enforcing agencies throughout the state. Act No. 217, P.A. 1956, as amended prescribes requirements for issuance of licenses. Section 338.883b of the act states, in part:

"(1) The department of labor shall issue an electrical contractor's license to a person who does all of the following:

(a) Holds a master electrician's license *or has not less than 1 master electrician residing in this state who is in his or her full-time employ. That master electrician shall be actively in charge of and responsible for code compliance of all installations of electrical wiring and equipment.*"  
(emphasis added)

Review of applications in these instances indicates that all requirements for licensure have been met. **Therefore, the answer to the questions is yes!**

There may be underlying reasons for the question. For example, is the electrical contracting business sufficiently separated from the utility, to remove any implication of unfair competition with individual business? The act does not address this issue, however, hearings on electrical utility deregulation have brought this issue forward. Another reason for the question may be related to the issue of enforcement of licensed practitioners (journeyman, masters, and registered apprentices) performing the electrical installations. The act specifically states that licensed persons shall perform the installations and that they *shall be employed by and working at the direction of a licensed electrical contractor*. This would not allow the electrical contracting part of the utility to use the utility's linemen to perform electrical installations because they are not required to be licensed.

The bottom line is if a utility company has an electrical contractor's license, that work must be regulated in accordance with the act. If you have any questions, please contact the Electrical Division at (517) 241-9320.

## Flexible Gas Piping

In November 1997, an article was written answering three questions regarding flexible gas piping. On November 30, 1998, the new state code (1996 International Mechanical Code with Part 9a amendments) became effective. This article will answer the same questions based on the code now in effect.

The three original questions and revised answers are as follows:

- (1) Can this be installed strictly to the installation instructions that are shipped with the product? **Answer-Flexible gas piping must be installed according to the following conditions:**
- Shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's installation instructions.
  - Shall comply with the Michigan Mechanical Code.
  - Shall be installed in accordance with ANSI LC 1-1993 when installed underground.
  - Can be used in combination with other gas piping materials.
  - One manufacturer's flexible gas piping can not have direct contact with any other manufacturer's flex piping or fitting.
- (2) Can flexible gas piping be concealed? **Answer-Flexible gas piping and fittings can be concealed. The fittings must be listed and tested to ANSI LC 1-1993 for concealment.**
- (3) Can flexible gas piping be run directly to an appliance? **Answer-When installing furnaces and water heaters the CSST may be installed directly to the piping which connects to the gas valve. When connecting to a gas fireplace you must connect the CSST to a termination fitting and from that point the appliance may be connected.**

Although there are many other questions that are asked from time to time, these are the three most asked questions.

If you need clarification, please contact Tennison B. Barry, Chief, Mechanical Division at (517) 241-9325.

BULLETIN

BUREAU OF  
CONSTRUCTION  
CODES

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF  
CONSUMER AND  
INDUSTRY SERVICES

The BULLETIN is a quarterly publication of the Bureau of Construction Codes within the Michigan Department of Consumer & Industry Services. The BULLETIN is published for the information of the 46,000 plumbers, electricians, mechanical contractors, boiler and elevator licensees, plan reviewers, building officials, and inspector registrants throughout the state.

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**Licenses for Installing or Repairing Boilers**

The Boiler Act of 1965, P.A. 290 states:

Section 13, (1&2) A person shall not engage in the business of installing or repairing a boiler unless the person has obtained a license from the director.

In order to obtain a license from the boiler division one must pass a written exam and score a minimum of 70% on that exam. The exam is made up of multiple choice questions; the higher the class of license the more questions on the exam and the more material covered. The exam questions are taken from the Michigan Boiler Law and Rules and the appropriate ASME Code for the applicable license classification.

Applicants for the exam must meet the minimum requirements of Act 290 which states that a person applying for a boiler license shall have not less than 5 years of experience in all areas of the class of license for which the person is applying. A credit of 2 years of experience towards the 5 years of experience may be given for 2 years experience in the design, construction, manufacture, or inspection of boilers.

A person meeting the minimum experience requirements needs to apply to the Boiler Division for an application to take the exam. This application must be received by the Boiler Division 30 days prior to the exam date. The dates for the exam are the first Wednesday and Thursday of March, June, September and December. The exam is given in Okemos and Escanaba.

Questions and applications may be requested by calling the Boiler Division at (517) 241-9334.

**Scheduled Board Meetings**

MEETING	DATE	TIME	PLACE
Board of Mechanical Rules	Feb. 17	9:00 a.m.	Okemos-Conf. Room 3
Electrical Administrative Board	Feb. 19	9:30 a.m.	Okemos-Conf. Room 1
Board of Mechanical Rules	Feb. 24	9:00 a.m.	Okemos-Conf. Room 3
Construction Code Comm.	Mar. 3	9:30 a.m.	Okemos-Conf. Room 3
Board of Boiler Rules	Mar. 9	9:30 a.m.	Okemos-Conf. Room 1
Barrier Free Design Board	Mar. 12	9:30 a.m.	Okemos-Conf. Room 1
Elevator Safety Board	Mar. 19	9:30 a.m.	Okemos-Conf. Room 3
State Plumbing Board	Mar. 30	10:00 a.m.	Okemos-Conf. Room 2
State Plumbing Board	Apr. 14	10:00 a.m.	Okemos-Conf. Room 2
Electrical Administrative Board	Apr. 16	9:30 a.m.	Okemos-Conf. Room 2
Board of Mechanical Rules	Apr. 28	9:00 a.m.	Okemos-Conf. Room 3
Construction Code Comm.	May 5	9:30 a.m.	Okemos-Conf. Room 3
Barrier Free Design Board	May 14	9:30 a.m.	Okemos-Conf. Room 2
Elevator Safety Board	May 21	9:30 a.m.	Okemos-Conf. Room 3

*Okemos = 2501 Woodlake Circle, Okemos, MI*

**License Exam Schedule**

EXAM	DATE	PLACE	DEADLINE
Mechanical Contractor Exam	Mar. 11	Lansing	Feb. 19
Elevator Contractor & Certificate-of-Competency Exam	Mar. 19	Okemos	Feb. 26
Electrical Exam	Mar. 24/25	Lansing	Feb. 24
Plumbing Exam	Mar. 31	East Lansing	Mar. 12
Elevator Journeyperson Exam	Apr. 14	Okemos	Mar. 26
Elevator Contractor & Certificate-of-Competency Exam	May 21	Okemos	Apr. 30
Electrical Exam	May 27	Escanaba	Apr. 29
Boiler National Board Exam	Jun. 2/3	Okemos	May 2
Boiler Installer/Repairer Exam	Jun. 2/3	Okemos	May 2
Plumbing Exam	Jun. 2	East Lansing	May 14
Mechanical Contractor Exam	Jun. 15	Lansing	May 26
Electrical Exam	Jun. 23/24	Lansing	May 25

*\*Dates and locations are subject to change.*

**Automatic Sprinklers in Elevator Shafts and Elevator Machine Rooms**

It was reported in the August 1998 issue of the CIS Bulletin that the Elevator Safety Division and the Office of Fire Safety agreed upon a policy regarding the placement of sprinklers in elevator shafts and machine rooms. Confusion still seems to exist regarding the statement that "each elevator "system" shall have a readily accessible shut off valve." The intent of this statement is that each separate area i.e., hoistway, pit, and/or machine room shall have their own shut off valve. Questions regarding this issue should be directed to the Elevator Safety Division at (517) 241-9337.

**Statewide Plumbing Fixture Requirements**

All licensed installers and enforcing municipalities are reminded that assembly use group occupancies greater than 150 occupants are subject to the state plumbing code, Part 7, fixture table requirements. The State Construction Code Act of 1972 in section 8 (10) clarifies male and female fixture requirements for sake of uniformity. The rule requirements address increased number of fixtures for female occupants.

This clarification of the Part 7 authority is necessary due to several governmental subdivisions updating their plumbing codes to the 1997 International Plumbing Code with or without technical amendments.

The Bureau has continued its efforts to update the state plumbing code enforcement of the 1997 International Plumbing Code with far fewer technical amendments this code cycle. The division anticipates an enforcement date of March 1, 1999.

Individuals having questions related to this matter may call the Plumbing Division at (517) 241-9330.

## ERRATA

Please note that an error was made in the 1<sup>st</sup> printing of the **Part 9a, Mechanical Code Rules**, incorporating the 1996 edition of the International Mechanical Code. The error was made in Rule 408.30906a. The word "replacement" should not have been included in M 106.2. (j). The correct rule language is printed below.

A copy of this errata was previously mailed to licensed mechanical contractors, registered mechanical inspectors, clerks of each governmental subdivision, premanufacturers, and third party inspection agencies. We apologize for any confusion this error may have caused.

**M-106.2. Permits not required:** A person is not required to obtain a permit to perform mechanical work on any of the following items:

- (a) A portable heating or gas appliance.
- (b) Portable ventilation equipment.
- (c) A portable cooling unit.
- (d) A minor part that is replaced if the replacement does not affect equipment approval or make it unsafe.
- (e) A portable evaporative cooler.
- (f) Self-contained refrigeration equipment and a window-type air conditioner that is not more than 1.5 horsepower.
- (g) A boiler or pressure vessel for which a permit is required by sections 17 and 18 of Act No. 290 of the Public Acts of 1965, as amended, being §§408.767 and 408.768 of the Michigan Compiled Laws.
- (h) An oil burner that does not require connection to a flue, such as an oil stove and a heater equipped with a wick.
- (i) A portable gas burner that has inputs of less than 30,000 Btu's per hour.
- (j) Gas piping limited to 10 feet in length and not more than 6 fittings.

## Ice Shield

Section 1507.4 of the 1996 edition of the BOCA National Building Code (BNBC) requires ice shield under steep-sloped roof covering. It is to be installed in all climates where the average daily January temperature is 25 degrees or less. The provisions of section 1507.2 of the 1993 edition of the BNBC were identical. The Climate Atlas of Michigan indicates that the entire state has an average daily January temperature less than 25 degrees. The atlas is provided by the Michigan Department of Agriculture and is based on a 30 year climatic study.

The 1996 edition of the BNBC designates the underlayment as Type I. In the 1993 edition of the BNBC the underlayment is designated as Type 15. The new designation is in accordance with ASTM D 226 standard, referenced in section 1507.1, for the old Type 15. The ice shield must be "at least 2 layers of underlayment cemented together or of a waterproofing membrane". The code does not acknowledge the use of a single layer of Type II (Type 30) as an alternate. This is because the heavier felt does not have properties equal to those of 2 layers of Type I cemented together. There are products that are available to be used in a single layer as a waterproof membrane.

The ice shield is required to extend from the eave edge of the roof to a point 24 inches inside the exterior wall line. This is measured horizontally from the interior face of the exterior wall and vertically by a straight line projection to the roof line. It is essential that the waterproof membrane extend over the heated interior to this point to prevent passage of water from melting ice.

If you have any questions, please contact the Building Section at (517) 241-9317.

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