



## DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

*Henry L. Green*

At the recent BOCA Code Change Hearings, history was made. This was the last mid-year meeting for BOCA International at which changes to the codes would be considered. Over the years Michigan representatives have participated in the development of meaningful changes to the codes. These have included such issues as the inclusion of code provisions for accessibility, the rehabilitation of existing structures, a comprehensive analysis and modification of the code provisions for fire safety, revisions to the means of egress provisions, classifications of high hazard materials, defining the requirements for structural components, clarifications of plumbing provisions, and the development of the code into a common format that served as the basis for the development of the ICC Codes.

Michigan has been a long standing participant in the development of code provisions that have served this state well over the years. Local code officials have been active participants in the review process at all levels of the process including serving on ad hoc committees, on task groups reviewing subject matter items, and as members of the code change committees.

We should be proud of those communities and their code officials for their participation in the development of the BOCA Codes. The BOCA Codes have served as the basis for Michigan construction

(Turn to Director's Column on page 2)

## Electrical Work Performed by Other Licensees

Recently several individuals have asked bureau staff whether a mechanical contractor or authorized master plumber may perform work relating to electrical installations, without an electrical license.

Section 7(3)(i) of the Electrical Administrative Act, Act No. 217, PA 1956 governs the installation of electrical control wiring on new equipment installed in existing mechanical systems.

This section of the law provides for an exception for mechanical contractors ". . . while performing maintenance, service, repair, replacement, alteration, modification, reconstruction, or upgrading of control wiring circuits and electrical components within existing mechanical systems defined in the mechanical and plumbing codes . . ." This section of the law clearly prohibits mechanical and plumbing licensees from performing work on life safety systems wiring. Further, this section provides the work must be performed on the load side of the disconnect which is located on or immediately adjacent to the equipment.

It is important to note that work permitted to be performed by mechanical contractors and authorized master plumbers is restricted to existing systems. A mechanical contractor may replace a component within an existing heating system. As an example, a contractor may replace a furnace provided the work does not involve rewiring the electrical branch circuits serving the furnace and the installation of new control wiring, i.e., temperature controls.

Work beyond the disconnect located on or adjacent to the equipment within existing systems would be required to be performed by a licensed electrical contractor.

When an air conditioning unit is added to an existing HVAC system, the electrical wiring for the new equipment must be performed by a licensed electrical contractor. A mechanical contractor may replace a motor within an existing system or an existing compressor.

Existing pneumatic control systems may be modified, upgraded, or replaced by a mechanical contractor. However, when an existing pneumatic system is abandoned, and replaced with a new electrical control system, it must be installed by a licensed electrical contractor.

**Director's Column, continued:**

standards long before the adoption of the State Construction Code Act. In 1975 Michigan promulgated its first building code, using the 1970 edition of the BOCA Basic Building Code as the platform. With modifications over the years, this family of codes has served Michigan well and has evolved into the construction standards we continue to use today. Certainly, over the years as the codes were rewritten to include the latest in technology, Michigan has taken the interest and devoted the time and talent to influence the codes from a Michigan perspective, taking to the code table those things we have found to be of benefit and clarifying those items that have caused concern.

As we proceed with the development of the latest edition of Michigan's building code, we can be assured that the participation of local communities and their code professionals has made a significant impact on the codes and how we use them in Michigan.

With the advent of the International Codes, we should not lose sight of the opportunities that lay before us. Michigan can continue to play a major role in the development of the ICC Codes, just as we have in the development of the family of National Codes.

## Services on Buildings with More Than One Occupancy

How many services can be installed on a building and how many sets of service entrance conductors can be served by each service? These questions seem to be difficult for inspectors and electricians to understand. A wise old sage of the industry once said, "let's let the code decide."

To determine the answer it is important to properly use Article 230 in its entirety. Diagram 230-1 provides a one-line graphic breakdown of an electrical system. It is important to use this diagram so you know which part of a system you are discussing. Part A of Article 230 provides the answer to the first part of the question. Section 230-2 states, in part, "A building or other structure served shall be supplied by only one service. . ." The section then lists 7 exceptions where more than 1 service may be permitted. Part B prescribes requirements for installation of overhead service conductors and Part C prescribes requirements for underground service conductors for each service.

Part D prescribes the requirements for service entrance conductors. Refer back to Diagram 230-1, which states these are the conductors after the point of service or meter. The general rule is only 1 set of service entrance conductors for each service allowed by Section 230-2, however, Section 230-40 Exception No. 1 states, "Buildings with more than one occupancy shall be permitted to have one set of service-entrance conductors run to each occupancy or to a group of occupancies." Now lets jump to Part F, which prescribes requirements for service disconnects. Section 230-71(a) states, in part, "The service disconnecting means for each service permitted by Section 230-2, or for each set of service-entrance conductors permitted by Section 230-40, Exception No. 1, shall consist of not more than six switches . . ." Section 230-72 states, in part, "The two to six disconnects as permitted in Section 230-71 shall be grouped."

In conclusion, if a building has more than one occupancy, the code permits a set of service-entrance conductors to be installed to each occupancy and further permits each set of service-entrance conductors to have up to six means of disconnects grouped in their respective locations. For additional information please contact the Electrical Division at (517) 241-9320.

## Commission Issues Ruling on Appeals

In the last edition of the BCC Bulletin, the Director's Column outlined provisions for a local construction board of appeals. This article was intended to advise local communities of the need for a construction board of appeals. At the March meeting of the Commission, the Commission received and adopted advice that clarifies the requirements for local construction boards of appeals.

The question posed to the Commission asked whether an appeal may be heard from an aggrieved party who wishes to appeal the decision of a local board of appeals, in a community that has elected to administer and enforce another nationally recognized model code rather than the state code.

The position adopted by the Commission notes a local community electing to exempt itself from the provisions of certain parts of the State Construction Code Act are not subject to the provisions of Section 16 of the Act governing appeals to the Commission, unless the local community adopts within its ordinance language from Section 16 or otherwise provides for an appeal to the Commission.

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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**Boiler Licenses and Permits**

The Boiler Act of 1965, P.A. 290 requires that anyone installing a boiler in the state of Michigan be licensed through the Boiler Division of the Bureau of Construction Codes, Department of Consumer and Industry Services. This includes the installers of boilers in residences as well. Thus, no matter where you install a boiler in Michigan, you need to hold a "Boiler Installer's" license from the Boiler Division. This has been the requirement since 1965.

Permits, on the other hand, fall into two categories. Permits for boilers installed in public, commercial, or multiple dwellings of 6 units or more are to be taken out with the state of Michigan, Boiler Division. Permits for boilers installed in private residences and multiple dwelling units of 5 units or less are to be taken out from the unit of government that has jurisdiction over the Mechanical Code.

Permits taken out from the Boiler Division must include a date when the boiler will be ready for inspection and/or the phone number and name of the responsible person on site. In this way the Boiler Division will be able to make contact and perform a timely inspection of the boiler.

Questions about the licensing of installers and permit requirements should be directed to the Boiler Division at (517) 241-9334.

**Plumbing Business Requirements**

The bureau's Plumbing Division has received several questions related to requirements of a plumbing business particularly related to a national franchise.

Any plumbing business may be privately owned by an unlicensed individual. However, at least one "authorized master plumber" must have their license assigned to the specific company and be on record with the State Plumbing Board. That authorized master plumber shall represent only one company and be responsible by being present and providing active supervision. Further, there shall be a master plumber at each branch. A licensed plumber shall be on each project at all times.

Questions regarding this issue should be directed to the Plumbing Division at (517) 241-9330.

MEETING	DATE	TIME	PLACE
State Plumbing Board	Jun 2	10:00 a.m.	Okemos-Conf. Room 2
Board of Boiler Rules	Jun 9	9:30 a.m.	Okemos-Conf. Room 1
Electrical Administrative Board	Jun 19	9:00 a.m.	Okemos-Conf. Room 1
Board of Mechanical Rules	Jul 8	9:00 a.m.	Okemos-Conf. Room 3
State Plumbing Board	Jul 8	8:30 a.m.	Escanaba State Office Bldg.
Barrier Free Design Board	Jul 10	9:30 a.m.	Okemos-Conf. Room 1
Construction Code Comm.	Jul 15	9:30 a.m.	Okemos-Conf. Room 3
Elevator Safety Board	Jul 24	10:00 a.m.	Okemos-BCC Conf. Room
Electrical Administrative Board	Aug 21	9:00 a.m.	Okemos-Conf. Room 1

*Okemos = 2501 Woodlake Circle, Okemos, MI*

**License Exam Schedule**

EXAM	DATE	LOCATION	DEADLINE
Plumbing Exam	Jul 9	Escanaba	Jun 19
Elevator Journeyperson	Jul 15	Okemos	Jun 26
Elevator Contractor Exam & Certificate-of-Competency Exam	Jul 24	Okemos	Jul 6
Mechanical Contractor Exam	Aug 6	Escanaba	Jul 16
Electrical Exam	Aug 19	Traverse City	Jul 22
Boiler National Board Exam	Sept 2	Okemos	Aug 3
Boiler Installer Exam	Sept 3	Okemos	Aug 3
Boiler Repairer Exam	Sept 3	Okemos	Aug 3
Mechanical Contractor Exam	Sept 17	Lansing	Aug 28
Elevator Contractor Exam & Certificate-of-Competency Exam	Sept 18	Okemos	Aug 31
Plumbing Exam	Sept 23	East Lansing	Sept 4

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

**Premanufactured Units**

At the March 1998 Construction Code Commission meeting, the Commission clarified the approval process for premanufactured units. In an interpretation of Section 19 of the State Construction Code Act, the Commission ruled that a premanufactured unit may be constructed without all of the components being installed at the point of manufacture.

The specific question asked if a premanufactured unit could be approved without toilet fixtures complying with the Michigan Plumbing Code. The Commission ruled that a unit may be manufactured without plumbing fixtures. However, the unit's approval lists the conditions of the approval and the unit must still comply with local requirements except those regulating the construction of the unit. This means a premanufactured unit without toilet fixtures must still comply with the local code provisions regulating the building use and occupancy. If the unit is being used for an occupancy that requires toilet fixtures, the fixtures would be required under local plumbing permits and subject to local plumbing provisions.

A premanufactured unit is approved based upon work completed at a place other than the final destination. If a unit is produced without any requirements for the completion of the unit on site, those items installed and constructed on site must comply with local code provisions.

Questions regarding premanufactured units should be directed to the Plan Review Division at (517) 241-9328.

## Plexvent, Ultravent Recalled

In cooperation with the U. S. Consumer Product Safety Commission the manufacturers of Plexvent and Ultravent are recalling all vent systems installed by the same name. Corrective Action Program (CAP) is conducting this recall on behalf of several manufacturers. To determine if a furnace or boiler is included in this recall you may contact CAP at 1-800-619-2265.

Installations must be made in accordance with the listing of the equipment being vented. Venting methods different than those contained in the original installation instructions must be approved by the testing agency which lists the equipment.

According to the American Gas Association (AGA) each manufacturer should have a letter from that organization or a new listing report indicating the changes in the venting requirements.

If you have questions or concerns about installations and the codes, please contact Tennison B. Barry, Chief, Mechanical Division, Bureau of Construction Codes at (517) 241-9325.

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## New Elevating Device Approved

Recently, the Elevator Safety Board approved the use and installation of a new type of small commercial elevator to provide vertical transportation for persons with physical disabilities. This device is similar to a previously approved small elevator for persons with physical disabilities referred to as a Barrier Free Lifting Device.

The maximum rise on the new device cannot exceed 25 feet of travel. The device is not intended to carry freight. Other limitations are as follows:

- The device is not approved for installation in shopping centers, shopping malls, passenger transportation facilities, airports, governmental facilities, and professional offices of health care providers.
- The installation of the device shall be limited to those structures that have a total square footage of not more than 20,000 square feet. The device may be installed in a building that has a total square footage of more than 20,000 square feet if the area to be accessed is 10,000 square feet or less.
- Only one elevating device per structure is allowed.

Inquiries regarding the elevating device may be directed to the Elevator Safety Division at (517) 241-9337.

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