



# CODE WORKS!

[WWW.MICHIGAN.GOV/BCC](http://WWW.MICHIGAN.GOV/BCC)

SPRING 2009

## ATTENTION READERS!

A public hearing to hear testimony on proposed amendments to the Part 8 - Electrical Rules is scheduled for June 11, 2009 at 9:30am at 2501 Woodlake Circle, Okemos, MI 48864, Conference Room 3, 1st floor.

## CODE CHANGES

Code change comments for the proposal process of the 2009 MBC, MRC, MI Rehab, MMC and MPC will be accepted until June 15, 2009. Visit BCC's website for the Code Change Proposal Form and updates on the review phase for these codes.

## INSPECTOR REMINDER!

Registration fees under Act 54 increased from \$10 to \$25 per classification per year beginning 01/01/2009. Renewal fees for the 09/17/2009 – 09/16/2012 cycle will reflect the new fee amount. Renewal forms will be mailed to inspectors mid-July, 2009.

## STATE HOLIDAY OFFICES CLOSED:

May 25

July 3

## WORDS FROM DIRECTOR IRVIN J. POKE, AIA

It is widely known that the national model codes are published on a three-year cycle. The most recent National Electrical Code, NFPA 90, was published by the National Fire Protection Association in 2008. The International Building, Mechanical, Plumbing, Existing Building, Residential and Energy Conservation Codes 2009 editions have been published by the International Code Council. The Stille-DeRossett-Hale Single State Construction Code Act, 1972 PA 230, requires the director of the Department of Energy, Labor & Economic Growth update the construction code not less than once every three years to coincide with the national code change cycle; therefore, the bureau has initiated the update process. The Michigan Boiler Rules and the Michigan Elevator Rules are also updated every three years to coincide with national standards.

Committees are established for the purpose of reviewing the new codes for adoption through the administrative rules process. Care is taken to create a balanced committee to represent the stakeholders in the construction industry including various construction trades, design professionals, code officials, building owners, utilities, contractors, material suppliers, small business, accessibility and the general public. This allows the construction regulation to be examined as to the affect on each of these constituencies.

Each committee is charged to review the current rules to eliminate restrictive, obsolete, conflicting, and unnecessary regulations that tend to increase construction cost unnecessarily or restrict the use of new materials, products or methods of construction, or provide preferential treatment to types or classes of materials or products, or methods of construction. The newly published codes then undergo the same review. During this process, anyone may submit proposals to amend, add, or delete provisions of the code. Each proposal is given a fair and complete review with committee recommendations for consideration by the department director. Each proponent of a proposal is allowed to appear before the appropriate committee to present reasoning to support their proposal, and likewise opponents are allowed equal time. These proceedings are conducted in accordance with the Open Meetings Act and, therefore, are open to any interested party.

Once the committees complete their work, proposed amendments are compiled into the respective rule sets. Regulatory Impact Statements (RIS) are prepared to accompany the rule sets for review by the State Office of Administrative Hearings and Rules (SOAHR). The RIS must address the resources required by the enforcing agencies, the costs to the construction industry and building owners, and any differential effects attributed to small businesses and geographic locations. The rule set and the RIS are reviewed

## WORDS FROM DIRECTOR (CON'T)

by the Office of Policy and Legislative Affairs and SOAHR, at which point they may ask for additional clarification and information. Final review is made by the Legislative Service Bureau (LSB). Once these reviewing agencies are satisfied, permission is granted to schedule a public hearing. The hearing date, time, and location must be published in three newspapers of general circulation and the Michigan Register not less than 10 days and not more than 60 days prior to the hearing.

A public hearing allows interested parties the opportunity to comment on the codes and rules. Anyone may provide oral or written testimony which becomes part of the record. The public hearing is not a forum for debate. Its purpose is to gather information to assist the department director in making

a final determination about the proposed rule language. The information gathered is incorporated into a report where each issue raised is answered and submitted to SOAHR.

The report and the rules are then submitted to the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR). This is a committee composed of five members of the Senate and five members of the House of Representatives. The JCAR has 15 session days to object to the rules. Once the statutory session days have passed, SOAHR will file the rule set with the Secretary of State, Office of the Great Seal. The rules will take effect on the date designated in the rule set. For more information and a schedule of the current committee meetings, visit our website at [www.michigan.gov/bcc](http://www.michigan.gov/bcc).

## MECHANICAL DIVISION

---

### NEW SOLID FUEL HYDRONIC WATER HEATER TECHNICAL BULLETIN

**By Tennison Barry, Chief  
Mechanical Division**

The bureau has posted a new [Technical Bulletin – Publication No. 56, Solid Fuel Hydronic Heaters \(Outdoor Furnaces\)](#). Outdoor water heaters are actually solid fuel hydronic heaters using a large fire box to heat water in an open reservoir. The hot water is circulated through an underground pipe system to a heat exchanger in the building and then returned to the reservoir.

Technical Bulletin 56 was developed to address how a mechanical inspector can inspect and approve these devices

– basically, walking an inspector through the process. The Michigan Mechanical Code, Section 301.4 requires all equipment be listed and labeled. As an alternative to listing and labeling, the code official may approve the equipment, or the manufacturer may have the equipment approved in accordance with the Stille-DeRossett-Hale Single State Construction Code Act, 1972 PA 230.

Questions should be directed to the Mechanical Division at (517) 241-9325.

## SOLID FUEL-BURNING APPLIANCE MISCONCEPTIONS

**By Jonathon Paradine, Senior Mechanical Inspector  
Mechanical Division**

With the price of heating fuels on the rise, many people are turning to solid fuel-burning appliances to heat their buildings. The Mechanical Division has received numerous telephone calls regarding listing, labeling, and installation requirements for the equipment. According to the 2006 Michigan Mechanical Code (MMC), Section 301.4 states, “Appliances regulated by this code shall be listed and labeled for the application in which they are installed and used...” Please refer to Chapter 2 of the 2006 MMC for the proper definitions for listing and labeling.

The 2006 MMC along with the NFPA-211-2006 edition cover the installation requirements for solid fuel-burning appliances. A common misconception is if it is not installed in a building, then no permit or inspections are required. This is not true. Section 101.2 Scope from the MMC states, “This code regulates the design, installation, maintenance, alteration and

inspection of mechanical systems that are permanently installed and utilized to provide control of environmental conditions and related processes within buildings. This code shall also regulate those mechanical systems, system components, equipment, and appliances specifically addressed in this code.” Therefore, permits and inspections are required.

A question often asked is if a solid fuel-burning appliance can be installed in a garage. The answer is, no, it cannot. The NFPA-211 2006 edition, Section 12.2.4 states, “Solid fuel-burning appliances shall not be installed in any garage.” Also Section 12.2.3 states, Solid fuel-burning appliances shall not be installed in any location where gasoline or any other flammable vapors or gases are present.”

Additional questions may be directed to the Mechanical Division at (517) 241-9325.

# BOILER DIVISION

---

## SCHOOL BOILER MAINTENANCE PROGRAMS: HOW SAFE ARE THE CHILDREN?

ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED IN THE FALL 1997 NATIONAL BOARD BULLETIN. REPRINTED WITH PERMISSION OF THE NATIONAL BOARD OF BOILER AND PRESSURE VESSEL INSPECTORS.

Boiler Rule 408.4187 states, "The boiler owner shall ensure that The proliferation of boilers and pressure vessels in public places is something not often thought about by the general public or even by those in the boiler and pressure vessel industry. Oftentimes the owner/user does not realize the impending danger of improperly operated, maintained, or repaired boilers and pressure vessels until the unimaginable happens: injury or death of unsuspecting people.

Regrettably, such is the case in public and private schools alike, where children and adults spend most of their day. Numerous school incidents dot the landscape: Spencer, Oklahoma; Gallup, New Mexico; Baltimore, Maryland; and others.

"School districts are likely to have several hundred pressure-retaining items . . . each posing a potential explosion hazard," says Lee Doran, National Board field staff representative and training course instructor. "School administrators rarely make the connection between their tight budgets and the adverse effect on reliability, safety, and operation of the affected equipment. Consequently, maintenance of school boilers and related devices get a low priority in the budgeting process."

Mr. Doran notes that better communication between the personnel involved in pressure equipment operation and the "front office" could potentially increase awareness and promote an understanding of what support is really needed for safety. Small investments on boiler maintenance and operator training now can prevent larger costs and possible accidents from occurring later. Something as simple as better staff training could have a significant, positive impact on the threat of an accident or malfunction, Mr. Doran adds.

Very few school districts (outside those states and provinces that require qualification, training, and licensing) provide the opportunity for adequate training of the staff who operate or perform seemingly small repairs to pressure equipment. As Mr. Doran observes, "It has been my experience while conducting National Board boiler safety seminars across the country that many boiler operation and maintenance personnel have never received any training on boilers or other fuel-burning apparatus for which they are responsible." It is ironic that in

most school districts -- where education and training is the goal -- the training of boiler maintenance personnel is not seen as a critical function.

However, even in districts where good maintenance programs and training are scheduled, problems can occur. In the Gallup-McKinley school district in New Mexico, Joe De La O, former director of maintenance for the district, recalls the boiler-furnace explosion that resulted from an unfortunate combination of events. Over a period of several months, an inexperienced and untrained electrician tried to keep a failing hot water-heating boiler operating. On one cold winter afternoon in January 1984, the worker tampered with the burner programmers and relays repeatedly, until a (suspected) malfunction of the programmer led to the ignition of a large accumulation of natural gas. The result was a violent explosion. Although no one was killed, three workers were injured. The boiler and building sustained significant damage, according to Brad Hoover, one of the workers who still provides boiler maintenance for the district.

"The accident occurred at a critical time. It was around 3:00 p.m., about the time children were being sent home for the day," explains Mr. Hoover. "We were very thankful that students and teachers escaped injury. I believe because the boiler was located in the basement of the school building, in a room with concrete walls, many people were saved from possibly very serious injuries."

The obvious conclusion from Mr. Doran, who viewed the accident scene after the fact, was clear: "... to prevent recurrence of an accident of this nature is to fully indoctrinate the boiler maintenance personnel on the operation of the burner flame safeguard control (FSG) and relays. If a malfunction of an FSG is suspected, it should be tested on a tester built for this purpose. Never bypass controls and limits; this almost always guarantees an accident."

Mr. Doran also concluded that damage was very extensive and required replacement of the entire boiler, controls, and stack. According to Mr. Doran, the incident was not a boiler explosion (failure of the boiler pressure parts due to overpressure), but a furnace explosion. The explosion consisted

# BOILER DIVISION (CON'T)

---

of the ignition of a large accumulation of natural gas fuel in the combustion chamber, which caused the pressure boundary to be broken. personnel.” Mr. Jenkins points out that “most educators don’t Don Jenkins, chief boiler inspector for Kansas, concurs, “The biggest problem is unqualified operators and maintenance personnel.” Mr. Jenkins points out that “most educators don’t think as much about mechanical systems as they do about topics directly linked to the educational process. Further, it’s sometimes very difficult to find qualified (maintenance) people for small districts. Traditionally, many boiler operators were former boiler technicians who had received training in the U.S. Navy. But now that the Navy has converted most of its ships’ propulsion systems from steam to gas turbines or diesel electric, it is harder to find trained operators.”

Several routes help ensure safety for all fuel and pressure items in school settings. First, it is important to purchase equipment built to the ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code and registered with the National Board, and to see that the equipment is installed according to manufacturer’s instructions and jurisdictional requirements.

Second, care must be taken when ordering replacement parts. Many jurisdictional regulations enforce codes such as Controls and Safety Devices for Automatically Fired Boilers (ASME CSD-1), which require controls and safety devices to be accepted and listed by a nationally recognized testing agency such as Underwriters Laboratory (UL), Factory Mutual (FM), or the American Gas Association (AGA). This code also does not allow the use of rebuilt or altered controls.

Third, ensure that adequate training is provided for all personnel who might operate or repair a boiler or other fuel-burning device. The chief boiler inspector for each jurisdiction can assist in identifying available training. The National Board also offers seminars developed specifically for boiler operators.

Fourth, establish routine safety inspection and, testing (i.e., in accordance with manufacturers’ recommendations and jurisdictional requirements) for all boilers, pressure vessels, fuel burning equipment, and other devices that pose potential danger. Such inspections must be accomplished by qualified personnel in accordance with jurisdictional, National Board and ASME standards. Mr. Doran says, “The start of the

heating season is accident season. Equipment brought on-line without proper safety checks of control and safety devices promotes a dangerous situation. Prior to automatic operation, all controls and safety devices must be checked for proper operation. The operator must observe at least three normal cycles prior to independent operation to ensure the boiler is running properly.”

Finally, if repairs are needed, use a competent repair organization. Welding, if needed, should be performed by a repair organization that possesses a National Board “R” Certificate of Authorization for Repairs and Alterations.

Preventive maintenance is probably the most important strategy. This includes reporting all accidents, even small ones that seem insignificant, to the local chief boiler inspector. Says Mr. Doran, “a small accident is annoying, but usually it is a signal of bigger things to come.”

Take the example of a 300 horsepower boiler valued at about \$100,000. After a maintenance worker noticed water dripping from the steam valve, the boiler was shut down for inspection. During the inspection, insulation was removed. The boiler inspector concluded that water had been leaking into the insulation for so long that corrosion had developed completely around the boiler. The inspector could actually penetrate the boiler with a pocket knife. The boiler was a total loss, yet less than \$5 worth of packing, applied at the right time, would have saved the boiler. “Good preventive maintenance is a cost savings. It’s much less expensive than corrective maintenance, where the entire piece of equipment may need to be replaced,” Mr. Doran says.

In most jurisdictions, the chief boiler inspector or his or her colleague will give informational talks on safety at school board meetings. By communicating the need for proper maintenance and safety procedures, information can be directed to those who can impact the operation and safety of boilers, pressure vessels, and other fuel-burning equipment.

Remember, training is the key to safety. Most accidents involving this equipment can be directly attributed to untrained and unqualified boiler operators and maintenance personnel. Proper training and good maintenance programs cannot be overemphasized -- don’t let another careless incident happen before these issues go unresolved.

# ELEVATOR SAFETY DIVISION

---

## STAIRWAY CHAIRLIFTS AND CLEAR PASSAGE WIDTH

**By Cal Rogler, Chief  
Elevator Safety Division**

The Elevator Safety Division has been asked to provide the following information regarding the proper installation of stairway chairlifts and the clear passage width required.

The Michigan Building Code (MBC) requires these elevating devices to comply with the current Michigan Elevator Laws and Rules and the current Standard as referenced in the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) A18.1-2003, Safety Standard for Platform Lifts and Stairway Chairlifts. As with other elevating devices, stairway chairlifts may only be installed after a licensed elevator contractor obtains an installation permit from the Elevator Safety Division. Additionally, the installation of the chairlift must be performed by a licensed elevator journeyman.

When stairway chairlifts are installed in stairways, the clear passage width is reduced. Some stairways are very wide and the installation of the chairlift may not be of much concern. However, the MBC and the chairlift code address the minimum clear passage width required for specific situations.

Should a stairway chairlift be installed in locations other than a private residence, Section 4 of the A18.1 Standard requires it to be installed so that the means of egress is maintained as required by the authority having jurisdiction.

When a stairway chairlift is installed in a private residence, Section 7 of the A18.1 Standard requires a minimum free passage width of not less than 20 inches. If the seat and platform can be folded when not in use, the distance shall be measured from the folded position.

The MBC also addresses this issue in Section 1009 Stairways. If the stairway chairlift is installed in other than a residence, “such width shall not be less than 44 inches” and may be required to be wider by other listed code sections. Also MBC, Section 1009, Exception 4 requires, “Where a stairway chairlift is installed on stairways serving occupancies in Group R-3, or within dwelling units in occupancies in Group R-2...a clear passage width of not less than 20 inches (508mm) shall be provided. If the seat and platform can be folded when not in use, the distance shall be measured from the folded position.”

When a licensed elevator contractor applies for an installation permit for a private residence stairway chairlift, they are also required to submit a drawing specific to the location with the passage width clearly noted on the drawing. The passage width is usually shown with the seat and foot platform in the folded position. For residential installations, the person reviewing the permit application will not approve the installation application if the passage width is shown to be less than 20 inches. If during the final inspection of a stairway chairlift, the elevator inspector finds the clear passage width is less than the required 20 inches, the installation will not be approved.

If the permit application for a private residence stairway chairlift is sent in with a letter from the homeowner requesting less of a clear passage width, a letter from the local building official stating the clear passage width for that location and stairwell, and the stairway chairlift drawings comply for the specific location, the permit will be approved.

Permit applications for installations of stairway chairlifts at locations other than a private residence, must include a letter from the local building official stating he/she approves the installation of the device in the stairwell at the specific location and the letter must include the specific clear passage width the official is requiring. Without the information, the permit will not be approved. During the final inspection by the elevator inspector, the clear passage width will be measured to assure the installation complies with the requirements before an approval will be given. The stairway chairlift must receive an approval from the elevator inspector prior to being placed into service or before use.

If you are considering buying a stairway chairlift, carefully research the company before conducting business with them. Do not be afraid to ask to see their elevator contractor license or elevator journeyman license to assure they have the proper license to install the device. This approach may end up saving you time and money in the long run.

If you have questions or concerns regarding installing a stairway chairlift in your private residence or in a location other than a private residence, feel free to contact the Elevator Safety Division at (517) 241-9337.

# ELECTRICAL DIVISION

---

## 2008 CODE ADOPTION MOVING FORWARD & ELECTRICAL LICENSE RENEWALS

By **Dan O'Donnell, Chief**  
**Electrical Division**

The 2008 code adoption process is moving forward with cautious optimism that the 2008 Michigan Electrical Code (MEC) will be adopted by the end of 2009. Currently, the code is in the review process and the next step is a public hearing scheduled for June 11, 2009. The bureau is committed to adopting the code in a timely manner continuing to work through the legislative process to get the new MEC updated as soon as possible.

As reported in the Code Works! 2009 Winter issue, the Electrical Division began enforcement of the requirements set forth in Public Act 217 for electrical apprentice ratios on jobsites effective April 1, 2009. The requirement for electrical apprentices to participate in a board approved electrical apprenticeship training program is still in the development stages and will not be required for the 2009 apprentice registration renewals that will be mailed in June 2009. The Electrical Administrative Board has approved the Electrical Division to work with the U.S. Department of Labor Office of Apprenticeship Training on the development and implementation of the training programs that all electrical apprentices will participate in once they are available.

During the recent electrical license renewal process, the Electrical Division received numerous telephone calls

regarding the expiration date of an electrical license. Electrical master and journey licenses and sign and fire alarm specialty licenses expire each year on December 31. The license is no longer valid after that date and an individual shall not perform work without the required license in the State of Michigan. A license that is not issued by March 1 of the following year is assessed a late fee of \$50.00. If a license is not renewed for a period of three years from the expiration date, the licensee must retake the examination in order to renew the license. Contractor's licenses are issued on a three-year cycle; however, the same rules as outlined above apply with regards to the renewal process. It is always recommended that individuals return their renewal with the appropriate fees as quickly as possible to allow the Division office staff time to process and issue the license. Thanks to all those who follow these simple steps as you make the process run much smoother.

For the 2010 license renewal, a code update class will not be necessary. Depending on when the 2008 MEC is adopted, an update class on that code may be required for the 2011 license renewal. An update will be issued in the next edition of Code Works.

Questions can be directed to the Electrical Division at (517) 241-9320.

# BUILDING DIVISION

---

## CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS

By **Larry Lehman, Chief**  
**Building Division**

Questions have been asked recently regarding new legislation that recently adopted and amends the Stille-DeRossett-Hale Single State Construction Code Act 230 of 1972, requiring the installation of carbon monoxide devices. The 2008 PA 376, and 2008 PA 377 were enacted with immediate effect on December 30, 2008.

While these laws took immediate effect with some added sunset dates, the language in the laws requires the Department of Energy, Labor & Economic Growth to promulgate rules regarding the installation of carbon monoxide devices in each new residential building or structure, including boarding houses,

hotels, and motels. Since rules have not been promulgated yet, local enforcing agencies are prohibited from mandating the installation of carbon monoxide detectors until rules are adopted.

There are other provisions related to these laws that need to be resolved for rule promulgation, and it is expected the Michigan Building, Residential, and Rehabilitation Code Rules Committee will include rules for the promulgation of carbon monoxide devices in the upcoming construction code rules development.

Questions regarding this article may be directed to the Building Division at (517) 241-9317.

# OFFICE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND CONSUMER SERVICES

## SPACING REQUIREMENTS PRIOR TO THE MOBILE HOME COMMISSION ACT

By **Bill DeTemple, Departmental Analyst**

**Office of Local Government & Consumer Services (OLGCS)**

A complete audit or inspection of a manufactured housing community may be necessary to follow-up on an annual inspection or when a complaint cannot be resolved. During the complete audit/inspection, it may be noted that communities constructed prior to the Mobile Home Commission Act are not complying with spacing requirements and that the community operators and/or managers are unsure of the requirements for their community.

Manufactured Housing General Rule 604a requires the community be responsible for ensuring compliance with the spacing requirements for the installation of homes within the community. Rule 947a (3) requires in part that “a community constructed according to the standards in previous acts, rules, or local ordinances shall be maintained or altered in a manner consistent with the standards in effect at the time of original construction...”. Rule 947a (4) requires that “in communities issued a permit to construct before February 28, 1979, enclosed structures attached to homes are considered obstructions in the 10-foot side yard space. All other structures or vegetation are not obstructions if there is a 4-foot wide ground level pathway which is obstruction free to 7 feet in height and which runs the length of the side yard with access to the road.”

## MANUFACTURED HOUSING COMMISSION

By **Kevin DeGroat, Regulation Specialist**

**Office of Local Government & Consumer Services (OLGCS)**

The Manufactured Housing Commission (MHC) issued an Order that became effective December 23, 2008, revoking the license of a manufactured housing retailer that sold a home without a surety bond and failed to file an application to transfer title to the purchaser. The retailer also incurred a \$5,000 fine. Other penalties assessed included exclusion from the manufactured housing industry and restitution to customers for any losses suffered.

The customer’s complaint was presented to the MHC for final action after the licensee failed to answer or comply with previous correspondence and orders offering opportunities to satisfy the requirements of the Mobile Home Commission Act.

This means that manufactured housing community operators must maintain the minimum regulatory or construction plan-approved distances and setbacks in force when the community section was built.

To determine compliance with Manufactured Housing General Rule 947a (3) and (4), compliance with the following spacing requirements are determined during a complete audit/inspection of a manufactured housing community that was constructed prior to the Mobile Home Commission Act:

1. 4-foot minimum unobstructed side yard space and 10-feet between the homes and/or attached enclosed structures.
2. 3-foot unobstructed space rear to rear and 3-feet from the boundaries of the community.
3. 10-feet from a building, public street or alley.
4. Onsite vehicle parking in designated parking space and at least 10-feet from the adjacent manufactured home.

Questions regarding these requirements may be directed to Bill DeTemple, OLGCS, at (517) 241-9347.

On February 6, 2009, the bureau received notification from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development that its administration of state laws and rules governing manufactured home installation is fully certified as compliant with the National Manufactured Housing Construction and Safety Standards Act. This certification is issued to states that require installer/servicer training classes and enforce home set-up standards consistent with new federal model installation codes. It affirms Michigan’s 30-year-old regulatory program establishing consumer protection, educational, installation and licensing criteria for those who transport, disassemble, and site manufactured homes for hire.

Questions regarding this article may be directed to Kevin DeGroat, OLGCS at (517) 241-9347.

PROVIDING FOR MICHIGAN’S SAFETY  
IN THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

# PLUMBING DIVISION

## CODE UPDATE, LICENSE REQUIREMENTS, & ASTM A888

By Robert Konyndyk, Chief  
Plumbing Division

The Plumbing Division has several varied informational items for licensees in this edition of Code Works.

The most critical item is a reminder that licensed journey and master plumbers must complete their required code update class for the 2006 Michigan Plumbing and Michigan Residential Codes by July 31, 2009. Individuals not completing the class will not be able to renew their license in the 2010 licensing cycle. This has far reaching effects as journey and masters who have not renewed their license within a three year timeframe will have to reexamine. The division has informed all licensees of this matter by mail and the bureau's newsletter early in 2008 in order to provide ample time for compliance. Additionally, numerous course providers have solicited licensees with class information flyers which heightened everyone's awareness.

Second, the Bureau of Construction Codes (BCC) is currently involved in updating the Michigan codes through the rules process. While BCC is extremely involved in national code updates to assure new products and safety issues are current, we solicit input from our citizens regarding the state codes. [BCC's website](#) has a great deal of information about this matter. We are strongly committed to addressing economic matters in this process (e.g., fixture numbers in the different occupancy use groups).

Another area of concern, which occurs on a regular basis, is the intent of the plumbing contractors license in the new State Plumbing Act. The contractor is an individual who has primary authority in the financial matters of the company. The contractor and the master plumber of record are jointly and severally responsible for exercising the supervision or control of the plumbing operations to secure full compliance with the State Plumbing Act, 2002 PA 733.

## BCC CONTACT INFORMATION

### Telephone Numbers:

Administration (517) 241-9302  
Office of Administrative Services (517) 335-2972  
Office of Management Services (517) 241-9313  
Boiler Division (517) 241-9334  
Building Division (517) 241-9317  
Electrical Division (517) 241-9320  
Elevator Safety Division (517) 241-9337  
Mechanical Division (517) 241-9325  
Office of Local Government & Consumer Services (517) 241-9347  
Office of Land Survey & Remonumentation (517) 241-6321  
(includes State Boundary Commission)  
Plan Review Division (517) 241-9328  
Plumbing Division (517) 241-9330

Finally, recent improvements in the ASTM A888 Hubless Cast Iron Soil Pipe and Fittings standard have begun to address the division's and State Plumbing Board's concern for these products' performance. The products were questioned when importers and wholesalers had their company name used for identification of products manufactured by many individual manufacturers in different countries. Concerns were based upon test report failures and inaccuracies. The standard improvements include requiring third party certifiers to perform specific verification for the following:

- Review of the manufacturer's records to assure compliance with acceptable scrap radiation levels, gray iron tensile strength tests, acceptable chemical content levels, and pipe and fitting product inspection during production (for dimension conformance).
- Random inspections of inventory to assure conformance to dimensions and marking requirements. Correct marking enables quarantine later for products having quality control issues.

This information shall now be provided to design professionals and administrative authorities having jurisdiction (code officials) upon request.

It is assumed that the manufacturers/sellers and certifiers will now perform the testing, accumulate the facts, and be ready to provide them upon request. To date, this office has not received any new acceptance considerations which leaves those previous product submissions unaccepted.

Questions on these matters may be directed to Robert Konyndyk, Plumbing Division, (517) 241-9330.

### Facsimile Numbers:

Administration & Office of Administrative Services (517) 241-9570  
Office of Management Services & Plumbing Div. (517) 373-8547  
Building, Electrical, Mechanical, Plan Review Div., OLGCS (517) 241-9308  
Office of Land Survey & Remonumentation, Boiler & Elevator Safety Divisions (517) 241-6301

### Mailing Addresses:

P.O. Box 30254 (Codes: general correspondence)  
P.O. Box 30255 (Codes: permits, licenses, and other documents containing payment)  
P.O. Box 30704 (Office of Land Survey & Remonumentation)  
Lansing, Michigan 48909

# PLAN REVIEW DIVISION

## BOAT MARINAS NEED TO COMPLY WITH STATE CONSTRUCTION CODE

**Todd Cordill, Chief  
Plan Review Division**

Due to the fact our state is comprised of two large peninsulas surrounded by an abundance of freshwater coastlines of several Great Lakes, small craft boating and commercial shipping are prevalent. This access to large bodies of open water allows for the use of commercial shipping harbors and public and private use boat marinas in many parts of the state. These facilities are owned and operated by both public and private entities. For the purpose of discussion in this article, commercial harbors are excluded from any detailed analysis due to the fact that harbors used for ships are not subject to the construction code as prescribed by 1972 PA 230, Section 1502a(1)(z) exempting works of heavy civil construction, including harbors. However, parts of public and private use boat marinas are subject to the state construction code. There are distinctions between the applicable requirements of 1972 PA 230, The Stille-DeRossett-Hale Single State Construction Code Act and 1994 PA 451, The Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Acts. Both govern the design and construction of public use boat marinas and component piers, floating dock systems, gangways, miscellaneous structures, and electrical service and devices. The 1972 PA 230 is administered and enforced by the State's Construction Code Commission through either the Bureau of Construction Codes or a local enforcing agency. The 1994 PA 451 is administered and enforced by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ).

The scope of 1972 PA 230 for boat marinas is limited to miscellaneous structures, buildings, gangways and electrical service and devices for the pier systems of public use boat marinas. The structural requirements of the Michigan Building Code (MBC) apply to the fixed elements of the piers and any other fixed structures and buildings. However, a floating pier system is subject to structural requirements that are not specifically referenced in the MBC. The floating portions of a pier system are effectively addressed by ASCE Manual 50,

Planning and Design Guidelines for Small Craft Harbors (1994 edition) published by the American Society of Civil Engineers. This manual can be accepted by a building official as a viable alternative means or method of design and construction, in conjunction with MBC requirements for materials and structural loading. The structural load requirements in the MBC may not be literally applicable if the floating pier elements are closed and inaccessible during the times of year that snow loads are in consideration for structures and buildings. In such cases, there would not likely be live loads and snow loads at the same time on a floating pier. Buildings that are part of a boat marina project are subject to all requirements of the state construction code. Article 555 of the 2005 Michigan Electrical Code (MEC) addresses the requirements for electrical wiring and equipment at marinas and boatyards. This includes, but is not limited to fixed and floating piers, docks and other areas in marinas. Article 590 of the MEC also applies to marinas in the cases of temporary electrical power and lighting installations. All work that is subject to the state construction code shall be done under construction permits for the various building trades.

The scope of 1994 PA 451 covers the natural physical features of a body of water and associated land. Riparian rights are also taken into consideration within the scope of this act. Permits for any work within the confines of a body of water such as dredging and pile driving shall not commence until appropriate permits are obtained through MDEQ and MDNR. Some work that involves breakwaters and jetties that form a harbor of refuge in the Great Lakes are subject to the approval and oversight of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. In order to obtain more information regarding the jurisdiction of these entities, visit the websites for the [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers](#), [MDEQ](#) and [MDNR](#).

Questions can be directed to the Plan Review Division at (517) 241-9328.

## BOARD AND COMMISSION MEETINGS

<u>Meeting</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
Barrier Free Design Board	July 10	9:30 am	Okemos – Conf Room 3
Board of Boiler Rules	June 16	1:00 pm	Okemos – Conf Room 3
Construction Code Commission	July 1	9:30 am	Okemos – Conf Room 3
Electrical Administrative Board	June 5, Aug 7	9:30 am	Okemos – Conf Room 3
Elevator Safety Board	June 12	9:30 am	Okemos – Conf Room 3
Manufactured Housing Commission	June 17	10:00 am	Okemos – Conf Room 3
Board of Mechanical Rules	July 15	9:00 am	Okemos – Conf Room 3
State Boundary Commission	June 18, July 16	1:30 pm	Okemos – Conf Room 3
State Plumbing Board	June 9	10:00 am	Okemos – Conf Room 3
	July 22	8:15am	Escanaba – UP State Fairgrounds

# LICENSE EXAMINATION DATES

## BCC ONLINE SERVICES

[Manufactured Home Affidavit of Affixture  
Online Lookup](#)  
[Online License Search](#)  
[Disciplinary Action Report](#)  
[Easy Access to Permit & License Verification](#)  
[Statewide Search for Subdivision Plats](#)  
[Statewide Search for Remonumentation Data](#)  
[County Remonumentation Data Entry](#)  
[Building System Approval Reports](#)  
[Online Code Training Series](#)

## BCC QUICK LINKS

[Online Permitting](#)  
[Online License Renewals](#)  
[Codes & Standards Order Form](#)  
[Statewide Jurisdiction List](#)  
[Local School Construction Enforcement List](#)  
[Product Approvals](#)

## CIVIL SERVICE WEBSITE

[State Job Postings](#)

Code Works! is a quarterly publication of the Bureau of Construction Codes within the Department of Energy, Labor & Economic Growth.

### Editor in Chief

Beth Hunter Aben

### Editors

Deborah Young  
Tracie Pack

Created under the authority of  
1972 PA 230.

<u>Examination</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
Boiler Installer and Repairer	June 3, 4	Okemos	May 8
	Sept 9, 10	Okemos	Aug 14
Boiler National Board	June 3, 4	Okemos	May 8
	Sept 2, 3	Lansing	Aug 14
Electrical/Fire Alarm/Sign Contractor	May 19	Okemos	Apr 21
	July 14	Okemos	June 16
	July 21	Escanaba	June 23
Fire Alarm Spec. Tech./Sign Spec.	July 8	Okemos	June 10
Electrician - Journeyman	May 12, 13	Okemos	Apr 14
	July 21	Escanaba	June 23
	Aug 18, 19	Okemos	July 21
Electrician - Master	May 14	Okemos	Apr 16
	July 22	Escanaba	June 24
	Aug 20	Okemos	July 22
Elevator Journeyman	May 12	Okemos	Apr 21
	July 7	Okemos	June 16
	Sept 8	Okemos	Aug 18
Elevator Contractor/Cert. of Comp.	June 12	Okemos	May 22
	Aug 28	Okemos	Aug 7
Mechanical Contractor	June 16	Lansing	May 18
	Aug 4	Escanaba	July 7
Plumbing - Contractor	June 17	East Lansing	
	July 23	Escanaba	
Plumbing - Master and Journey	June 10	East Lansing	
	July 23	Escanaba	

Dates and times are subject to change. Visit the [BCC website](#) for updates.



Working to Create Michigan's Future Today

DELEG is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids, services and other reasonable accommodations are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.