



CODE WORKS!

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SPRING 2010

ATTENTION READERS!

In an attempt to reach more organizations and individuals involved in code inspections, we're asking for your help in getting the word out! If you know of an organization or individual that would benefit from the information posted in BCC's newsletter, please direct them to our website at www.michigan.gov/bcc. Then, click on the "Publications/Bulletins/Interpretations/Advisories" link for more information on how to subscribe to and receive an electronic notification of when each quarterly newsletter is posted.

CODE CHANGES

Please visit [BCC's website](http://www.michigan.gov/bcc) to monitor updates on code review processes.

BCC OFFICES CLOSED:

MAY 31

JULY 5

WORDS FROM DIRECTOR IRVIN J. POKE, AIA

Every governmental subdivision that elects to administer and enforce the Stille-DeRossett-Hale Single State Construction Code Act, 1972 PA 230, and the state construction code must maintain a Construction Board of Appeals (CBA) in accordance with MCL 125.1514 of PA 230. This section of the act prescribes that an appeal must be heard and a decision rendered and filed within 30 days after submission of an appeal. There have been cases where a governmental subdivision has not maintained an active CBA and cannot meet the timeframe specified by statute. When the required timeframe cannot be or is not met, the appeal is considered denied for the purpose of authorizing the institution of an appeal to the Construction Code Commission. Therefore, it is a good idea to annually review the appointments to the CBA to assure they are current. If there has not been an appeal in a considerable amount of time, it is also prudent to make sure those appointed are still available and willing to serve.

The members of a CBA should be qualified by experience and training to perform the duties of an appeal. If the CBA will handle appeals from all four of the disciplines (building, electrical, mechanical and plumbing), the membership should have the appropriate experience and/or knowledge of each trade. A design professional member on the CBA will be invaluable when the appeal concerns an architectural or engineering issue.

Contrary to what is often heard, an appeal is not a vehicle to waive or set aside code compliance. This is clear in Section 112.2 of the Michigan Building Code and Section R112.2 of the Michigan Residential Code, and affirmed by MCL 125.1515 of PA 230. The CBA shall make findings whether a code provision applies, is applied correctly, or an alternative offered is equal to or better than what is required by the code. The granting of a variance resulting from an appeal does not set a precedent for future projects. A variance is based on the specific facts of an appeal, and only applies to the case where the facts have been established before the CBA. The CBA is generally not the venue to appeal statutory requirements. Questions regarding the CBA may be directed to the bureau at (517) 241-9347.

ADMINISTRATION

RECISSION OF INTERPRETATION OF 99-32 "WHO MAY REQUEST AN INSPECTION"

By Director Irvin Poke, AIA
Administration

The Construction Code Commission rescinded Interpretation 99-32, "Who May Request an Inspection" at its meeting on April 7, 2010. The subject interpretation approved on March 2, 1999, was based on language in the Construction Code Act, Forbes Mechanical Contractor's Act, and 1996 editions of the state construction codes. The Construction Code Act has been amended several times, the State Plumbing Act was completely rewritten, and we are now using the 2006 edition of the state code. The 1996 edition of the state code was based on the BOCA National Codes which are no longer published. The current state code is based on the International Code Council's International Codes which have different language than the former.

In light of the fact that the subject interpretation is based on language that is no longer accurate, we believe this interpretation has outlived its usefulness. The current codes address this issue appropriately and further interpretation is not needed. With this interpretation being rescinded, Technical Bulletin 29 is now obsolete and has been deleted from our website. Should a need for interpretation arise in the future we will address it with the code and statutory language at that time.

Questions regarding this article can be directed to Irvin Poke at (517) 241-9302.

PLAN REVIEW DIVISION

BARRIER FREE DESIGN EXCEPTIONS FOR EXISTING BUILDINGS

By Todd Cordill, NCARB, Chief
Plan Review Division

When does an existing building need to comply with barrier free design requirements of the state construction code? The correct answer to this question depends on the scope of proposed alteration work and/or a change of use or occupancy load. The barrier free design requirements can be found in the following documents: 1966 PA 1 (Michigan's Barrier Free Design Law), the 2006 Michigan Building Code, the 2006 Michigan Rehabilitation Code for Existing Buildings, and referenced standard ICC/ANSI A117.1 (2003 edition).

PA 1 of 1966 contains requirements for barrier free design of public facilities and the administration and enforcement thereof by the local or state unit of government enforcing the state construction code. It also describes the duties and powers of the Barrier Free Design Board that grants or denies requests for exceptions to the barrier free requirements of The Stille-DeRossett-Hale Single State Construction Code Act. According to Section 5a, PA 1, the Barrier Free Design Board shall grant a request for an exception if the Board has found compelling need for the exception if the literal application of the barrier free design requirements would result in exceptional, practical difficulty to the applicant. If compelling need is found and an exception is granted, the board will issue a written order describing the conditions of the exception.

The process for a barrier free design exception in an existing building begins with a change in use group, occupancy

load, or alteration as outlined in PA 1, Section 2. This section describes the requirements if the change in use group, occupancy load, or alteration involves less than or more than 50 percent of the floor area of the facility which can be used by the public or employees. The technical requirements for compliance for existing buildings can be found in the 2006 Michigan Building Code (primarily Chapters 10, 11, and 34) or the 2006 Michigan Rehabilitation Code for Existing Buildings. Both codes reference the ICC/ANSI A117.1 (2003 edition) for the physical dimensions and layout requirements. If an exception to the barrier free design requirements is sought, the enforcing agency's building official and the applicant shall both sign the Application for Barrier Free Design Rule Exception and submit it with supporting documents to the Plan Review Division. If the bureau is the enforcing agency, the building official will sign the application after it is submitted. After Plan Review Division staff review the application, the matter is forwarded to the State Office of Administrative Hearings and Rules for a hearing before an administrative law judge (ALJ). It is during this hearing that compelling need shall be demonstrated. After the hearing, the presiding ALJ forwards his or her findings of fact, conclusions, and recommendation to the Barrier Free Design Board for action in granting or denying the exception request. The process concludes with the action of the Barrier Free Design Board, which meets six times per year.

Please contact the Plan Review Division at (517) 241-9328 with any questions.

ELEVATOR SAFETY DIVISION

SUMP PUMPS/DRAINS IN ELEVATOR PITS AND THE ASME A17.1-2007

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

The Elevator Safety Division has been asked to provide the following information regarding the requirements for installing a sump pump in an elevator pit. The adoption of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) A17.1 Safety Code for Elevators and Escalators Edition 2007, will become effective June 21, 2010. Upon the effective date, the Elevator Safety Division will be enforcing the requirements in Section 2.2 which mandate a drain or sump pump when the elevator is provided with Firefighters' Emergency Operation. A new requirement in Section 2.2.2.5 is that the sump pump/drain shall have a capacity to remove a minimum of 11.4 m³/h (3,000 gal/h which equals 50 gpm) per elevator. In the past we have not required the sump pump to be in place within the required sump. However, with the adoption of the Elevator Rules on June 21, 2010, we will be enforcing this requirement in ASME. The installation of the sump pump would also require the proper electrical connections and drain line connections.

Please remember, the code section now requires that the Sump Pump/Drain shall have a capacity to remove a minimum of 11.4 m³/h (3,000 gal/h which equals 50 gpm) per elevator. Elevators with duplex pits would need twice that amount, two sumps and sump pumps which each remove a minimum 3,000 gal/h or one sump and sump pump which could remove a minimum of 6,000 gal/h. In a common triplex elevator pit the combined sump pumps or one single pump must be able to remove a minimum of three times or 9,000 gal/h.

We have had questions pertaining to the need for oil separators in hydraulic elevator pits. In the Michigan Elevator Rules, R 408.7033 (Rule 33), it states in part, "Drains and

sump pumps, where provided, shall comply with the Michigan Plumbing Code, ...". The Michigan Plumbing Code (MPC), 2006 Edition, Section 301.6, Prohibited Locations, prohibits plumbing systems in an elevator shaft or in an elevator equipment room. However, the exception in 301.6 allows floor drains and sump pumps if they are indirectly connected to the building drainage system. The MPC, Section 1003.4 Oil Separators required, mandates the use of an oil separator for hydraulic elevator pits. The installation of an oil separator is not permitted in any elevator pit, hoistway, or machine room. If an oil separator is required it must be located in an area other than the elevator pit, hoistway, or machine room. There is an exception in the section which states, "an oil separator is not required in hydraulic elevator pits where an approved alarm system is installed." As of this date, Michigan has no approved alarm systems which could be used for this exception.

An alarm system was proposed to the Elevator Safety Division which monitored the sump and when oil was present the system prohibited the sump pump from operating (pumping). I have discussed this type of system with the Chairman of the ASME Hoistway Committee. He informed me that the Hoistway Committee had discussions regarding this type of system; the conclusion of the Committee was any system which prohibited the sump pump from operating, would not comply with ASME, Section 2.2.2.5. Alarm systems which stop the sump pump from pumping do not comply with the requirements of removing a minimum of 11.4 m³/h (3,000 gal/h which equals 50 gpm) per elevator, and are not approved by the Elevator Safety Division. If we approve an alarm system later, its purpose will be to provide visual and audio notification to the building operator of an oil presence and shall not stop the pump from pumping.

ELEVATOR RULE STATUS

The Elevator Safety Division is in the process of updating the elevator rules to the most current safety standards. The new rules become effective June 21, 2010.

The new Michigan Elevator Rules adopt the following Standards:

- American Society of Mechanical Engineers, Safety Code for Elevators and Escalators, ASME A17.1-2007.
- American Society of Mechanical Engineers, Safety Standards for Platform Lifts and Stairway Chairlifts ASME A18.1-2008
- American Society of Mechanical Engineers, Safety Standard for Belt Manlifts, ASME A90.1-2003
- American National Standard, Safety Requirements for Personnel Hoists and Employee Elevators for Construction and Demolition Operations, ANSI A10.4-2007

These editions of the Standards are currently available from the American Society of Mechanical Engineers at 1-800-843-2763 or Global Engineering at 1-877-413-5184. Be sure to specify the correct edition you are requesting.

If you have any questions, please contact the Elevator Safety Division at (517) 241-9337.

BOILER DIVISION

MISCELLANEOUS BOILER INSTALLATION AND TESTING ISSUES

**Robert Aben, Chief
Boiler Division**

Over time one tends to accumulate issues which each by itself can barely take up a paragraph and certainly not an entire article; however, this article is intended to address some of those issues.

Issue 1: Boiler Rule 408.4047(h) exempts from the rule water tube and coil type boilers requiring forced circulation not exceeding any one of the following:

- (i) Maximum water temp of 200° F
- (ii) Relief valve set pressure of 30 psi
- (iii) Heat input of 200,000 BTU/hr

This exemption does not apply to fire tube, cast sectionals, or any other type boilers.

Issue 2: Many years ago, the boiler rules contained a rule (R 408.4556 Low-water Cutoff Control) that stated in part... “A paddle type non-reversing flow switch MAY be used in lieu of a LWCO on an individually automatically fired coil type instantaneous hot water heating boiler...”. The use of the permissive “MAY” meant you could use a flow switch, a probe, or a float type LWCO which is no longer the case. Boiler Rule 408.4027 adopts ASME Code CSD-1. Paragraph CW-210 of CSD-1 details the requirements for the use of flow sensing devices on coil type boilers. Translation: The device that is used as the safety control must have been tested by a

nationally recognized testing agency and proven to function within specified parameters for its intended use.

Issue 3: Boiler Rule 408.4027 adopts ASME Code CSD-1 for installation, maintenance, and testing of controls and safety devices. The rule also requires annual and triennial testing of the controls and safety devices on certain boilers be conducted by a properly licensed mechanical contractor. It is imperative that licensed mechanical contractors conducting these tests be familiar with the testing requirement of the equipment manufacturer and ASME Code CSD-1.

Issue 4: This is for all licensed boiler installers. As stated above, Boiler Rule 408.4027 adopts ASME Code CSD-1. Paragraph CG-500 contains requirements for Certification and Reporting. Specific requirements for the installer are contained in CG-510(c) with regard to responsibility for certification and reporting. Installers are required to deliver to the boiler owner the manufacturer’s instructions, wiring and piping diagrams, and a written caution that operating, testing, and servicing only be performed by a qualified individual. The installer must obtain a receipt for these documents signed by the owner or owner’s designee. The document should be on the installing licensee’s letterhead and be available to the inspector at their next visit.

Questions may be directed to the Boiler Division at (517) 241-9334.

BOARD AND COMMISSION MEETINGS

<u>Meeting</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
Barrier Free Design Board	May 14	9:30 am	Okemos – Conf Room 3
	July 9	9:30 am	Okemos – Conf Room 3
Board of Boiler Rules	June 9	9:30 am	Okemos – Conf Room 3
Construction Code Commission	July 7	9:30 am	Okemos – Conf Room 3
Electrical Administrative Board	May 20	9:30 am	Okemos – Conf Room 3
	August 19	9:30 am	Okemos – Conf Room 3
Elevator Safety Board	June 11	9:30 am	Okemos – Conf Room 3
Manufactured Housing Commission	June 16	10:00 am	Okemos – Conf Room 3
	August 11	10:00am	Okemos – Conf Room 3
Board of Mechanical Rules	May 19	9:00 am	Okemos – Conf Room 3
	August 18	9:00 am	Okemos – Conf Room 3
State Boundary Commission	June 17	1:30 pm	Okemos – Conf Room 3
	August 12	1:30 pm	Okemos – Conf Room 3
State Plumbing Board	June 8	10:00 am	Okemos – Conf Room 3
	July 14	8:15 am	Escanaba– State Fairgrounds

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

OFFICE OF LAND SURVEY AND REMONUMENTATION

STATE BOUNDARY COMMISSION

By Kevin M. O'Brien, Professional Surveyor
Office of Land Survey & Remonumentation (OLSR)

Created by statute in 1968, the State Boundary Commission (SBC) is responsible for adjudicating many types of municipal boundary adjustments: all city and village incorporations; all city, village, and township consolidations; and many types of annexations from townships to cities.

The SBC is comprised of three appointees designated by the Governor, along with four local commissioners from each county who are appointed by the Chief Probate Judge of the respective county. Members serve for three year terms or until either reappointed or replaced by their appointing authority. SBC meetings are typically held on the third Thursday of the month, at 1:30 p.m., at 2501 Woodlake Circle, Okemos, Michigan.

In processing petitions for boundary changes, including referendum petitions, the SBC is a quasi-judicial body that evaluates statutory criteria and protects due process of multiple interests (e.g., property owners, developers, local units of government, advocacy groups, and local residents). The SBC has authority to recommend approval or denial of a petition. This recommendation can include an area that is smaller or larger than the territory proposed in the original petition.

Laws and Administrative Rules which govern decisions of the SBC are the Boundary Commission Act [1968 PA 191, MCL 123.1001 et seq.], the Boundary Commission Rules, the Home Rule City Act [1909 PA 279, MCL 117.1 et seq.], the Home Rule Village Act [1909 PA 278, MCL 78.1 et seq.], the Charter Township Act [1947 PA 359, MCL 42.1 et seq.], the Open Meetings Act [1976 PA 267, MCL 15.261 et seq.], and Michigan Election Law.

Whether the petition is a request for an annexation, incorporation, or consolidation, each petition involves five specific steps:

- Filing of the petition
- Determination of legal sufficiency
- Public hearing
- Adjudication
- Findings of Fact

Each one of these steps has certain procedures, requirements, and timelines which must be followed and met for a petition to proceed smoothly.

Petitions can only be filed at the business location of the SBC Office, either by mail or in person. Upon receipt, each petition is immediately assigned a docket identification number that reflects the year in which it is filed, the type of petition, and its numerical sequence by type. Within 10 days of receipt, a "Notice of Filing" must be transmitted to the clerks of the local units of government. The notice is also provided to state and local boundary commissioners, the petitioners, and any other designated parties.

The petition is then scheduled on the agenda of a regular monthly SBC meeting for legal sufficiency. Staff reviews the petition documents based on statutory criteria and submits their findings to the SBC for consideration. In reviewing the petition and staff findings, the SBC will determine whether the legal sufficiency criteria prescribed in statute and rules has been met. Some of the conditions that a petition must meet to be legally sufficient are:

1. All relevant boundaries must be consistent with the boundary data on file in the Office of the Great Seal (Secretary of State).
2. A map identifying the area proposed for a boundary adjustment and the legal description must be substantially accurate and consistent with each other.
3. The map and legal description must be accurate and unambiguous.
4. The proposed area must be contiguous to the city limits (annexation petitions).
5. Proper recorded ownership documentation must be provided.
6. Adequate amount of signatories to the petition.

Note: The petition cannot be modified in any way to correct deficiencies after it has been filed with the SBC.

If the petition is not legally sufficient, a Findings of Fact which reflects the defects and reasons for rejection of legal sufficiency is adopted at a subsequent SBC meeting. This is a statutory formality in order to conclude action on the petition. If the petition is approved for legal sufficiency, the SBC sets a date for the public hearing-which is held in or reasonably near the involved municipalities of the petitioned area.

After the public hearing, at a monthly adjudicative meeting, the SBC considers the information received in the docket record and votes on what decision to recommend. The following step is the adoption of a Findings of Fact document that reflects the SBC's recommendation, and outlines the facts

OFFICE OF LAND SURVEY AND REMONUMENTATION (CON'T)

STATE BOUNDARY COMMISSION

relevant to the proposal and the considerations on which the Boundary Commissioners based their decision. An Order, accompanied by the Findings of Fact document, is then transmitted to the Director of the Department of Energy, Labor & Economic Growth requesting concurrence with the SBC's recommendation.

After the Order is signed, public officials and residents of the affected territory may appeal the decision by either requesting a referendum election, or they can file in circuit court for judicial review. If a referendum petition is filed

within the statutory timeline, the SBC reviews the petition for validity at a monthly SBC meeting. If this petition is deemed legally sufficient, the SBC will recommend the Director sign a new Order to place the question on the ballot. If a majority of voters approve the referendum question, then proceedings continue toward drafting a charter for either the requested incorporation or consolidation, or the annexation is implemented. Otherwise, the proceedings are terminated.

Questions can be directed to the Office of Land Survey & Remonumentation (OLSR) at (517) 241-6321.

OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

BUREAU OF CONSTRUCTION CODE CHANGES

By Michael Somers, Analyst
Office of Administrative Services

The Bureau of Construction Codes (BCC) is pleased to announce the recent restructuring of several divisions to promote efficiency and streamline vital services that are provided to the public.

Effective April 1, 2010, program areas and staff members from the former Office of Local Government and Consumer Services (OLGCS) are being relocated into existing divisions within BCC.

The Building Division currently provides building code administration, enforcement, and inspection services. They also provide building inspections for manufactured housing communities, issue manufactured housing licenses, and provide staff support to the Manufactured Housing Commission. New areas of responsibility will include manufactured housing audits; complaint investigation regarding installer/servicers, retailers, and manufacturers; administrative action relative to these functions; and ordinance reviews for manufactured housing communities. The division will also register code inspectors, and approve instructors and training programs for code inspectors. For additional information, please contact the Building Division at (517) 241-9317.

The Office of Administrative Services (OAS) handles promulgation of rules, publication of the bureau's newsletter, personnel oversight, and performs good moral character reviews. New program areas will include investigation of consumer licensing complaints, local code program evaluation services, processing of ordinances from local units of government, processing of Applications to Administer and Enforce, and assistance and guidance to local units of government and their code enforcement programs throughout the state. For additional information, please contact the OAS at (517) 241-9302.

BCC is committed to partnering with local units of government to provide for the health, safety, and welfare of the public in the built environment. The staff of the former OLGCS looks forward to continuing their productive working relationships with local units of government and others in their new assignments.

You may still reach staff of the former OLGCS at (517) 241-9347; the Building Division at (517) 241-9317; or the OAS at (517) 241-9302.

MECHANICAL DIVISION

MATERIALS EXPOSED WITHIN PLENUMS

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

This article is to provide clarification on the 2006 Michigan Mechanical Code (MMC), Section 602.2.1 - materials within plenum.

Material within plenums, regardless of whether the plenum is constructed of or bonded by combustible or noncombustible materials, must be noncombustible or must have a flame spread index of 25 or less and a smoke-developed index of 50 or less when tested to ASTM E 84.

Previous editions of the code used the term “exposed within the plenum” when addressing this issue. However, some

designers and installers used the language to install plastic pipe and other combustible materials with some insulation wrapped around it, claiming the material was no longer exposed. If the wrapping material were to become damaged, loosened, or destroyed in a fire, the combustible material could be exposed in a fire and produce hazardous smoke that would be spread to other parts of the building through the plenum. The word “exposed” was deleted from the 2006 MMC. This means you cannot allow any combustible material in a plenum whatsoever if it does not meet all the requirements of the 2006 MMC, Section 602.2.1.

If you have any questions, you may contact the Mechanical Division at (517) 241-9325.

OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

PRIVATE INSPECTION COMPANIES AND 1972 PA 230

By **Michael Somers, Analyst**
Office of Administrative Services

The bureau has been receiving questions regarding local units of government contracting with private companies for construction code enforcement services. Although this is not a new practice within the State of Michigan, construction code enforcing agencies within local units of government must understand and abide by the requirements of The Stille-DeRossett-Hale Single State Construction Code Act, known as 1972 PA 230.

Section 8b (3) of the Act states, in part:

“...an enforcing agency is any official or agent of a governmental subdivision that is registered under the building officials and inspectors registration act, 1986 PA 54...qualified by experience or training to perform the duties associated with construction code administration and enforcement.”

Statute requires that individuals conducting plan reviews and performing building, electrical, mechanical, and plumbing code inspections throughout the State be properly registered as code officials in accordance with 1986 PA 54.

Construction code enforcing agencies within local units of government must provide documentation of properly registered inspection personnel, administrative services, plan review services, timely field inspections, and assure enforcement

of all related acts and rules in order to be approved by the State Construction Code Commission to enforce the State construction codes at the county, city, township, and village levels.

Attorney General Opinion #4885 states in part:

“...it is my opinion that the designated enforcing agency must be a public official or governmental agency and that inspection functions or other technical assistance may be performed under a contract with private organizations, but all decisions and official actions based on such inspections or technical advice must be made by the enforcing agency.”

The power of the enforcing agency to issue, suspend, revoke, or cancel a building permit is a governmental function which is not delegable to private third parties. This standard also extends into other official regulated responsibilities such as the collection of fees for construction code services, recordkeeping, providing written code violation notices and orders to stop construction, and the issuance of Certificates of Use and Occupancy. Therefore, these duties may not be delegated to a private entity.

Please contact Michael Somers at (517) 241-9302 with questions or for additional information.

ELECTRICAL DIVISION

ELECTRICAL ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD APPROVES TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR APPRENTICE ELECTRICIANS

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

The process for implementation of the requirements set forth in Section 3e(2) of 1956, PA 217 for electrical apprentices to participate in an approved training program was approved by the Electrical Administrative Board at the February 18, 2010, board meeting. Beginning with the 2010-11 electrical apprentice registration renewal cycle, all electrical apprentices must participate in an approved training program.

The requirement for Related Technical Instruction (RTI) set forth in the act will provide appropriate classroom training to all electrical apprentices. This training, along with on-the-job experience, will benefit electrical apprentices by supplying them with the knowledge necessary to work safely in the electrical industry. In addition, electrical apprentices will be better prepared to pass electrical licensing examinations, and the overall electrical apprentice training program will make them more valuable to employers who demand skilled and knowledgeable workers. The method of RTI delivery may

vary with the RTI provider, such as modular, online, distance learning, or a traditional classroom setting. The RTI provider must meet the United States Department of Labor Office of Apprenticeship (USDOLOA) standards or be approved by the Electrical Administrative Board. RTI will be quantifiable and tracked.

The Electrical Division has worked closely with the USDOLOA, community colleges, contractor organizations, and apprenticeship coordinators in the development of the electrical apprentice training program. Additional information regarding program providers will be available in the coming weeks. All active electrical apprentices and licensed electrical contractors will be notified regarding the specific requirements.

If you have questions regarding electrical apprentice training programs, you can contact the Electrical Division at (517) 241-9320.

INVOICES FOR BUILDING, ELECTRICAL, MECHANICAL, & PLUMBING PERMITS

CAN NOW BE PAID ONLINE THROUGH BCC'S ONLINE PERMIT MANAGER

BCC can now accept payments online for outstanding invoices for building, electrical, mechanical and plumbing permits. Payment must be made by a credit card and includes an additional processing fee of \$5.00 plus 10% of the total invoice balance. A link to [Online Permitting](#) is provided on the [bureau's website](#) under Quick Links. Step-by-step instructions are provided to guide users through the payment process.

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
 Act 54 Registration (517) 241-9317*
Electrical Division (517) 241-9320
Elevator Safety Division (517) 241-9337
Mechanical Division (517) 241-9325
Office of Land Survey & Remonumentation (517) 241-6321
 (includes State Boundary Commission)
Plan Review Division (517) 241-9328
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

*Staff of the former Office of Local Government and Consumer Services can still be reached at (517) 241-9347; the Building Division at (517) 241-9317; or the Office of Administrative Services at (517) 335-2972.

PLUMBING DIVISION

WHO CAN INSTALL RESIDENTIAL FIRE SUPPRESSION SYSTEMS, COMPLETED LICENSE RENEWALS, & THE NEXT CODE UPDATE CYCLE

By **Robert Konyndyk, Chief Plumbing Division**

This edition of Code Works! for the Plumbing Division addresses three very important issues.

First, the concept of owners requesting fire suppression systems in their homes has been increasing in recent months. Professionals in the construction industry have asked what the design requirements are and what the licensing requirements are. The commonly recognized design requirements are the Michigan Mechanical Code, NFPA 13D, and alternative design methods. The familiar names for piping systems containing water are stand alone systems and multipurpose piping systems.

The stand alone system is commonly understood as it supplies a fire sprinkler system only. The multipurpose systems supply domestic water fixtures and fire sprinkler heads. These multipurpose systems are further broken down for understanding to a loop system and a network system. The loop system has a single head with a short run taken independently off the building water distribution system. The network system has the building water distribution system with multiple take offs to fire sprinkler heads that have at least three separate paths. Mechanics have often jokingly called them spaghetti systems. The bureau has concerns that multipurpose systems may have stagnant water within the systems or will not have proper sizing to support both domestic water and sprinkler heads. Future codes may have greater detail on these systems.

Stand alone systems are installed by a licensed mechanical contractor through the authority of the Forbes Mechanical Contractors Act, 1984 PA 192 in accordance with the Michigan Mechanical Code and Michigan Residential Code. The State Plumbing Act, 2002 PA 733, the Michigan Plumbing Code, and Michigan Residential Code have authority/involvement for stand alone systems having a water supply shared by the domestic water system and fire suppression system up to and including the backflow preventer. The stand alone system after the backflow preventer is under the complete control of the Forbes Mechanical Contractors Act.

Multipurpose systems (shared domestic water distribution and fire suppression) shall be installed by the shared authority of the Forbes Mechanical Contractors Act and the State Plumbing Act. It is helpful to recall that the Forbes Mechanical Contractors Act governs licensing of the mechanical contractor only, while the State Plumbing Act governs licensing of the plumbing contractor, master, and journey, and apprentice registration. The plumbing act measures the installer by examination, licensing, and then continued education. Harmony/agreement with both acts requires that the installation of multipurpose fire suppression systems shall be completed by a firm that is both a licensed mechanical and plumbing contractor. Further, the installers shall be licensed plumbers. Additionally, the bureau will recognize these systems as an alternative design method and require plan review for the installations.

Second, it is anticipated that by the time this Code Works! edition is published the plumbing licensing renewal deadline has passed. Plumbing inspectors should be verifying that installers on the job site have a current license or registration and of course the permit applicants shall have current licenses. Everyone is reminded the State Plumbing Act, Section 15, identifies the licensing requirements and the penalties for non-compliance. The plumbing law is easily obtained from the bureau's web site at no cost.

Third, the new Michigan Plumbing Code, 2009 edition code update class will soon be available. Journey and master license holders will find updated information on the bureau web site. Licensees have a year to obtain the training to keep them updated on the new code requirements. Installers who take the class not only enhance their ability to provide safe plumbing installation but are able to identify new products which may aid them in being more competitive in financial aspects.

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

PROVIDING FOR MICHIGAN'S SAFETY
IN THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

BUILDING DIVISION

LEAD-SAFETY TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION

**By Larry Lehman, Chief
Building Division**

The Building Division has received many phone calls related to the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) new Lead Renovation, Repair, and Painting Program. Local enforcing agencies and some contractors have inquired about their responsibilities under the new EPA rule.

Beginning in April 2010, contractors performing renovation, repair, and painting projects that disturb lead-based paint in homes, childcare facilities, and schools built before 1978 must be certified and must follow specific work practices to prevent lead contamination. For most individuals, eight hours of training is required. However, individuals who have successfully completed renovation courses by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), EPA, or an abatement worker or supervisor course accredited by EPA or an authorized State or Tribal program, can become certified renovators by taking a four hour EPA-accredited renovator refresher course.

Local enforcing agencies operate under the authority granted by the Stille-DeRossett-Hale Single State Construction Code Act, 1972 PA 230, which provides the authority to the State of Michigan to adopt by reference the International Building, Residential, Mechanical, and Plumbing Codes and the NFPA National Electrical Code with state amendments. Section R105.2 of the Michigan Residential Code and similar language in Section 105.2 of the Michigan Building Code read in part:

“Work exempt from permit. Exemptions from permit requirements of the code shall not be

deemed to grant authorization for any work to be done in any manner in violation of the provisions of the code or any other laws or ordinances of this jurisdiction. Permits are not required for any of the following:

- (a) Building permits shall not be required for any of the following:
- (vi) Painting, papering, tiling, carpeting, cabinets, counter tops, and similar finish work.”

Therefore, local enforcing agencies have a responsibility to notify their customers including contractors, building owners, and the general public about EPA's new rule, but Section 105.2 prevents them from requiring building permits for painting and similar work. As further noted in R105.2 of the code, exemptions from permits does not authorize work to be done in violation of federal rule or laws.

The Bureau of Construction Codes has provided information on this subject for your convenience on the [bureau's website](#) at Publications-Bulletins-Interpretations-Advisories; click on Advisories.

Accredited program sites can be located on the [EPA website](#).

Additional information related to this subject along with available training courses may be obtained by visiting the [Michigan Department of Community Health \(MDCH\) website](#).

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

MANUFACTURED HOME COMMUNITY LICENSE REVOKED

**By Kevin DeGroat, Regulation Specialist
Building Division**

The Manufactured Housing Commission issued a Final Order, effective December 14, 2009, revoking the license of a manufactured housing community with repeated failures to maintain its water supply system in compliance with Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment (DNRE) safe water drinking act regulations. The community also incurred a \$9,000 bureau fine and additional DNRE-levied noncompliance fees. Other penalties assessed included exclusion from the manufactured housing industry and rent restitution to residents.

This DNRE complaint was presented to the Commission for final action after the licensee failed to answer or comply with previous agreements, correspondence and orders offering opportunities to satisfy DNRE and Mobile Home Commission Act requirements.

Questions related to this article may be directed to the bureau at (517) 241-9347.

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](#)

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Editor in Chief

Beth Hunter Aben

Editors

Deborah Young

Margie Hebden

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 2, 3	Okemos	May 7
	Sept. 1, 2	Okemos	Aug 6
Boiler National Board	June 2, 3	Lansing	May 7
	Sept 1, 2	Lansing	Aug 6
Electrical/Fire Alarm/Sign Contractor	May 18	Okemos	April 21
	July 13	Escanaba	June 15
	July 19	Okemos	June 21
Fire Alarm Spec. Tech./Sign Spec.	July 22	Okemos	June 24
Electrician - Journeyman	July 13	Escanaba	June 15
	Aug 19	Lansing	July 21
Electrician - Master	July 13	Escanaba	June 16
	Aug 19	Lansing	July 21
Elevator Journeyperson	May 25	Okemos	May 4
	July 27	Okemos	July 6
Elevator Contractor/Cert. of Comp.	June 11	Okemos	May 14
	Aug 27	Okemos	July 30
Mechanical Contractor	June 29	Lansing	June 1
Plumbing - Contractor	June 2	East Lansing	
	July 15	Escanaba	
Plumbing - Master and Journey	June 9	East Lansing	
	July 15	Escanaba	

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



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