



# CODE WORKS!

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Fall 2012

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## WORDS FROM DIRECTOR IRVIN J. POKE, AIA

As 2012 draws to a close, I thought this would be a good opportunity to share some of the bureau's accomplishments this past year.

- The bureau has identified subject matter experts and is ready to establish workgroups to begin the implementation process of software designed to improve the bureau's electronic capability to handle permits, licensing, and plan review functions.

- Draft boiler, building, rehabilitation, electrical, elevator, mechanical, plumbing, Boundary Commission, and survey and remonumentation rules have been reviewed by their respective rules committees and are moving through the promulgation process. Most of the rules are expected to become effective in 2013.

- The bureau continues to review and refine its complaint process. In addition to drafting a procedure to guide internal handling of complaints, the bureau is creating a complaint form that helps complainants provide the information and documents needed for review of their complaint.

- The bureau now posts licensing actions on its website. In addition, four public service announcements are available with tips on using elevators and escalators safely, and to remind consumers that smoke alarms need to be changed periodically because they do not last indefinitely.

- The bureau reviewed the performance evaluation process authorized by 1972 PA 230, the Single State Construction Code Act. The goal was to streamline the process and create standard report templates to make the most of the time bureau staff spends with the local unit of government during a performance evaluation.

- BCC refined its school safety inspection reporting system so that inspection reports are clearer, they indicate when permits are required, and they show the items that must be completed before the building can be occupied. Items that can be addressed after occupancy are identified with a time frame for completion.

- The bureau completed a project with the Michigan Historical Foundation and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to image the original Government Land Office survey maps from the mid 1800s. The historical maps show the original square mile sections within individual townships in Michigan. They are now available for public use and viewing free of charge at [www.seekingmichigan.org](http://www.seekingmichigan.org).

# PLAN REVIEW DIVISION

## MASONRY CONSTRUCTION IN COLD WEATHER

By **Todd Cordill, NCARB, Chief**

### Plan Review Division

The process of masonry construction is affected by weather conditions at the construction site. Construction using stone, concrete and clay masonry units has both constant and variable components. The raw materials are fairly constant, but the mixed materials and setting methods are variable. The temperature of both constant and variable components greatly affects the integrity of the completed construction. There are several considerations to make with respect to unit masonry construction occurring in cold weather. The weather conditions, preparation, construction, and protection shall be considered with both the design and construction of masonry.

The 2009 Michigan Building Code requirements for masonry construction are found in Chapter 21 Masonry. Section 2104.3 references The Specification for Masonry Structures (TMS 602-08/ACI 530.1-08/ASCE 6-08). This specification contains requirements for masonry work preparation, construction, and protection. These requirements apply when either the ambient air temperature or the temperature of the masonry units is below 40 degrees Fahrenheit. The preparation requirements are such that the masonry units and adjacent surfaces must be at least 20 degrees F and dry before setting. The construction requirements are listed for ambient air temperatures in four ranges: between 40 degrees F and 32 degrees F; between 32 degrees F and 25 degrees F; between 25 degrees F and 20 degrees F; and below 20 degrees F. Mortar and grout temperatures are specifically addressed in these subsections. Also, glass unit masonry shall not be laid at a temperature less than 40 degrees F. As the ambient air temperature drops below 25 degrees F, wind breaks may be required. Below 20 degrees F enclosures and auxiliary heat are required.

There also are protection requirements listed for several ambient air temperature ranges. Protection measures apply after masonry units are set in place. The anticipated minimum and mean temperatures shall be considered. Glass unit masonry shall be kept at a temperature above 40 degrees F for 48 hours after setting. The temperature ranges are: between 40 degrees F and 25 degrees F; between 25 degrees F and 20 degrees F; and below 20 degrees F. Weather-resistive membrane protection is required for

all these temperature ranges. As the temperature drops below 25 degrees F weather-resistive insulating blankets are required. Below 20 degrees F heated enclosures are required. There are minimum timeframes listed to keep the set materials above freezing.

Compliance with the above-mentioned code and specification requirements should be determined both during plan review and inspections. During plan review the construction documents (drawings and specifications) shall be reviewed with the requirements for construction during cold weather. This is especially the case with applications for footing and foundation or building permits, unless it is known that the construction will take place during warm weather. In Michigan, the cold weather requirements could apply during most of the year. When the ambient temperature is below 40 degrees F, it is imperative that on-site inspections are done for cold weather code requirements. If the necessary cold weather requirements are not implemented, the structural integrity of the masonry assembly will be compromised. If the building's load-bearing structure is compromised, structural failure may be the result.

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



# BUILDING DIVISION

## SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION ISSUES

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By **Larry Lehman, Chief**

### Building Division

A number of school projects (kindergarten through 12th grade) this year have either been delayed in opening or not allowed to open due to a number of different issues after applying for construction code approval. The most notable reason is when permits have been secured from local enforcing agencies in any or all of the code disciplines without a delegation of school inspection authority being jointly applied for by both the enforcing agency and the school district in accordance with Section 1b(5) of 1937 PA 306, Construction of School Buildings Act.

The Bureau of Construction Codes (BCC) has responsibility for construction code enforcement of school buildings unless the local enforcing agency and school district have been approved by the BCC for delegation of authority. The Request for Annual Delegation of School Inspection Authority to a Local Unit of Government Enforcing Agency application and a list of schools which have been granted authority are available on BCC's website at [www.michigan.gov/bcc](http://www.michigan.gov/bcc). The Bureau of Fire Services has the responsibility for fire safety within school buildings. Fire safety inspection authority cannot be delegated, other than the written attestation granted to the City of Detroit on August 11, 1969, by the State Fire Safety Board.

In cases where the local enforcing agency has issued permits and performed inspections for school buildings without being granted the authority to do so, BCC will require plans to be submitted to the Plan Review Division for any and all required reviews. The bureau will also require the local enforcing agency to provide inspection records and special inspection records for review. BCC will also re-inspect any work that was performed and subsequently inspected by the local enforcing agency. Permits and inspection approvals need to ultimately be secured from BCC to grant occupancy.

Other notable concerns include when school administrators, design professionals, and contractors convert an existing building, day care, church, or Sunday school into a K-12 school without first seeking the approval of the Bureau of Construction Codes and the Bureau of Fire Services. Any change in the application of the requirements of the school rules and any change of occupancy or alteration must be reviewed and approved by both bureaus.

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

# MECHANICAL DIVISION

## MECHANICAL PRODUCT APPROVALS

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By **Kevin Kalakay, Chief**

### Mechanical Division

Routinely the division receives calls asking if certain mechanical products are approved to be installed or used in the state.

The Michigan Mechanical Code is not intended to discourage innovative ideas or technological advances. Technology changes at a very fast pace, and the fact that a particular material, product, or method is not addressed in the code is not an indication that such materials, products, or methods are intended to be prohibited.

Each code official has the ability to approve use of a product within their local jurisdiction under Section 105.2 "Alternative materials, methods, equipment and appliances" of the 2009 Michigan Mechanical Code when it is determined that the requested alternative provides a level of protection to

the public equivalent to that which is required by the code. The product may only be used in accordance with the prescribed conditions of use granted by the approval.

As an alternative, a manufacturer can submit a product to the Bureau of Construction Codes for evaluation and approval. Once it is approved by the state Construction Code Commission it may be installed throughout the state of Michigan with the specified stipulations. Code officials should review the conditions of use for each product to ensure installation meets the approval requirements. A product approval application along with a list of approved products can be found on the bureau's website at [www.michigan.gov/bcc](http://www.michigan.gov/bcc).

Questions regarding this article may be directed to the Mechanical Division at (517) 241-9325.

# BOILER DIVISION

## EMERGENCY EXCEPTIONS PRIOR TO SECURING A PERMIT

By William Vallance, Chief

### Boiler Division

Sections 17 and 18 of the Boiler Act, 1965 PA 290, require that installation and repair permits be secured before any work is performed. Section 18 provides relief in case of emergency maintenance and allows repair work to be performed by a licensee or under the licensee's immediate supervision before a permit has been secured.

Determination of a situation as an emergency is the responsibility of the boiler owner. Emergency situations could include the failure of a boiler necessary for building heat during cold weather or failure of a power boiler necessary for providing steam for the production of electricity. These situations usually happen after normal work hours, on weekends, and on holidays.

To assure compliance with the law, upon determination that a situation is an emergency and repairs must be started before a permit can be secured, the boiler owner or licensed repair contractor must attempt to contact a licensed inspector for authorization. If the boiler is insured contact should be initiated with the insurance

company's special inspector. If the boiler is uninsured or contact with the insurance company special inspector fails, contact the state Boiler Division for further guidance on how to proceed. For after hour's emergency situations, you may notify the Boiler Division at [bccblr@michigan.gov](mailto:bccblr@michigan.gov).

Although Section 17 of the law governing installations does not address emergency situations, the same rationale applies. If the situation is an emergency and the resolution is replacement of the entire boiler, then replacement may begin before a permit is secured. However, contact with the Boiler Division office must be made by the licensed boiler installer.

In closing, if installation or repair of a boiler is not an emergency the permit shall be secured prior to work commencing.

Please contact the Boiler Division at (517) 241-9334 with any questions.

## 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 Svcs, & Plumbing Division (517) 373-8547  
Building, Electrical, Mechanical, Plan Review (517) 241-9308  
Office of Land Survey & Remonumentation, Elevator Safety & Boiler Divisions (517) 241-6301

### MAILING ADDRESSES:

P.O. Box 30254 (First Class Mail **without** currency)  
P.O. Box 30255 (First Class Mail **with** currency)  
Lansing, MI 48909

### COURIER OTHER THAN US POSTAL SERVICE:

2501 Woodlake Circle, Okemos, MI 48864

## MICHIGAN CODES & RULES CURRENTLY IN EFFECT

Boiler Rules	07/30/2010
Building/Residential Codes (Part 4)	03/09/2011
Electrical Code (Part 8)	12/02/2009
Elevator Safety - General	06/21/2010
Manufactured Housing General Rules	09/02/2008
Mechanical Code	10/21/2010
Plumbing Code (Part 7)	08/20/2010
Rehabilitation Code	03/09/2011
Subdivisions of Land	06/16/2008
Uniform Energy Code	03/09/2011

FOR CODE/RULE UPDATES - Visit [BCC's website](#) to monitor updates on code review processes.

# ELEVATOR SAFETY DIVISION

## HOW NEW STANDARDS AND THE MICHIGAN ELEVATOR RULES ARE ADOPTED

By Laurie Bass, Departmental Analyst  
Elevator Safety Division

The Michigan Elevator Rules establish administrative and operational procedures for implementation of the Elevator Safety Act, 1967 PA 227. The rules establish, for the protection of the general public, minimum safety requirements for the inspection, construction, installation, alteration, maintenance, repair, and operation of elevators.

People often think the Elevator Safety Division makes the rules when it comes to elevators. Not true. The Elevator Safety Division enforces the rules and is instrumental in the rule making process or “promulgation” of the rules. Promulgating the rules has several steps, requires input from many sources, and ultimately is put in the hands of the Michigan Legislature for adoption.

The current standards governing elevating devices in Michigan are: The American Society of Mechanical Engineers, **ASME A17.1-2007**; Safety Code for Elevators and Escalators, **ASME A18.1-2008**; Safety Standards for Platform Lifts and Stairway Chairlifts, **ASME A90.1-2003**; Safety Standards for Belt Manlifts; and the **ANSI A10.4-2007**, Safety Requirements for Personnel Hoists. Every three years a new standard is published. This year, three new editions of standards were reviewed for adoption in Michigan, ASME A17.1-2010, ASME A18.1-2008, and the A90.1-2009.

For each new standard being considered a staff member of the Elevator Safety Division compares the new standard with the old standard, line by line, word for word, and highlights all the changes. The division then creates a matrix which lists each significant change.

A committee of volunteers from the elevator industry is formed to make recommendations for the new rule set. The current code committee has seven voting members representing elevator manufacturers; the elevator constructors union; owners/users; and Class A, Class C, union, and non-union elevator contractors. Committee members are sent the matrixes and asked to review up to a certain section. Yep, homework. This is a working committee! This year five committee meetings were held, each

six hours long. Four non-voting representatives from the Bureau also attend the meetings: the chief of the Elevator Safety Division, the division’s department analyst, and two rules analysts from the Office of Administrative Services. If necessary, the bureau’s deputy director attends.

At the meetings there is an open discussion for each item on the matrix. After discussion, a motion is made to adopt the change as written, to amend the code section, to not adopt the section, or to table the item for further research. The Michigan Elevator Rules is the document created from this process. It lists all the sections of the standards that were not adopted and includes the standards that were added or amended, as well as Michigan’s “stand alone” rules.

Throughout this process the rules analysts are modifying the current Michigan Elevator Rules to reflect the actions of the Committee and creating a “strike and bold” copy of the proposed rules. This strike and bold document is used by the division analyst and the rules analysts to complete a Regulatory Impact Statement and Cost-Benefit Analysis. This document asks multiple questions about each rule change to determine how the change could potentially impact all aspects of the elevator industry; governmental agencies, both small and large businesses, elevator owners, and the general public. This document is submitted to the department’s Office of Policy and Legislative Affairs, the Office of Regulatory Reinvention, and the Legislative Service Bureau for informal review, clarification, and approval. After approval a public hearing is held to accept comments from the public. Necessary changes are made to the draft rules then they are sent back through the approval process for a formal review and then to the Legislature for approval. Once the rules are adopted by the department, they take effect 30 days after filing with the Secretary of State. From beginning to end if all goes well this process generally takes about a year to complete.

Please call the Elevator Division at (517) 241-9337 with questions about the Michigan Elevator Rules. General questions about the administrative rules process may be directed to the Office of Administrative Services at (517) 335-2972.

MICHIGAN RULE	ADOPTED 2008 ASME A18.1	PROPOSED 2011 ASME A18.1	2008 TITLE	2011 NEW TITLE	ACTION
	2.1.1.4.1	2.1.1.4.1 New requirement for Door-locking devices to be verified by engineering tests.	Runway Enclosure Provided	Runway Enclosure Provided	Division Recommends Approval
	2.1.1.8	2.1.1.8 Wording changed regarding ventilation from “Shall be permitted” to “shall be” thermostatically controlled. And changed headroom clearance below venting from 84” to 79”	Rnway Enclosure Provided	Runway Enclosure Provided	Division Recommends Approval

# OFFICE OF LAND SURVEY AND REMONUMENTATION

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## STATE BOUNDARY COMMISSION DOCKET REVIEW PROCESS

By **Chris Beland, Director**

### Office of Land Survey and Remonumentation

Created by statute in 1968, the State Boundary Commission (SBC) is responsible for adjudicating many types of municipal boundary adjustments, including, city and village incorporations, consolidations, and annexations to cities. Executive Order 1996-2 transferred the final authority for all SBC cases to the director of the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA), and the SBC support staff is located in the Bureau of Construction Codes, Office of Land Survey and Remonumentation (OLSR). The SBC serves as a quasi-judicial body, evaluating petitions for proposed boundary adjustments against statutory criteria in order to protect the interests of property owners, local residents, local units of government, etc. SBC dockets for proposed boundary adjustments are reviewed through the following process.

#### 1. Filing

Petitions for proposed boundary adjustments are filed with the Office of Land Survey and Remonumentation (OLSR). Upon receipt, each petition is assigned a docket number corresponding to the year it was filed, the type of petition, and its numerical sequence by the type of petition. Within 10 days of receipt, a "Notice of Filing" is transmitted to the clerks of the local units of government, state and local boundary commissioners, the petitioners, and any other designated parties. Once filed, a petitioner can not change the documentation filed, and the petition/docket shall stand or fall on its own content.

#### 2. Legal Sufficiency

OLSR reviews the petition for compliance with filing requirements, which may include valid signatures, a substantially accurate and unambiguous map of the proposed boundary adjustment area, a substantially accurate legal description of the proposed boundary adjustment area that is also consistent with the map, records on file with the Office of the Great Seal at the Department of State to verify consistency and contiguity between the existing

boundaries and the proposed boundary adjustment area, etc. Upon completion of its review, OLSR provides the SBC with written comments and its opinion on legal sufficiency of the docket. The SBC reviews the docket along with the staff comments at an adjudicative meeting to determine the legal sufficiency of the request. If a docket is found to be legally sufficient it continues on in the process. If, however, a request is found to be legally insufficient, the process proceeds directly to Summary of Proceeding, Findings of Fact, and Conclusions of Law.

#### 3. Involved and Interested Parties Questionnaires

If the SBC deems the petition as legally sufficient, the OLSR will send a questionnaire to the petitioner and all affected cities, villages and townships. The questionnaire is designed to allow the SBC to obtain information related to the 18-point criteria specified in Section 9 of the State Boundary Commission Act, 1968 PA 191, MCL 123.1009.

#### 4. Public Hearing

When a petition is found to be legally sufficient, the SBC schedules a public hearing, which is held in or reasonably near the municipalities involved in the proposed boundary adjustment. At the public hearing, the SBC receives comment from the involved and interested parties and the public on the proposed boundary adjustment in question. Immediately following the public hearing, a public comment period is opened for 30 days, in which time the SBC will receive written comments from the general public. An additional seven-day rebuttal period is open after the public comment period closes, as designated by SBC staff.

#### 5. Adjudication

After the Public Hearing, the SBC considers the docket material and public comment in context with the 18-point criteria specified in Section 9 of the State Boundary Commission Act, 1968 PA 191, MCL 123.1009, and votes on what decision to recommend to the director of LARA.

# OFFICE OF LAND SURVEY AND REMONUMENTATION (CON'T)

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123.1009 Review of proposed incorporation; criteria. Sec. 9. Criteria to be considered by the commission in arriving at a determination shall be:

(a) Population; population density; land area and land uses; assessed valuation; topography, natural boundaries and drainage basins; the past and probable future urban growth, including population increase and business, commercial and industrial development in the area. Comparative data for the incorporating municipality, and the remaining portion of the unit from which the area will be detached shall be considered.

(b) Need for organized community services; the present cost and adequacy of governmental services in the area to be incorporated; the probable future needs for services; the practicability of supplying such services in the area to be incorporated; the probable effect of the proposed incorporation and of alternative courses of action on the cost and adequacy of services in the area to be incorporated and on the remaining portion of the unit from which the area will be detached; the probable increase in taxes in the area to be incorporated in relation to the benefits expected to accrue from incorporation; and the financial ability of the incorporating municipality to maintain urban type services in the area.

(c) The general effect upon the entire community of the proposed action; and the relationship of the proposed action to any established city, village, township, county or regional land use plan.

## 6. Summary of Proceedings, Findings of Fact, and Conclusion of Law

The next step is the adoption of a Findings of Fact document that reflects the Commission's recommendation and outlines the facts relevant to the proposal and the considerations on which the Boundary commissioners based their action.

## 7. Order

A proposed Order, accompanied by the Findings of Fact document, is then transmitted to the director of LARA requesting concurrence with the SBC's recommendation. The director may choose to concur with the SBC's recommendation by signing the proposed Order, or if the director disagrees with the SBC's recommendation, they may sign an Order to make a different decision than that recommended by the SBC.

After the Order is signed, public officials and residents of the affected territory may, in some cases, appeal the decision by circulating a petition requesting a referendum election, or they can file an appeal in Circuit Court for judicial review. If a referendum petition is filed within the statutory timeline, the SBC reviews the petition for validity. If this petition is deemed legally sufficient, the SBC will recommend that 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 may be directed to the Office of Land Survey and Remonumentation at (517) 241-6321.

### ATTENTION READERS!

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](http://www.michigan.gov/bcc). Under the "Publications, Bulletins & Advisories" heading, click on the Code Works! link for more information on how to subscribe and receive an electronic notification of when each quarterly newsletter is posted.

# PLUMBING DIVISION

## REQUIRED TESTING FOR PLUMBING SYSTEMS

By Andy Neuman, Assistant Chief  
Plumbing Division

This article reviews the plumbing code requirements for the testing of plumbing systems for inspection.

The 2009 Michigan Plumbing Code, Section 312, and in accordance with Sections 107.4.1 through 107.4.3, requires that plumbing work and plumbing systems be tested and the test shall be made by the permit holder and observed by the code official. Section 107.4.1 states that new plumbing systems and parts of existing systems that have been altered, extended, or repaired shall be tested to disclose leaks and defects, except that testing is not required in the following cases: 1) In any case that does not include addition to, replacement, alteration, or relocation of any water supply, drainage; or vent piping, and 2) In any case where plumbing equipment is set up temporarily for exhibition purposes.

The 2009 Michigan Plumbing Code, Section 107.4.2, clearly defines that the permit holder is responsible for furnishing all of the equipment, material, and labor required for testing a plumbing system. Section 107.4.3 explains that when any work or installation does not pass any initial test or inspection, the necessary corrections shall be made to comply with the code, then the work or installation shall be resubmitted for inspection and testing.

Section 312.1 of the code states that all plumbing system piping shall be tested with either water or, for piping systems other than plastic, by air. An exception regarding air test for plastic piping systems that is prescribed in Section 312.3 shall be acceptable (Rule R 408.30721).

A drainage and vent water or air test shall be applied either in its entirety or in sections as prescribed in Sections

312.2 and 312.3. If a water test is applied to the entire system, all openings in the piping system shall be tightly closed, except the highest opening, and the system filled with water to the point of overflow. If the plumbing system is tested in sections, each opening shall be tightly plugged except for the highest openings of the section under test, and each section shall be filled with water, no section shall be tested with less than a 10 foot head of water and held for at least 15 minutes. If the system is tested with air, 5 psi shall be applied to the system to balance a 10 inch column of mercury and the pressure shall hold for at least 15 minutes.

Water supply systems shall be tested as prescribed in Section 312.5 and proved tight under water pressure of not less than the working pressure of the system: or, for piping systems other than plastic, by an air test of not less than 50 psi. This pressure shall be held for at least 15 minutes.

The 2009 Michigan Plumbing Code, Section 312.9, requires a test on shower pan liners. The pipe from the shower drain shall be plugged water tight for the test and the floor and receptor area shall be filled with potable water to a depth of not less than 2 inches measured at the threshold. Where a threshold of at least 2 inches high does not exist, a temporary threshold shall be constructed to retain the test water in the lined floor or receptor area to a level of not less than 2 inches deep measured at the threshold. The water shall be retained for a test period of not less than 15 minutes, and there shall be no evidence of leakage.

Questions concerning this article may be directed to the Plumbing Division at (517) 241-9330.

## Board and Commission Meetings

<u>MEETING</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
Barrier Free Design Board	Jan 18	9:30 am	Okemos – Conf Room 3
Board of Boiler Rules	Dec 11, March 12	9:30 am	Okemos – Conf Room 3
Construction Code Commission	Jan 9	9:30 am	Okemos – Conf Room 3
Electrical Administrative Board	Feb 21	9:30 am	Okemos – Conf Room 3
Elevator Safety Board	Jan 18, March 22	9:30 am	Okemos – Conf Room 3
Manufactured Housing Commission	Dec 19, Feb 20	10:00 am	Okemos – Conf Room 3
Board of Mechanical Rules	Nov 28, Feb 13	9:00 am	Okemos – Conf Room 3
State Boundary Commission	Dec 12, Jan 16, Feb 6	1:30 pm	Okemos – Conf Room 3
State Plumbing Board	Dec 4, Feb 26	10:00 am	Okemos – Conf Room 3

Dates and times are subject to change. Visit the [BCC website](http://www.michigan.gov/bcc) for updates.

# ELECTRICAL DIVISION

## PROCESSING 2013 LICENSE RENEWALS WHICH INCLUDES CONTRACTOR LICENSES

By Dan O'Donnell, Chief  
Electrical Division

The Electrical Division has mailed annual license renewal applications for master and journeyman electricians, fire alarm specialty technicians, and sign specialists. A code update class will not be required for the 2013 license renewals.

This year, licenses for electrical, fire alarm, and sign contractors must also be renewed and those renewal notices have also been mailed. **Contractors who need to make changes to their licenses should do so prior to sending in their renewal applications to avoid delays in processing.** The forms to make changes on a contractor's

license are available on our website at [www.michigan.gov/bcc](http://www.michigan.gov/bcc). Select Forms from the menu on the left and then select Electrical Division. If the form you need is not there, please call the Electrical Division office at (517) 241-9320 and we will send the form to you. Following the instructions on your renewal application and sending it in promptly will help assure you receive your 2013 license or 2013-2015 contractor's license in a timely manner.

All licenses are required to be renewed by December 31. If you have not received your renewal application, it may be due to our records indicating a previous address and you should contact the Electrical Division.

## SUPPORTING LUMINAIRES IN SUSPENDED CEILINGS

By Dean Austin, Senior Electrical Inspector  
Electrical Division

Many electrical contractors ask how to support luminaires when they are installed into a suspended ceiling system. The 2008 NEC/NFPA 70 Code article 410.36 (B) states "Framing members of suspended ceiling systems used to support luminaires shall be securely fastened to each other and shall be securely attached to the building structure at appropriate intervals. Luminaires shall be securely fastened to the ceiling framing member by mechanical means such as bolts, screws, or rivets. Listed clips identified for use with the type of ceiling framing member(s) and luminaire(s) shall also be permitted."

Now let's break it down. A ceiling system used to support luminaires means there is not an independent means of support for the luminaires which would be connected directly to the luminaires. If it is determined that the suspended ceiling system provides adequate support for the luminaires they must be securely fastened to the suspended ceiling framing members as prescribed in article 410.36 (B). Determining whether a ceiling grid system provides adequate support for the luminaires intended to be installed in a suspended ceiling is the responsibility of a design professional and this documentation may be requested by a code official.

The code does not require an independent means of support for luminaires. A ceiling system manufacturer may require it in the installation instructions or an architect may stipulate such a requirement as part of the job specifications. Specifications submitted as part of an approved set of plans and approved through the plan review process are enforceable.

Should you have questions or concerns regarding any code issues it is always advisable to discuss those concerns with the code official from the enforcing agency that has jurisdiction. Asking your code officials questions about code interpretations within their jurisdiction will help avoid having to make corrections to installations which will reduce costs to the customer and the electrical contractor. If you have any questions concerning this article you may contact the Electrical Division at (517) 241-9320.



Providing for Michigan's Safety in the Built Environment

## 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](#)  
[Building System Approval Reports](#)  
[Online Code Training Series](#)  
[BCC Field Inspection Survey](#)

### BCC QUICK LINKS

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

### CIVIL SERVICE WEBSITE

[State Job Postings](#)

Code Works! is a quarterly publication of the Bureau of Construction Codes within the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs

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Amie Ostrander

Created under the authority of 1972 PA 230.

<u>EXAMINATION</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>DEADLINE</u>
Boiler Installer and Repairer	Dec 5 & 6	Okemos	Nov 9
	Mar 6 & 7	Okemos	Feb 8
Fire Alarm Spec. Tech./Sign Spec.	Mar 19	Okemos	Feb 19
Electrical - Journeyman	Feb 28	Lansing	Jan 31
Electrical - Master	Feb 28	Lansing	Jan 31
Electrical - Contractor	Jan 15	Okemos	Dec 12
	Mar 19	Okemos	Feb 19
Elevator Contractor/Journeyman Certificate of Competency	Jan 18	Okemos	Dec 21
	Mar 22	Okemos	Feb 22
Mechanical Contractor	Dec 11	Lansing	Nov 13
	Mar 12	Lansing	Feb 12
Plumbing - Contractor	Dec 12	East Lansing	
	Mar 27	East Lansing	
Plumbing - Master and Journey	Dec 5	East Lansing	
	Feb 27	East Lansing	

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

### STATE HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

November 24 & 25, 2012 - Thanksgiving

December 24, 2012 - Christmas Eve

December 25, 2012 - Christmas Day

December 31, 2012 - New Year's Eve

January 1, 2013 - New Year's Day

January 21, 2013 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day

February 18, 2013 - President's Day



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