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LANSING

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

PLUMBING APPRENTICE DIRECT, ON-SITE, IN-PERSON JOURNEY/MASTER RATIO

Below is a list of questions that we have received since notice of the change in MCL 339.6117a of the Skilled Trades Regulation Act, 2016 PA 407. We will continue to update this list as questions come to our attention. The full change can be found at [MCL - Section 339.6117a.added - Michigan Legislature](#).

- 1. Does the ratio apply to all plumbing work in the State of Michigan or only publicly bid work?**
 - a. Article 11 of the Skilled Trades Regulation Act, 2016 PA 407 applies to all plumbing work unless specifically exempted in MCL 339.6107.
- 2. Will plumbing apprentices still be able to use their hours for the next step in licensing?**
 - a. There will be no change to the journey plumber examination application process.
 - b. Apprentice registrations applications will not be denied based on ratios.
 - c. The State of Michigan as the licensing authority does not track the number of apprentices.
- 3. Who is the enforcement agency?**
 - a. The State of Michigan is the agency that has the authority to issue and take action against licensees.
 - b. The Bureau of Construction Codes, Enforcement Section, will be the lead on the action against licensees.
 - c. Please see the information included in this notice and on the website about who can submit a complaint for violations against job-site ratios.
- 4. Who can supervise plumbing apprentices?**
 - a. Both master and journey plumbers can supervise apprentices at a 1 (master or journey plumber) to 2 registered apprentices.
- 5. If a company has more apprentices than allowed, will they have to let them go?**
 - a. MCL 339.6117a (1) refers to the "...direct, on-site, in-person supervision as required under section 1117 to an apprentice is on the basis of 1 journey or master plumber to not more than 2 apprentices".

6. What constitutes the “act of plumbing?”

- a. The Skilled Trades Regulation Act, 2016 PA 407, defines plumbing as “Plumbing means the practice, materials, and fixtures, in or adjacent to a building, structure, or premises, used in the installation, maintenance, extension, or alteration of all piping, fixtures, plumbing appliances, or plumbing appurtenances, as defined in the state construction code, in connection with the sanitary drainage or storm drainage facilities, plumbing venting systems, medical gas systems, backflow preventers, and public or private water supply systems”. MCL 339.6103(c). MCL 339.6107(2) provides for work not requiring a plumbing license.

7. Would apprentices who have tested and received med-gas certification be subject to this ratio?

- a. Med-gas requires a plumbing license to conduct this activity. The certification is not recognized by the State of Michigan as a license. The new amendment applies to all plumbing apprentices, regardless of specialties or certificates.

8. With the new ratio going into effect, will the copper project/practical testing be available for testing more than once every 3 months?

- a. The Bureau is working to obtain more locations to provide additional exam dates and opportunities throughout the State.

9. Does this change the number of apprentices that can be registered under a master’s license?

- a. The law only speaks to the onsite direct supervision. BCC does not track the licenses applied for under a master license.