

DLI working to keep boilers safe for 130 years

Today more than 20,000 Minnesota boilers require inspection annually

DLI's Boiler Division has been inspecting boilers and licensing boiler engineers for more than 130 years.

The state boiler division was formed in 1881. Today, there are more than 20,000 boilers in the state that require inspection. DLI currently has six boiler inspectors, all of whom have a commission issued by the National Board of Boiler and Pressure Vessel Inspectors, a Chief A Boiler Engineers License and a Minnesota Certificate of Competency.

The boiler division inspects boilers at the time of installation and annually thereafter to determine if the boilers meet all requirements and to ensure the boilers are operated by properly licensed engineers.

All boilers that require inspection in Minnesota must meet the construction requirements of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Code. This includes ASME code Sections I, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, X, and CSD-1. Boilers with inputs greater than 12,500,000 BTU must comply with National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standard 85.

Some boilers are not required to be inspected by DLI. The inspection requirements of [Minnesota Statutes 326B.93 to 326B.998](#) do not apply to:

- 1) Hot water heating and other hot liquid boilers not exceeding a heat input of 750,000 BTU each hour (total BTU input of all boilers connected to a common header).



Tom Boyle, DLI boiler inspector, checks an operator log during an inspection.

- 2) An engineer's license and annual inspection by DLI is not required for boilers, steam cookers, steam kettles, steam sterilizers or other steam generators not exceeding 100,000 BTU per hour input, 25 kilowatt and a pressure of 15 p.s.i.g.
- 3) Hot water supply boilers (water heaters) not exceeding a heat input of 500,000 BTU each hour, a water temperature of 210 F, a nominal water capacity of 120 gallons, or a pressure of 160 p.s.i.g. (total BTU input of all boilers connected to a common header).

See Minnesota Statutes 326B.93 to 326B.998 for the full list of inspection exceptions at www.dli.mn.gov/CCLD/PDF/boiler_boats.pdf.

Unsafe boiler uncovered by inspector, removed from service

DLI's boiler inspectors help ensure that if any of the thousands of boilers and pressure vessels scattered throughout Minnesota are deemed unsafe, the units are repaired or removed from service.

Recently, a low-pressure steam boiler in a metro-area apartment building was removed from service until repairs were made because of its deteriorated and dangerous condition.



Read more about the unsafe boiler and view photos at www.dli.mn.gov/CCLD/boiler_StPaul.asp.

Agency cooperation simplifies SSTS bonds

DLI has regulated plumbing work since the 2005 Construction Codes and Licensing Division consolidation. The [Minnesota Pollution Control Agency \(MPCA\)](#) has historically regulated subsurface sewage treatment systems (SSTS or “septic systems”). During that time, contractors who performed SSTS work were required to file a bond with MPCA, while plumbers were required to file a bond with DLI.



» View more information about the SSTS program from the MPCA.

As a result of a 2006 change in the plumbing licensing and bonding requirements for septic system supply piping, many SSTS contractors were required to file a plumbing bond with DLI in addition to their SSTS bond with MPCA. DLI and MPCA staff members decided that it would be beneficial to these contractors to enable them to file a single bond that would cover all of the work of a plumbing and SSTS contractor.

The agencies worked together to achieve rule and statute changes which resulted in a completed program Jan. 1, 2012. Now, licensed plumbing contractors and SSTS contractors are only required to file a “dual bond” with DLI, which administers the bond program.

During the implementation of the new bond program, MPCA staff identified a need to obtain data from DLI relating to SSTS contractors who had successfully filed

their bond with DLI in order to verify the contractors’ eligibility to obtain or renew their MPCA licensure.

To meet this need, DLI provided MPCA online access to the its bond report. Now, MPCA staff can verify that SSTS licensees and applicants are in compliance with the bond filing requirement. This easy verification process enables contractors to simplify their business by filing a single bond with the state and enables MPCA to access the data they need without having to create and maintain a separate database of bond information. The data is updated automatically each day.

MPCA is pleased with its ability to access the bond data needed to approve licenses without having to review hundreds of bonds each year.

Enforcement actions

Contractor fined \$15,000 for defrauding customers

Some recent [CCLD enforcement actions](#) include an:

- unlicensed residential building contractor fined \$15,000 for defrauding customers; an
- unlicensed plumber fined \$3,500 for continuing to engage in unlicensed plumbing after being ordered to cease and desist by DLI; and an
- electrical contractor’s journeyman electrician and electrical contractor licenses revoked and \$10,000 fine imposed based on allegations that he failed to replace his responsible master, failed to make required code corrections, failed to pay for electrical supplies and failed to cooperate with the investigation.



Enforcement actions
View enforcement and license actions taken against licensees.

» More enforcement and licensing actions are available at www.dli.mn.gov/cclld/Enforcement.asp

Contractor insurance policy requirements update

Insurance companies must provide DLI notice of policy cancellation or nonrenewal

Minnesota’s insurance laws (M.S. 60A.36) require a contractor or business insurance company to provide DLI written notice of a policy cancellation or nonrenewal, subject to the terms of the policy. Policyholders must notify their insurance company, through an endorsement on the policy, that DLI is to be notified if the insurance policy is canceled or not renewed.

Liability insurance is required

Businesses and contractors licensed by DLI must have and maintain general liability insurance coverage. This means the business or contractor must have a general liability insurance policy in effect when a license is issued and maintain continuous liability insurance coverage throughout the license period.

Cancellation notice

In the event of a policy cancellation, insurers are required by law to send a written notice to DLI “at the same time that a cancellation request is received from or a notice is sent to the insured.” Notice to DLI is required to be made even if the insurance company cancels or non-renews the policy.

Policy endorsement

Before an insurance company can notify DLI about a policy cancellation or non-renewal, it needs to know who and where to send the notice. The licensed business or contractor must notify the insurer, through an endorsement to the insurance policy, that the department is to be notified if the insurance company cancels or non-renews the policy. DLI’s name and address should appear as the certificate holder on the endorsement as:

Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry
CCLD Licensing and Certification Services
443 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, MN 55155

ACORD form accepted

Because of changes in the cancellation notice language of the ACORD Certificate of Liability Insurance and notification requirement for cancellation or non-renewal of liability insurance, DLI will now accept the most recent version of the ACORD Certificate of Liability Insurance form (ACORD 25 2010/05) as evidence of insurance coverage. The content on the certificate must include:

- the insurance company name and its NAIC number;
- policyholder’s legal name, assumed name (dba) if applicable, and physical address;
- policy information including policy number, effective date, expiration date, and policy limits;
- insurance agent information and signature; and
- DLI identified as the certificate holder.

Enforcement

Any licensed business or contractor failing to keep liability insurance coverage in effect is immediately presumed to be unlicensed and, as such, prohibited from acting or holding themselves out as a licensed business or contractor. Unlicensed activity is a misdemeanor and will result in enforcement action against the business or contractor, including a civil penalty of up to \$10,000 for each violation. Licensed businesses and contractors that discontinue their liability insurance coverage must terminate their license by returning the license certificate to DLI.

View the mandatory liability insurance laws for Minnesota’s construction trades

326B.33, Subd. 16

- Electrical contractor
- Elevator contractor
- Technology system contractor

326B.46, Subd. 2

- Plumbing contractor

326B.921, Subd. 6

- High-pressure-piping business

327B.04, Subd. 4(c)(2)

- Manufactured home Manufacturer
- Manufactured home dealer
- Manufactured home dealer subAgency

326B.56, Subd. 2(b)

- Water conditioning contractor

326B.86, Subd. 2

- Residential building contractor
- Residential remodeler
- Residential roofer
- Manufactured home installer

State Building Code, State Fire Code adoption update

The State Building Code has a significant impact on the construction industry in Minnesota. For this reason, DLI solicits input from many groups to help solve construction problems and to make sure that the adopted model code fits the needs of the citizens, meets statutory requirements and takes into account Minnesota's climatic conditions.

Currently, technical advisory committee members are wrapping up their code amendment drafts to begin the building code and fire code adoption process outlined in Minnesota Statutes Chapter 14 and Minnesota Rules Chapter 1400.

The committees are drafting amendments to the 2012 IBC, 2012 IRC and 2012 IFC and other state codes. In some cases, current amendments to the 2006 codes will be eliminated since they have been incorporated into the 2012 versions. The code adoption process, or "rulemaking," includes committee work to adopt a new elevator code, residential and commercial energy codes, accessibility code, existing buildings code, mechanical and fuel gas codes as well as updating chapter 1300 Administration and chapter 1303 Minnesota Provisions.

The Structural Committee reviews structural changes to the IBC, IRC and the existing buildings code. The Fire Chiefs Code Committee will amend the 2012 IFC.

The adoption date for all of the codes is anticipated to occur in early 2013.

Advisory committee process

Advisory committee members and the organizations they represent submit code change proposals for the full committee to review. The committee members represent a cross-section of the construction industry that includes architects, builders, engineers, building officials, product manufacturers and representatives of other state agencies. This variety helps to balance the work of the committee so that all sides of an issue can be debated and resolved. The committees meet as often as needed, and as long as needed, to review and reach consensus on the code change proposals.

Additionally, the [Construction Codes Advisory Council](#) is required to review and comment on all current and proposed rules to promote coordination and consistency among the various codes and advise agencies or organizations about any concerns they may have.

➤ Follow the committee process and view documents, member lists and more www.dli.mn.gov/RulemakingCCL.asp.

CCLD Review is a quarterly publication of the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry.

Receive e-mail notification when an issue is available by [subscribing online](#).

Contact information

CCLD main contact info

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Fax: (651) 284-5749
TTY: (651) 297-4198

Visit the [Contact Us](#) page

Licensing information

DLI.License@state.mn.us

Business/Contractor Licenses

and Bonds: (651) 284-5034
(Including: Electrical, HPP, Plumbing, Residential, Manufactured Structures, Mechanical Bonds, Technology System, Water Conditioning)

Personal Licenses and

Certificates: (651) 284-5031
(Including: Boiler Engineers, Electricians, Plumbers, Power Limited Technicians, Pipefitters, Unlicensed Individuals, Building Officials)

Electrical information

Phone: (651) 284-5026
Fax: (651) 284-5749
DLI.Electricity@state.mn.us

Boiler, High-Pressure Piping, Boats-for-Hire inspection

Phone: (651) 284-5544
Fax: (651) 284-5737
DLI.Code@state.mn.us

Plumbing information

Phone: (651) 284-5063
Fax: (651) 284-5748
DLI.Plumbing@state.mn.us

License enforcement details

Phone: (651) 284-5069
Fax: (651) 284-5746
DLI.Contractor@state.mn.us

Independent Contractor Exemption Cert. information

Phone: (651) 284-5074
DLI.ic@state.mn.us

Elevator equipment compliance plans are required

The deadline for compliance with the following elevator safety requirements for existing elevators was Jan. 29, 2012. Some of the requirements include:

Fire fighter's service

Elevators must conform to the requirements of ASME A17.1-1987, Rules for Fire Service, as a minimum unless installed under a later edition of the A17.1.

Cylinder safety bulkheads

Hydraulic cylinders buried in the ground must have a safety bulkhead or a double cylinder.

Door restrictor devices

Car and hoistway doors must not be capable of being opened when the elevator is more than 18 inches from a floor.



elevators in compliance or have an approved compliance plan filed with the agency.

Elevator equipment owners that have not been notified by DLI or authorized municipal inspection authority have 60 days from the date of notification to either comply with the safety requirements or submit an acceptable compliance plan.

Approved plans can provide an owner up to three years from the date of submission of the plan to achieve compliance.

Elevator equipment owners who have been notified by DLI or another authorized municipal inspection authority are required to have their

Information about elevator compliance plans is available at: www.dli.mn.gov/CCLD/PDF/elev_compliance.pdf.

Stay in touch

- Follow DLI on Twitter at www.twitter.com/mndli.
- View DLI's YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/user/mndli1.
- Subscribe to DLI's RSS feed to be instantly notified of news at <http://search.twitter.com/search.atom?q=mndli>.
- Sign up for other DLI newsletters focusing on workers' compensation, OSHA and more at www.dli.mn.gov/publications.asp.



Online tools

Use DLI's online tools to verify or renew a license, find courses and more



License Lookup ▶

- Verify personal and business licenses online with the [License Lookup tool](#).
- Search for continuing education courses in DLI's online directory.
- Apply for a [new license](#) or [renew an existing license](#) online.

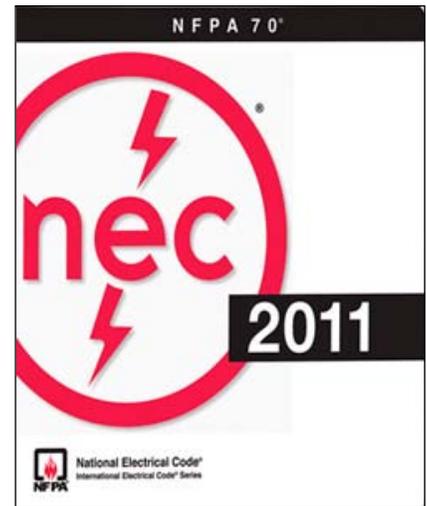
Submit comments for 2014 edition of the NEC

Although the 2011 National Electrical Code (NEC) was just adopted this past summer, proposals for the 2014 edition have already been processed by the various NEC code-making panels.

All of the 2014 NEC proposals and the respective panels' actions can be viewed at the [National Fire Protection Association website](#).

On the NFPA's website, look under the heading "ROP Ballots" and select "Ballot Final, NEC-PXX" to review the proposals and actions of each of the 19 code-making panels. Both the electronic and printed editions of the Report on Proposals and the draft of the 2014 NEC will be available in mid-July and are available for free from NFPA.

Anyone may submit comments about the proposals and panel actions. Comments must be submitted via a comment form and returned to NFPA via e-mail, mail or fax no later than 5 p.m. EST, on Oct. 17, 2012. [Download a comment form \(Microsoft Word document\)](#).



Proposals for the 2014 NEC have been processed by code-making panels.

GEM Award

DLI's Sampson presented with NCEL GEM Award

This past April, Marcus "Sam" Sampson, an electrical area representative with DLI's Construction Codes and Licensing Division, was presented with the North Central Electrical League's GEM Award at the Upper Midwest Electrical Expo. Sampson is only the fourth individual to receive the award since 2000.

The NCEL GEM Award is presented to an individual who "goes the extra mile" on behalf of the Upper Midwest Electrical Industry and has advanced the interests of the entire electrical industry by actively participating in programs whose purposes extend beyond the direct interest of their primary industry sector.

Sampson has dedicated himself to working with all factions of the electrical industry. He strongly supports the missions of the North Central Electrical League, the International Association of Electrical Inspectors, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Minnesota Electrical Association, National Electrical Manufacturers Association and the National Electrical Contractors Association.

He is past chairman and current secretary/treasurer of



Sam Sampson, left, receives the NCEL GEM Award from George Cusick, a representative of Cooper Bussmann.

the Minnesota Chapter of the International Association of Electrical Inspectors. He serves as a principle member for the National Fire Protection Association's National Electrical Code Panel 15 and on the Underwriters Laboratories Electrical Council.

Inspection of Minnesota charter boats is underway

Before many charter boats moored on scenic Minnesota lakes can push away from shore each year they must be inspected by DLI staff.

DLI's boiler inspectors perform the annual safety inspections of about 90 charter boats in eight Minnesota lakes. They also perform dry-dock inspections every three years (or annually for wood-hulled vessels.)

The annual safety inspections include an array of safety checks like ensuring proper flotation devices are onboard, engine safety sensors and pumps operate properly, fire

suppression systems are up-to-date, and more.

According to state law, boats-for-hire propelled by machinery or sails navigating Minnesota's inland waters and carrying more than six passengers are subject to the inspection requirements. Vessels inspected by the U.S. Coast Guard are exempt.

Waterways that include DLI-inspected boats are: Lake Minnetonka, Mille Lacs Lake, Leech Lake, Lake Winnibigoshish, Green Lake, Prior Lake, Lake Shetek and Burntside Lake.



DLI inspector Dave Gonsoski inspects a charter boat along Lake Minnetonka.

Pipe-layers

Water and sewer pipe-layer training best practices

In order to perform water and sewer pipe-laying work, Minnesota law requires individuals to obtain a plumbing bond or be an employee of a person in compliance with the bond and insurance requirements of Minn. Stat. §326B.46, subd. 2.

Individuals performing building sewer or water service installation are not required to hold a plumbers license if they have completed pipe-laying training.

The commissioner of the Department of Labor and Industry recommends the following best practices for water and sewer pipe-laying training.

1. Entities performing water and sewer pipe-laying training are responsible for providing qualified instructors. Qualifications generally include a mix of directly related formal training and field experience.
2. The instructors maintain records of those who have taken the training and issue pipe-layer cards dated with the expiration date to those who pass the course. Cards are carried in the field when performing pipe-laying work and expire every three years.
3. Instruction in water and sewer pipe-laying includes:
 - trench safety
 - utility locating
 - pipe materials
 - pipe cutting and joining techniques
 - sanitary and storm sewers
 - trench dewatering
 - setting elevations
 - hydrants
 - manholes and catch basins
 - confined space entry
 - blueprint reading
 - testing
 - erosion/sediment control
4. Refresher pipe-laying training consisting of at least four hours of training is provided at least once every three years in order to maintain a pipe-layer card.
5. Successful completion of the course includes passing the course test.

DLI taking steps to streamline plumbing review

Projects identified as ‘minor remodel’ do not require plan submittal; ‘report-on-plans’ process to reduce delays before construction can begin

DLI has recently modified the process of handling and reviewing plumbing plans to provide for more efficient plan review. Several changes have been made to identify and address minor remodeling installations and to reduce the review turnaround of plans submitted for code review.

Minor remodel projects identified

DLI has identified minor remodel projects consisting of five or fewer fixtures that may be issued a permit without approval of plans or specification by DLI. This only applies to certain “non-licensed facilities” for standard installation, replacement or relocation of fixtures and materials when inspected and approved by the administrative authority.

Read more about the process and the projects that are eligible minor remodels at www.dli.mn.gov/CCLD/PlanPlumbingFAQ.asp#minor_remodel.

Report-on-plans

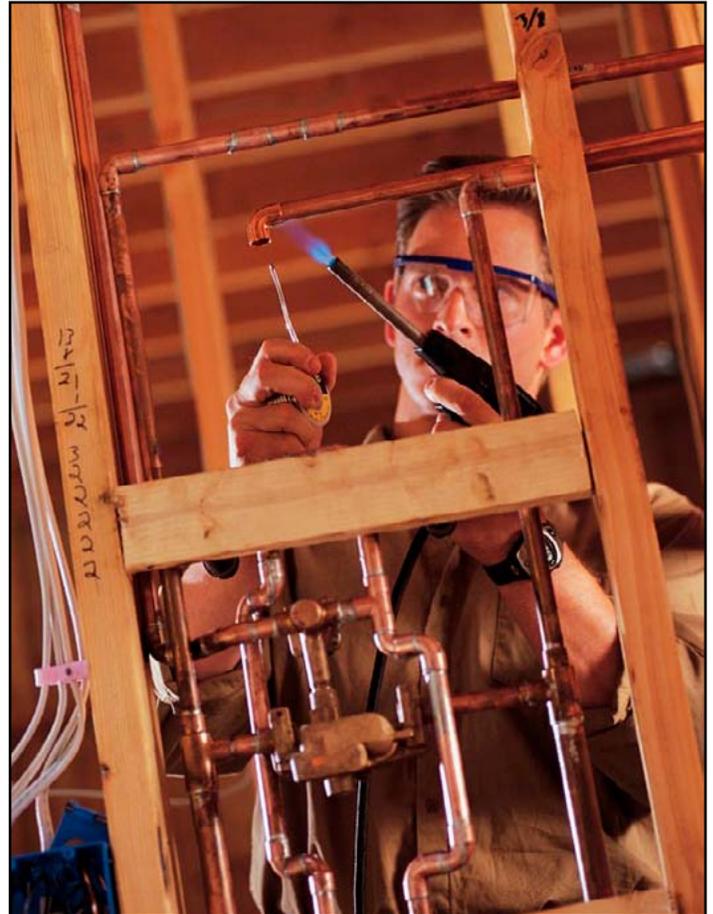
To enable work to begin sooner, DLI may offer a code compliance review called a “report-on-plans” after receiving sufficient plumbing plans, specifications and plan review fees.

The report-on-plans authorizes the plumbing permit to be issued and work to begin after plans have been reviewed by DLI. This report will state that the plans are approved for construction subject to correcting any specific code violations discovered during the review. This authorization is premised upon expected communication between the designer and the contractor about code violations in the plans that will be corrected and installed to code.

With a report-on-plans, it is not necessary for the plumbing designer to resubmit corrected plans to DLI. It will be explicitly stated in the report-on-plans that the work must be installed in compliance with the Plumbing Code.

This process will result in projects being able to begin immediately after receiving a report-on-plans and obtaining a plumbing permit. Designers should ensure a complete and quality set of plans are submitted to reduce delays.

When plans, specifications or fees are incomplete to



DLI is taking steps to streamline the plumbing plan review process.

the point where a code compliance review cannot be performed, or when requests for alternate materials or methods are received, a plan correction letter will be issued. The plan designer must then provide additional information or resubmit a complete set of plans to address the corrections. Once the updated information is reviewed and found to be acceptable, a report-on-plans will be sent and the permit may be issued.

» Questions about plumbing plan review? Find help and contact information at www.dli.mn.gov/CCLD/PlanPlumbing.asp.

Common building plan review questions answered by CCLD staff

The questions below are part of an ongoing series featuring frequently asked questions received by [CCLD's Building Plan Review Section](#). The responses are the opinions of the plan review staff and do not represent an official division or State Building Official interpretation.

Q: **Is cove base tile required at the transition between the wall and the floor of a rest room?**

A: **IBC sec. 1210.1 does not specifically require this, however the commentary in this section in the 2006 IBC Handbook states:** "The intent here is that the flooring form an integral cove so that there will be no sharp joint at the floor/wall intersection."

The handbook is a guide to assist building officials in their interpretation and enforcement of the IBC. The ultimate decision lies with the building official. Since it is not clearly spelled out in the 2006 IBC, if the building official feels that the intent of the code section is for ease of cleaning, then the designer should be told this in writing during jurisdiction's plan review. It would not be appropriate to cite it during an inspection after the material has been installed.

Q: **A rest room is proposed for a mezzanine that is not required to be on an accessible route. Does the rest room need to meet the requirements for accessibility?**

A: **Yes.** Even though a ramp or elevator is not required to provide access to the mezzanine with the rest room, the rest room would still need to meet all the accessible building elements (grab bars, maneuvering clearance, clear space, dispensers, toilet and sink heights, etc.).

➤ View more information about building plan review and find contact information at www.dli.mn.gov/CCLD/PlanConstruction.asp.

➤ View archived building plan review questions and answers at www.dli.mn.gov/CCLD/PlanArticles.asp