

CCLD REVIEW

CONSTRUCTION CODES AND LICENSING DIVISION WINTER 2014-15
MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY

Contractors: Many licenses expire in March Yellow postcard reminders arriving in mailboxes in January

Nearly 6,000 residential building contractor, remodeler and roofer licenses will expire March 31, 2015. Yellow postcards reminding contractors about the coming license renewal period will be mailed in January 2015.

Renew early

To ensure that licenses don't expire, contractors are encouraged to renew as early as possible. A contractor's license is not considered renewed until approved by CCLD. Because renewals are processed in the order received, applications submitted close to the renewal deadline may not be processed by the license expiration date.

Online renewal

Contractors can pay for licenses online yet must complete paper forms, which can then be uploaded through DLI's website. A licensee who submits a renewal online is not considered renewed until their application documents are approved by CCLD. Simply paying the renewal fee does not mean the license renewal is complete.

Renewal questions?

Licensees with questions about their renewals can call CCLD licensing staff at (651) 284-5034 or send an email to DLI.license@state.mn.us.

➤ Renewal information:

- Renewal forms and instructions are available at www.dli.mn.gov/CCLD/lic_builder_remodel_renew.asp
- Renew online at <https://secure.doli.state.mn.us/license/intro.aspx>.

Need to meet continuing education requirements?



Use DLI's online directory of approved continuing education courses to find local class offerings.

The Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry has a directory of approved continuing education course offerings online at <https://secure.doli.state.mn.us/ccldeccourses/>.

Additionally, information about continuing education requirements for licensees, course approval forms and more are available at www.dli.mn.gov/CCLD/CE.asp.

For help with questions about continuing education requirements for licenses and registrations contact DLI's licensing unit at dli.license@state.mn.us.

Some future Minnesota educational opportunities include:

» Annual Institute for Building Officials

What: The 59th annual institute provides a continuing education opportunity for code officials and inspectors from the building, electrical, fire, housing, mechanical, elevator and plumbing fields as well as permit technicians. Some of the many topics include: Minnesota code rules and amendments, useful approaches for inspection and code administration; innovative products in the market place, and more.

When and where: Jan. 7-22 2015; University of Minnesota, St. Paul Campus

More information and registration:
<http://cce.umn.edu/annual-institute-for-building-officials>

» Upper Great Plains Region III Educational Institute

What: The Region III Institute features a wide spectrum of specialized courses for all inspection disciplines, plans examiners, code officials, permit technicians and design professionals. Technical, code enforcement and management topics essential for building design, expanding professional skills, and earning and maintaining certifications and related credentials are presented during the week-long event.

When and where: Feb. 2-6 2015; Oak Ridge Hotel and Conference Center, Chaska, Minn.

More information and registration:
<http://www.iccsafe.org/Education/Courses/Pages/RIII.aspx>

» Midwest Rural Energy Council (MREC) Conference

What: The 53rd annual conference focuses on rural energy issues. Some of the many topics include stray voltage, standby generation, robotic milking, agricultural energy management, energy use for animal and crop production, solar PV systems, manure digesters, power quality recording, shock prevention in wet locations, and much more. The subject matter of the MREC Conference will be of special interest to rural electrical inspectors, rural electrical contractors, rural electric utilities and electrical equipment suppliers.

When and where: Feb. 18-20, 2015; Embassy Suites Hotel, Bloomington, Minn.

More information and registration:
<http://fyi.uwex.edu/mrec/mrec-programs-and-conferences/>

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

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Contact information

CCLD main contact info

Phone: (651) 284-5012
Toll-free: 1-800-657-3944
Fax: (651) 284-5749

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

Contractor registration program

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

Plumbing amendments take effect Jan. 24, 2015

Recent amendments to the plumbing provisions, Minnesota Rules, part 1300.0215, were adopted and will take effect Jan. 24, 2015. Highlights of the adopted amendments include:

- Clarification of plumbing inspection, testing and permit requirements by the administrative authority.
 - Provisions for exceptions to plumbing permit and inspection requirements for certain basic plumbing maintenance and fixture replacement in one-and two-family dwellings when approved by the administrative authority. This does not waive licensing requirements.
 - Clarification of plumbing plan review requirements. All plumbing plans and specifications must be submitted to DLI for approval prior to construction for buildings serving the public or a considerable number of persons (Minn. Rules part 1300.0215 Plumbing Inspections). The clarification extends to the cities of the first class for state-licensed health care facilities and state buildings.
- Unless an agreement exists between DLI and a municipality, Minnesota Plumbing Code Administration and applicable provisions of Minnesota Rules Chapter 1300 are administered and enforced statewide by DLI. For more information about plumbing plan review agreements see www.dli.mn.gov/CCLD/PDF/pe_planrevagree.pdf.

Backflow prevention

ASSE certification required for backflow testers, rebuilders

The Minnesota Plumbing Board requires all state certified backflow prevention testers and rebuilders to obtain certification through the American Society of Sanitary Engineering (ASSE) to maintain DLI certification.

Jan. 1, 2015

This requirement applies to all new applicants and to any currently certified tester or rebuilder who submits a renewal application to

DLI after Jan. 1, 2015. If a tester or rebuilder's DLI certification expires, that individual will have to prove they have ASSE certification in order to renew their DLI certification.

Additional resources

More information about the certification requirement is available at www.dli.mn.gov/CCLD/PlumbingBackflow.asp and from ASSE at www.asse-plumbing.org/certifications.html.

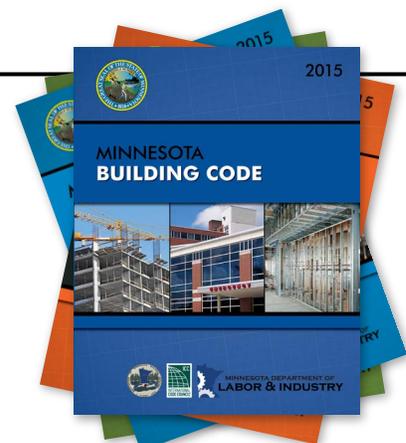


Minnesota Building Code

2015 State Building Code adoption

Minnesota's construction codes go into effect in early 2015. Codes are posted at www.dli.mn.gov/CCLD/codes15.asp. Also available are code book fact sheets, seminar materials, frequently asked questions about the new codes, and more.

» www.dli.mn.gov/CCLD/codes15.asp



Is it a manufactured home or park model RV?

Although park model RV's may appear to be small manufactured homes, they do not meet housing requirements and may not be used as manufactured homes.

What is a recreational vehicle (RV)?

An RV is a motorized or towable vehicle that combines transportation and temporary living quarters for travel, recreation and camping. RVs may have a motor, as in the case of motorhomes, may be mounted as truck campers, or towed by another vehicle like travel trailers and folding camping trailers. RVs are built according to NFPA 1192, Standard On Recreational Vehicles. RVs are sold by recreational vehicle dealers.

What is a park model RV?

A park model RV is a unique trailer-type RV designed to provide temporary accommodation for recreation, camping or seasonal use. Recreational park trailers or park models are built on a single chassis, mounted on wheels and have a gross trailer area not exceeding 400 square feet when set up. They are certified by their manufacturers as complying with ANSI A119.5. A park model RV can be identified by the blue and gold Recreation Vehicle Industry Association A119.5 certification seal (or its predecessor's green Recreational Park Trailer Industry Association seal) affixed adjacent to the main door of the unit.

What is a manufactured home?

Manufactured homes are dwellings designed and built for permanent residency under the standards set by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).



While they appear similar to a manufactured home, park model RVs are not required to meet building or installation codes.

Although the appearance of park model RV's may lead some to think they are small manufactured homes, park model RVs are prohibited from being considered or used as manufactured homes.

RVs not considered housing

Like RVs, park model RVs are not required to meet building codes or installation codes that stick-built or manufactured homes are required to meet. Park model RVs are not housing.

Stay in touch

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- Sign up for Labor and Industry News to receive monthly updates about agency projects at www.dli.mn.gov/email.asp.
- View DLI's YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/user/mndli1



Staff changes

Electrical, building plan review hire new employees

Electrical staff changes

Formerly an electrical area representative, Dean Hunter has transitioned to the role of electrical code representative at DLI. In addition to providing administration and support for everyday electrical licensing and inspection issues, Hunter is responsible for administering the equipment approval program, approval of continuing education programs, approval of technical college programs and the electrical contractor bond program.

Taking over the electrical area representative position left by Hunter is Lowell Bradbury. Bradbury has 35 years of experience in the electrical industry as an electrician, electrical contractor and contract electrical inspector. He has been the contract electrical inspector for Becker and

Mahnomen counties for the past nine years.

Building Plan Review staff changes

CCLD's Building Plan Review Division has hired Dean Mau as a fire sprinkler plan reviewer. He most recently worked for the city of St. Cloud as senior building plans examiner. Mau's resume also includes both volunteer and full time fire service, construction management, and for the last decade, full-time fire protection system and building plan review. In addition to his responsibilities as a plan reviewer he will also assist CCLD's Education Division preparing and presenting fire suppression seminars.

Visit www.dli.mn.gov/CCLD/cclldcontactus.asp for phone numbers and email addresses of DLI staff.

Enforcement actions

Contractor fined \$8,250 for unlicensed plumbing work

Some recent CCLD enforcement actions include:

An unlicensed Prior Lake contractor was fined \$8,250 and ordered to stop performing or offering to perform unlicensed plumbing work. The individual had placed business cards in building materials stores in the metro area advertising plumbing and mechanical contracting services. The contractor was the subject of previous enforcement action in 2009.

A Howard Lake residential building contractor's license was revoked, and the contractor was ordered to stop residential building contractor activity and to pay a \$5,000 civil penalty. The contractor failed to satisfy a homeowner's judgment and failed to pay one of its material suppliers. The contractor also failed to cooperate with DLI's investigation.

DLI recently suspended several electricians' licenses or unlicensed registration for attempting to renew without completing required continuing education. They also submitted false statements on their renewal applications indicating they had completed continuing education requirements. These individuals will remain suspended until they meet required continuing education requirements and pay civil penalties ranging from \$250 to \$2,000. The orders were issued after the licensees failed to respond to several notices from DLI about the continuing education deficiencies.



Enforcement actions

View enforcement and license actions taken against licensees.

Summaries of all final CCLD enforcement actions are at www.dli.mn.gov/CCLD/Enforcement.asp. Questions about specific enforcement actions should be directed to (651) 284-5069 or DLI.contractor@state.mn.us.

CCLD collecting unpaid inspection fees

Invoices are in the mail to contractors who owe payments for electrical inspection services. Consequences for failure to pay include:

- The contractor's electrical license will be restricted and they will not be able to file new electrical permits.
- Inspection service may be suspended for contractors who have unpaid fees, which could result in construction delays and contract penalties from general contractors.
- The electrical contractor's unpaid fees will be collected from the contractor's bonding company.
- Enforcement action could be taken against the contractor.

Payments can be made online at www.dli.mn.gov/paycenter, via mail according to the instructions on the invoice or in person at CCLD's Service Counter in St. Paul.

An article on page one of the summer 2014 edition of the CCLD Review newsletter about adoption of the 2014 National Electrical Code contained incorrect information.

The online version of the CCLD Review has been updated and the corrected paragraph now reads:

“Regardless of when the work is started, Requests for Electrical Inspection (electrical permits) filed with DLI on or after July 1, 2014, are subject to the provisions of the 2014 NEC. Requests for Electrical Inspection filed prior to July 1, 2014, are subject to the provisions of the 2011 NEC.”

The full edition is available at www.dli.mn.gov/CCLD/PDF/review30Summer14.pdf.

Helpful advice

Assistance is available for complex electrical projects

Before proceeding with complex, uncommon or unique electrical installations, engineers and contractors are encouraged to consult with their electrical inspector or DLI's electrical staff to clarify any questions about licensing, permits and inspections, codes and standards or inspection fees.

Costly corrections, penalties, inspection delays, additional inspection fees and callbacks can often be avoided by sending an email or placing a phone call and making an inquiry before starting the project. Attempt to make your inquiries well in advance to allow for a thorough and timely response.



To help avoid costly delays in complex or uncommon electrical installation projects, consult with DLI's electrical staff or your electrical inspector before beginning the project.

Get help with your electrical project:

- Electrical inspector directories and maps: www.dli.mn.gov/CCLD/ElectricalInspect.asp
- Electrical area representatives: www.dli.mn.gov/CCLD/PDF/eli_area_reps.pdf
- CCLD staff member contact information: www.dli.mn.gov/CCLD/CCLDContactUs.asp

Solar photovoltaic system

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Question: National Electrical Code (NEC) Section 690.9(D) requires overcurrent devices for solar photovoltaic (PV) source and PV output conductors to be accessible, but does not require them to be readily accessible. What does the NEC require or allow when the PV system is on a rooftop or an elevated structure?

Answer: NEC Article 100 definitions:

- **Accessible (as applied to equipment):** Admitting close approach; not guarded by locked doors, elevation, or other effective means.
- **Accessible (as applied to wiring methods):** Capable of being removed or exposed without damaging the building structure or finish or not permanently closed in by the structure or finish of the building.
- **Accessible, Readily (Readily Accessible):** Capable of being reached quickly for operation, renewal, or inspections without requiring those to whom access is requisite to actions such as to use tools, to climb over or remove obstacles, or to resort to portable ladders, and so forth.

The definitions are not intended to mean that equipment may not be elevated where it can be reached with a portable ladder or located behind locked doors, when qualified persons who need access have the necessary means to do so. The requirement states only that locked doors, elevation or other effective means must not “guard” against access.

The overcurrent devices mounted on or behind modules or structural members of a PV system shall be accessible without damaging the PV modules or the structure in order to permit safe access for installers, maintenance personnel and the electrical inspector.

Question: The new requirements in NEC Section 690.12 address the requirement for a rapid shutdown function for all PV system circuits mounted in or on buildings. What type of equipment will be acceptable in order to comply with the rapid shutdown requirements?

Answer: Police, firefighters and other emergency personnel must contend with elements of PV systems that remain energized after the utility service disconnect is opened. The rapid shutdown function provides the

necessary means to mitigate the shock potential that poses a danger to first responders. NEC Section 690.12 outlines the shutdown time constraints, placement or location in the PV circuit and the level of energy that the rapid shutdown function will need to operate in order to achieve the protection. Designs and methods for achieving rapid system shutdown are not addressed in the NEC, other than 690.12(D) which requires the equipment (single function or multiple devices) performing the rapid shutdown be listed and identified.

Question: NEC Section 690.31(A) requires readily accessible PV source and PV output conductors over 30 volts to be guarded or installed in a raceway. What methods will be acceptable in order to comply with the requirements for guarding or protecting PV conductors that are installed in readily accessible locations?

Answer: NEC Article 100 defines guarded as covered, shielded, fenced, enclosed, or otherwise protected by means of suitable covers, casings, barriers, rails, screens, mats, or platforms to remove the likelihood of approach or contact by persons or objects to a point of danger. Most PV systems do not have means for attaching raceways. The conductors would be considered “not readily accessible” by using any of the items mentioned in the NEC definition or by elevation or location, provided the conductors are high enough or located in such a manner to remove the likelihood that individuals could approach or come into contact with conductors. Installations will be considered guarded when access is limited to qualified persons.

More electrical code information online

- See additional solar system installation questions and answers at www.dli.mn.gov/CCLD/PDF/solarFAQ.pdf.
- View frequently-asked-questions about requirements in the 2014 NEC at www.dli.mn.gov/CCLD/PDF/NECFAQ14.pdf.
- Review the Report on Proposals for the 2017 NEC at www.dli.mn.gov/CCLD/Electrical.asp.