

CCLD REVIEW

CONSTRUCTION CODES AND LICENSING DIVISION
MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY

SPRING 2016

Construction conference draws crowd

The state of Minnesota and its construction industry partners hosted the Minnesota Construction Industry Conference Feb. 18, 2016, in Brooklyn Center, Minn.

The successful conference drew 380 attendees and provided educational and networking opportunities for highway/heavy, commercial building and residential contractors, plus informative general sessions for the entire construction industry. The event updated construction-industry members about current regulations and rules and provided an opportunity for attendees to share ideas with state officials about how to build a better Minnesota.



Based on survey feedback from participants, the conference had a high satisfaction rate with the conference topics, location and presentations.

View a slide show of photos from the event at www.dli.mn.gov/images/cic16/index.html.

Industry and government partners included:

- Associated Builders and Contractors, Inc. Minnesota/North Dakota Chapter
- Builders Association of Minnesota
- Building and Construction Trades Council
- Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry
- Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development
- Minnesota Department of Transportation
- Minnesota Department of Administration
- Minnesota Department of Human Rights
- Associated General Contractors of Minnesota

Association sponsors included:

- Association of Women Contractors
- Builders Association of the Twin Cities
- Install NCS
- JE Dunn Construction
- Laborers District Council of MN and ND
- Manufactured and Modular Homes Association
- Minnesota Electrical Association
- Minnesota Laborers Employers Cooperation and Education Trust
- Minnesota Mechanical Contractors Association
- Minnesota Painting and Wallcovering Employers Association
- Minnesota Pipe Trades
- Minnesota Utility Contractors Association

Building official courses expanded

DLI's Construction Codes and Licensing Division (CCLD) has revamped its Building Official Limited and Accessibility Course to include more practical aspects of the building code enforcement industry.

The three day course has been expanded to a new five-day format. The training curriculum integrates code requirements into plan review and field inspection. Registration is open for the next scheduled date of June 6-10, 2016.

➤ View the five-day training program schedule at
www.dli.mn.gov/CCLD/PDF/official_schedule.pdf.

➤ Download a Building Official Limited Course Enrollment Form at
www.dli.mn.gov/CCLD/Official.asp.

Presentations

Spring seminars begin April 6

Beginning April 6, CCLD will present a spring seminar about the practical applications of the Minnesota Conservation Code for Existing Buildings at eight sites throughout Minnesota.

The seminars will be conducted at building official chapter and regional meetings. CCLD staff members Greg Metz and Paul Swett will provide the training. The presentations are scheduled for two hours at the following locations

- April 6, 2016 – Central Minnesota Inspection Group, St. Cloud
- April 8, 2016 – Arrowhead ICC Chapter, Hermantown
- April 11, 2016 – Carver Inspection Group, Southwest Metro
- April 13, 2016 – Riverbend Group, Shakopee
- May 4, 2016 – Dakota County Inspection Group, Apple Valley
- May 18, 2016 – Southwest ICC Chapter, Redwood Falls
- June 1, 2016 – Southeast Minnesota Code Officials ICC Chapter, Rochester
- June 3, 2016 – Northwest ICC Chapter, Detroit Lakes

Visit www.dli.mn.gov/CCLD/EducationChapters.asp for locations of the seminars along with contact information for each organization. There is no CCLD fee for the seminar, however please contact your chapter or group to register your attendance.

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

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

Contact information

CCLD main contact info

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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

Phone: (651) 284-5074

DLI.register@state.mn.us

View your continuing education history online

A new feature on DLI's website allows each licensee to view their own continuing education (CE) course history based on what has been reported to our agency by CE providers during the past five years.

To view the CE completion information:

- Visit DLI's online License Lookup at <https://secure.doli.state.mn.us/lookup/licensing>.
- Look up your license or certification by searching for your name or license/certification number.
- Click on "Detail" next to your record.
- Click on "View Details" next to the "CE Status" field.
- Enter your license number (including two-letter prefix) and last four SSN digits when prompted and click, "Submit."
- View all the DLI-approved CE courses that you have taken in the past five years, beginning with the most recent courses

License Lookup

Verify construction licenses,
bonds, certifications,
registrations and building officials



The results include information about each CE course you have taken including the number of hours (code vs. non-code in the case of licensees like plumbers and electricians who have a requirement that distinguishes between code and non-code related courses).

History of CE reporting

In 2012, the responsibility for reporting CE attendance shifted from the licensee to the CE sponsor, meaning that licensees are not required to submit course completion certificates to DLI with their license renewals. If you believe that DLI's records of your CE experience are incomplete, call us at (651) 284-5031 or send an email message to DLI.license@state.mn.us.

Staff changes

New employees hired; friend of agency remembered

Building Plan Review

Scott Erickson is a new employee in CCLD's Building Plan Review Division. Previously, Erickson was a plans examiner with the City of Duluth and also worked as a structural engineer in the Duluth area for 25 years.

Education Services

Paul Swett and Greg Metz were both hired as new employees in CCLD's Education Services unit.

Metz practiced commercial architecture and was a construction administrator and managing architect. He served three years as a civilian architect for the U.S. Marine Corps and four years as an inspector/commercial plan reviewer for the City of Plymouth before joining DLI.

Since 2005, Swett worked for five Minnesota municipalities. He served three years on the Uniformity of Inspections Committee and has been active with Dakota County Area Inspectors Group.

Loveland remembered

CCLD was saddened to learn of the passing of Jim Loveland, recently retired manager of Engineer Services with the Minnesota Department of Health. Loveland worked closely with CCLD's Building Plan Review Division to understand the complexities of licensed facilities. He was well-liked and respected by both CCLD and the design community and will be remembered for his leadership and contributions he made in the industry.

Backflow protection, testing for fire sprinklers

The 2015 Minnesota Plumbing Code includes changes related to backflow protection devices for fire sprinkler systems and the annual testing requirements for devices.

In the new Plumbing Code for new fire sprinkler systems using potable water, a listed double check valve assembly backflow device is now required to protect the building water supply. The previous plumbing code did not require backflow prevention for most stand-alone fire protection systems using potable water with no added chemicals.

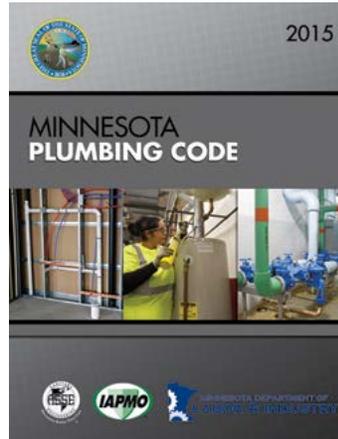
The exception to the backflow prevention requirement in the new code is for one- or two-family dwellings or townhouse buildings with stand-alone residential fire sprinkler systems piped with materials approved in the Plumbing Code for potable water piping. Code-approved potable materials are found in chapter six of the Plumbing Code, including PEX (ASTM F876/F877), CPVC (ASTM D2846, F441), Copper (ASTM B88), etc. These systems may continue to use a single check valve assembly.

Types of backflow devices in fire sprinkler systems

The degree of hazard is used to determine the proper backflow prevention device to protect potable water supplies for fire sprinkler systems:

- Low-hazard applications are fire sprinkler systems where potable water supplies serving fire sprinkler systems are under pressure without any added chemicals or substances. For these applications, a double check valve assembly (DC assembly) certified and listed to ASSE 1048, ASSE 1015, AWWA C510, or CSA B64.5.1 is an acceptable device.
- High-hazard applications are fire sprinkler systems where water supplies serving fire sprinkler systems are under pressure and contain antifreeze, corrosion inhibitors or other chemicals. For these applications, a reduced pressure principle backflow prevention assembly (RPZ) certified and listed to ASSE 1047, ASSE 1013, AWWA C511, CSA B64.4 or CSA B64.4.1 is an acceptable device.

Some buildings often have potential for secondary fire sprinkler water sources through the fire department connection on the exterior of the building walls. These secondary source connections must also be provided with



proper backflow prevention to protect the water supply. When the secondary fire sprinkler water source is provided with non-potable water taken from rivers or lakes, or from fire trucks carrying non-potable water, the connection must be provided with an RPZ backflow device. The local fire department should also be consulted for determination of any

secondary water source serving the fire protection system for proper backflow protection.

Installation and testing of backflow prevention devices in fire sprinkler systems

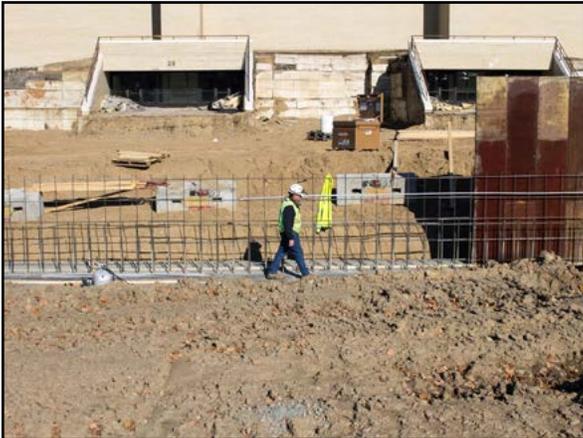
The 2015 Minnesota Plumbing Code requires that testable backflow prevention devices including the double check valve assembly and RPZ backflow assemblies be tested upon installation and at least annually thereafter by a certified backflow assembly tester certified to ASSE Standard 5110. ASSE Standard 5110 is a qualifications standard specific to performance testing of backflow prevention assemblies and does not apply to other fire protection system requirements under National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards. Please note that testing of RPZs requires an additional certification issued by DLI.

Installation and rebuilding of any backflow prevention device must be performed by a licensed plumber. Backflow testers certified to ASSE 5110 are not required to possess a plumbing license.

More information

The Minnesota Plumbing Code became effective Jan. 23, 2016. The code is based on the 2012 Uniform Plumbing Code.

- Additional information about licensing and backflow testing requirements: www.dli.mn.gov/CCLD/PDF/fs_backflow.pdf.
- Frequently asked questions and information about code changes: www.dli.mn.gov/CCLD/Plumbing.asp.



DLI has created a handout with details about how to begin a career as a building official.

Interested in a career as a building official?

There is growing concern whether a sufficient number of new skilled workers will enter the construction industry workforce. This shortfall includes building code officials to serve the regulatory portion of the industry. Building code enforcement may represent a small portion of the overall construction industry, but the need for qualified building officials continues.

A survey of current building officials shows that the majority of Minnesota building officials are between 55 and 64 years old and plan to retire sometime within the next 10 years.

Learn more about becoming a building official at www.dli.mn.gov/CCLD/PDF/bo_career.pdf.

New edition of Code Admin Manual available

A new edition of CCLD's Code Administration Manual is available online. The manual was created to assist building officials in their administration of the Minnesota State Building Code.

View the new version at www.dli.mn.gov/CCLD/Administration.asp.

Adoption update for the Minnesota State Fire Code

On Feb. 5, 2016, the public comment period for adoption of the Minnesota State Fire Code closed with no requests for a public hearing. Therefore, the remaining steps of the adoption process can continue, likely with an adoption sometime this spring, perhaps as early as April 2016.

The State Fire Marshal's Office is working with the International Codes Council to publish a custom Minnesota Fire Code similar to what was recently produced for the 2015 Minnesota Building Codes.

» More information about the Fire Code is available from the State Fire Marshal at <https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/sfm/fire-code/Pages/Fire-Code-Homepage.aspx>.

Prefabricated building systems must have IBC labels

The 2015 Minnesota State Building Code requires that prefabricated building system components defined as "closed construction" be labeled with an Industrialized Buildings Commission (IBC) prefabrication label.

What is closed construction?

Prefabricated wall or roof systems where the exterior sheathing of the wall or roof is not fully exposed (covered with weather barriers or finish products), is defined as closed construction. Building components or structures where the interior roof or floor truss systems or wall systems are insulated or covered concealing structural components, fasteners, or other trade rough-in components (electrical, plumbing, HVAC, etc.) are also defined as closed construction.

If you are the authority having jurisdiction and you review a plan that is proposing the use of these systems, you should inform the applicant that the systems require IBC prefabrication labels before they are built and shipped to the site.

For help with questions about the use of prefabricated components, contact Randy Vogt, supervisor of CCLD's Manufactured Structures Unit, at (651) 284-5875.

Enforcement actions

Unlicensed residential contractor fined \$10,000

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

- An unlicensed contractor from Ramsey, Minnesota, was ordered to cease and desist from unlicensed residential building contractor and plumbing contractor activity and fined \$10,000 after DLI received complaints from three homeowners who had viewed a television news story about a different contractor, and contacted DLI to report their bad experiences.
- An unlicensed satellite system installer from St. Peter, Minnesota, was fined \$2,500 and ordered to cease and desist from satellite systems contracting until appropriate licensure is achieved.
- An unlicensed individual from Cannon Falls, Minnesota, was fined \$10,000 and ordered to cease and desist from unlicensed residential building contractor, plumbing contractor and electrical contractor activities.
- Since Jan. 1, 2015, more than 100 plumbers and electricians have had their license or unlicensed registration suspended and monetary penalties imposed for renewing their license or registration without first completing all required continuing education (CE). Please be sure to obtain your required CE before renewing your license.



Enforcement actions

View enforcement and license actions taken against licensees.

Summaries of all final CCLD enforcement actions are available 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.

Planning to hire a contractor? Make sure they're licensed

Before hiring a contractor, visit DLI's consumer web page for steps to take before signing a contract. Some of the topics include how to select a contractor, how to solicit bids, what to include in a contract and how to file a complaint against a contractor.

➤ View more information at www.dli.mn.gov/cclD/RBCconsumer.asp.

Locate inspectors quickly

Find code requirements and code inspectors online

DLI has built a one-stop "Local Inspector Lookup" – online at <http://workplace.doli.state.mn.us/jurisdiction> – to help contractors and homeowners find local code requirements and code inspectors in one place.

The online search tool helps users find which code authority has local jurisdiction for permits, plan review and inspection in the areas of boilers, building codes, electrical, elevators, high-pressure piping, plumbing or other Minnesota construction codes and licensing disciplines.



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Visit us during 2016 Upper Midwest Electrical Expo

The 2016 Upper Midwest Electrical Expo, sponsored by the North Central Electrical League (NCEL), is April 13-14, 2016, at the Minneapolis Convention Center.



DLI staff will be at the expo in booth No. 845 sharing information and answering questions about electrical inspection, permitting and more.

Attendees must register to attend, but there is no fee for admittance to view the more than 350

exhibitor booths related to the electrical industry. More than 2,100 companies participated in the 2014 expo which drew nearly 10,000 visitors from 29 states and three Canadian provinces. More information about the expo and free registration is available at www.NCEL.org.

Limited electrical inspections April 26, 2016, due to training

DLI will host its second-annual contract electrical inspector meeting April 26, 2016. The training brings together contract electrical inspectors and electrical area representatives from throughout Minnesota for a day of training.

Because the meeting includes a full day of training, there will be **limited inspection service available on April 26**. Electrical contractors are urged to schedule their inspections accordingly to avoid any setbacks or inspection delays. If you have questions, send an email message to dli.electricity@state.mn.us.

Bulletin: Circuit breakers in low-temperature environments

A new electrical bulletin about the use of circuit breakers in low-temperature environments was recently posted to DLI's website.

View the new bulletin along with other electrical codes and standards at www.dli.mn.gov/CCLD/ElectricalCodes.asp.

DLI shares electrical safety information at fair convention



Wade Schlie, DLI electrical area representative, presents about electrical safety at the Minnesota Federation of County Fairs Convention.

While carnival and fair season was still months away, Steve Dudley and Wade Schlie, DLI electrical area representatives, gave a presentation about carnival electrical safety to fair board members and carnival owners. The January event was conducted at the Minnesota Federation of County Fairs Convention in Bloomington, Minnesota.

DLI attends this event annually to support the events and ensure electrical safety during the fairs and carnivals. In addition to meeting with carnival owners and operators, staff provide electrical safety information, registration information, share any electrical code changes and answer questions.

More information about the Minnesota Federation of County Fairs at www.mfcf.com/.