

Plumbing Board  
c/o Department of Labor and Industry  
443 Lafayette Road North  
St. Paul, MN 55155-4344  
www.dli.mn.gov

# Plumbing Board Request for Action

PRINT IN INK or TYPE

<b>NAME OF SUBMITTER</b> Ken Loucks	<b>PURPOSE OF REQUEST</b> (check all that apply): <input type="checkbox"/> New Code <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Code Amendment <input type="checkbox"/> Repeal of an existing Rule
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The Minnesota Plumbing Code (MN Rules, Chapter 4714) is available at <http://www.dli.mn.gov/CCLD/PlumbingCode.asp>.

**Specify the purpose of the proposal:** (If recommendation for code change for fixture, appurtenance, material, or method, check all that apply)

- Appurtenance (e.g., water conditioning equipment)  Test Method  
 Other (describe) Venting for Hydromechanical Grease Interceptors Installed Outside

**Does your submission contain a Trade Secret?**  Yes  No

If Yes, mark “**TRADE SECRET**” prominently on each page of your submission that you believe contains trade secret information. Minnesota Statutes, section 13.37, subdivision 1(b), defines “trade secret” as follows:

“Trade secret information” means government data, including a formula, pattern, compilation, program, device, method, technique or process (1) that was supplied by the affected individual or organization, (2) that is the subject of efforts by the individual or organization that are reasonable under the circumstances to maintain its secrecy, and (3) that derives independent economic value, actual or potential, from not being generally known to, and not being readily ascertainable by proper means by, other persons who can obtain economic value from its disclosure or use.

Note that, although “trade secret” information is generally not public, the Board and its committees may disclose “trade secret” information at a public meeting of the Board or committee if reasonably necessary for the Board or committee to conduct the business or agenda item before it (such as your request.) The record of the meeting will be public.

**Describe the proposed change.** The Minnesota Plumbing Code (Minnesota Rules Chapter 4714) is available via the World Wide Web at <http://www.revisor.leg.state.mn.us/arule/4714/>

**NOTE:**

- Please review the Minnesota Plumbing Code and include all parts of the Code that require revision to accomplish your purpose.
- The proposed change, including suggested rule language, should be *specific*. If modifying existing rule language, underline new words and ~~strike through deleted words~~. Please list all areas of the Minnesota Plumbing Code that would be affected.

1014.2.2 Vent. A vent shall be installed downstream of hydromechanical grease interceptors in accordance with the requirements of this code.

Exception: When installed exterior to the building, hydromechanical grease interceptor venting requirements shall be in accordance with manufacturers installation instructions.

**Office Use Only**

RFA File No. <b>PB0111</b>	Date Received by DLI 12/13/2018	Dated Received by Committee	Date Forwarded to Board
Title of RFA	By:		

Committee Recommendation to the Board:  Accept  Reject  Abstain

Board approved as submitted:  Yes  No Board approved as modified:  Yes  No

**This material can be made available in different forms, such as large print, Braille or audio. To request, call 1-800-342-5354.**

**Need and Reasons For the Change.** Thoroughly explain the need and why you believe it is reasonable to make this change. During a rulemaking process, the need and reasonableness of all proposed rule changes must be justified; therefore, a detailed explanation is necessary to ensure the Board thoroughly considers all aspects of the proposal.

When installed exterior to a building, hydromechanical grease interceptors (HGI) may or may not require a vent to be installed downstream to operate correctly. Each manufacturer can and should make recommendations regarding venting in accordance with their own installation instructions. While it is true that these devices are bench tested and rated for performance with a downstream vent, this is intended to mimic a worst-case scenario with large volumes of water flowing over very short distances with a high amount of head pressure. When a grease interceptor is installed inside of a building near the fixtures routed to it and under extreme loading scenarios a downstream vent should be installed.

When installed outside the building remotely located away from the fixtures routed to it, in many cases the HGI would not need a vent installed downstream to operate correctly. In these types of installations, the volume of wastewater is distributed through larger diameter piping over much longer developed runs resulting in much lower net flow rates at the inlet of the interceptor. There is typically sufficient air in piping systems located downstream of exterior grease interceptors to provide adequate venting (the reason gravity grease interceptors are not typically required to have a downstream vent). Also, modern designs offered by some manufacturers provide open top inlets and outlets that act as an air-relief/anti-siphon allowing air to move freely above the wastewater inside the tanks. This further ensures proper gravity drainage through these devices.

It may be true though, that some manufacturer's HGI units would still require a downstream vent even when installed exterior to the building and for that reason the code change language that I propose leaves it up to the manufacturer to provide the venting requirements specific to their grease interceptors for both indoor and outdoor installations. This has the added benefit of absolving the AHJ from liability associated with improperly installed systems that fail to perform correctly.

If your product/method standard(s) is not currently listed in both national codes, your Request For Action will not be considered by the Board or its committees, however, you are welcome to present at any Board meeting during the Open Forum section of the Agenda.

The proposal must be accompanied by copies of any published standards, the results of testing, and copies of any product listings, as documentation of the health, sanitation and safety performance of any materials, methods, fixtures, and/or appurtenances. If none are available, please explain:

N/A

Please attach electronic scanned copies of any literature, standards and product approvals or listings. Printed or copyrighted materials, ***along with written permission from the publisher to distribute the materials at meetings***, should be sent to the Plumbing Board, c/o Department of Labor and Industry, 443 Lafayette Road No., St. Paul, MN 55155-4344.

**Primary reason for change:** (check only one)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Protect public, health, safety, welfare, or security | <input type="checkbox"/> Mandated by legislature                |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lower construction costs                  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Provide uniform application |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Encourage new methods and materials                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Clarify provisions                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Change made at national level                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Situation unique to Minnesota          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (describe) _____                               |   |
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**Anticipated benefits:** (check all that apply)

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Save lives/reduce injuries                        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Provide more affordable construction |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Improve uniform application            | <input type="checkbox"/> Provide building property                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Improve health of indoor environment              | <input type="checkbox"/> Drinking water quality protection               |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Provide more construction alternatives | <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease cost of enforcement                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reduce regulation                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (describe) _____                          |
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**Economic impact:** (explain all answers marked "yes")

1. Does the proposed change increase or decrease the cost of enforcement?  Yes  No If yes, explain

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2. Does the proposed change increase or decrease the cost of compliance?  Yes  No If yes, explain  
Include the estimated cost increase or decrease, and who will bear the cost increase or experience the cost decrease:

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3. Are there less costly or intrusive methods to achieve the proposed change?  Yes  No If yes, explain

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4. Were alternative methods considered?  Yes  No If no, why not? If yes, explain what alternative methods were considered and why they were rejected.  
Does not apply.

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5. If there is a fiscal impact, try to explain any benefit that will offset the cost of the change. If there is no impact, mark "N/A." N/A

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6. Provide a description of the classes of persons affected by a proposed change, who will bear the cost, and who will benefit. Property owners bear all expense of construction and would receive the primary benefit.

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7. Does the proposed rule affect farming operations? (Agricultural buildings are exempt from the Minnesota Building Code under Minnesota Statutes, Section 326B.121.)  Yes  No If yes, explain

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Are there any existing Federal Standards?  Yes  No If yes, list:

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Are there any differences between the proposed change and existing federal regulations?

Yes  No  Not applicable  Unknown

If yes, describe each difference & explain why each difference is needed & reasonable.

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Minnesota Statutes, section 14.127, requires the Board to determine if the cost of complying with proposed rule changes in the first year after the changes take effect will exceed \$25,000 for any small business or small city. A small business is defined as a business (either for profit or nonprofit) with less than 50 full-time employees and a small city is defined as a city with less than ten full-time employees.

During the first year after the proposed changes go into effect, will it cost more than \$25,000 for any small business or small city of comply with the change?  Yes  No If yes, identify by name the small business(es or small city(ies).

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Will this proposed plumbing code amendment require any local government to adopt or amend an ordinance or other regulation in order to comply with the proposed plumbing code amendment?  Yes  No, If yes, identify by name the government(s) and ordinances(s) that will need to be amended in order to comply with the proposed plumbing code amendment.

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Additional supporting documentation may also be attached to this form. Are there any additional comments you feel the Committee/Board may need to consider? If so, please state them here:

#### Information regarding submitting this form:

- Submissions are received and heard by the Committee on an “as received” basis. **Any missing documentation will delay the process, and your proposal will be listed as the date it was received “Complete.”**
- **Submit any supporting documentation to be considered**, such as manufacturer’s literature, approvals by other states, and engineering data electronically to [DLI.CCLDBOARDS@state.mn.us](mailto:DLI.CCLDBOARDS@state.mn.us). Once your Request For Action form has been received, it will be assigned a file number. Please reference this file number on any correspondence and supplemental submissions.
- **For copyrighted materials that must be purchased from publishers, such as published standards, product approvals or testing data, listings by agencies (IAPMO, ASSE, ASTM, etc..) you may send just 2 copies, *along with written permission from the publisher to distribute the materials at meetings*, via U.S. Mail to: Plumbing Board, c/o Department of Labor and Industry, 443 Lafayette Road No., St. Paul, MN 55155-4344.**
- **For materials that must be submitted by U.S. Mail, please include a copy of your “Request For Action” form originally submitted and reference your assigned RFA file number.**

#### Information for presentation to the Committee and/or Board:

- Limit presentations to 5 minutes or less.
- Be prepared to answer questions regarding the proposal and any documentation.


#### Information regarding Committee and/or Board function:

- The Plumbing Board or designated committee.

I understand that any committee action is a recommendation to the Plumbing Board and is not to be considered final action.

SUBMITTED BY NAME  Ken Loucks	FIRM NAME IW Consulting Service, LLC	SUBMITTER'S E-MAIL ADDRESS  <a href="mailto:ken@iwconsultingservice.com">ken@iwconsultingservice.com</a>
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NAME, PHONE NUMBER & E-MAIL ADDRESS OF PRESENTER TO THE COMMITTEE (if different):

ADDRESS 12726 NE 54 <sup>th</sup> Way	CITY Vancouver	STATE WA	ZIP CODE 98682
PHONE 360-540-0570	SIGNATURE (original or electronic) 	DATE 12/13/18	

For Assistance or questions on completing this form, contact Cathy Tran, Department of Labor and Industry at 651-284-5898.

<b>For Office/Committee Use Only</b> Proposal received completed? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			
Date Proposer notified of gaps:	Mode of notification (e.g., e-mail)	Date returned to Proposer:	Date materials re-received: