

CCLD REVIEW

Construction Codes and Licensing Division • Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry • Winter 2018-19

2019 Spring Seminar: Decks, Windows and Radon

DLI's 2019 Spring Seminar will occur at locations throughout Minnesota in April 2019. Dates and locations are being finalized and will be posted at <https://secure.doli.state.mn.us/events/>.

The seminar will address residential deck construction, window safety glazing and fall protection requirements, along with energy code requirements for porches and sunrooms. Attendees will also learn about new Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) radon mitigation standards and practices for existing buildings. Presenters for the seminar are Paul Swett and Don Sivigny of DLI.



Continuing education

Building officials, residential contractors and manufactured home installers will receive seven hours of continuing education credit, including one hour of energy credit.

Dates and locations

Dates and locations will be available soon at <https://secure.doli.state.mn.us/events/>.

Questions?

Contact Tim Manz at timothy.manz@state.mn.us or 651-284-5590.

Educational opportunities for the building trades

The 63rd **Annual Institute for Building Officials** is Jan. 9-24, 2019, at the Earle Brown Heritage Center, Brooklyn Center. More information and registration at <https://ccaps.umn.edu/annual-institute-building-officials>.

The **Upper Great Plains Region III Educational Institute** is Feb. 4-8, 2019, at the Oak Ridge Hotel and Conference Center, Chaska. More information and registration at <https://www.iccsafe.org/education-certification/education/upper-great-plains-region-iii-educational-institute/>.

Stay in touch with DLI news



Stay up-to-date with DLI by signing up for newsletters and email lists. Some of the topics include:

- building officials
- permit technician news
- labor standards
- rulemaking
- workers' compensation
- prevailing wage
- apprenticeship
- and more.

Sign up at

www.dli.mn.gov/about-department/news-and-media/sign-news-department-labor-and-industry

Building official limited and accessibility specialist training programs scheduled

The next training program for prospective building official-limited and accessibility specialists are in March 2019 at DLI's St. Paul office. The training prepares individuals for a career in the building code enforcement industry.

Is the training required?

Yes. Those seeking building official limited or accessibility specialist certification are required to attend training. The building official limited course is five days and includes accessibility specialist training. The accessibility specialist segment is one day and covers building code accessibility requirements.

Are there prerequisites required to attend the building official limited training?

Yes, at least 30 points are required to attend the building official limited training. Points are awarded as shown on the second page of the [exam application for building official, building official limited and accessibility specialist certification](#).

Is there a prerequisite to attend the accessibility specialist training?

No, but the exam application, fee and course enrollment form must be submitted.

Attend the training

View more information about the certification overview and course enrollment forms at www.dli.mn.gov/workers/building-officials.

Building official apprenticeship program

A new building official apprenticeship program is scheduled to be available in the spring of 2019.

The objectives for the apprenticeship program are to:

- Prepare the apprentice to be a municipal building official.
- Prepare the apprentice to obtain the building official certifications required of the apprenticeship standard.
- Increase the number of qualified building officials in Minnesota.
- Expand diversity in the field of municipal building inspection.

We will partner with Minnesota municipalities to provide our apprentices the training and instruction required by the apprenticeship standards.

Additional information about the program and how a municipality can host an apprentice will be available as the launch date nears.

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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Fax: (651) 284-5746

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) 284-5746
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

DLI begins adoption process for 2018 I-Codes

Proposed changes would modify codes for use in Minnesota; drafts to be available online

Following recommendations from the Construction Codes Advisory Council (CCAC), DLI has started the adoption process for the 2018 I-Codes and the administrative requirements of the State Building Code by drafting changes to the existing rules and developing Statements of Need and Reasonableness (SONARs).

The proposed changes to the existing rules are to adopt the 2018 I-Codes and make necessary modifications for their use in Minnesota. An administrative law judge must approve the adoption of the 2018 I-Codes and any modifications. Because an administrative law judge may be unfamiliar with construction codes, agency staff draft a written report known as a SONAR to explain why the adoption of the 2018 I-Codes with modifications is necessary and reasonable to provide uniform construction standards that ensure safe buildings. The SONAR is also intended to explain the rule changes to the public.

Once the rule drafts and SONARs are prepared, the department will move forward with the adoption process by publishing a notification in the State Register. At that time, the proposed rule and SONAR will be available on the rulemaking dockets at

www.dli.mn.gov/about-department/rulemaking/construction-codes-and-licensing-rulemaking.

Submit comments about code adoption

DLI continues to accept comments on each of the I-codes being adopted. Submit comments about a code or rule to dli.rules@state.mn.us. Include the rule chapter number in the email subject line.

Subscribe for updates

Sign-up to receive updates about rule proceedings at

www.dli.mn.gov/about-department/rulemaking/construction-codes-and-licensing-rulemaking.

Committee reviews 2018 Uniform Plumbing Code for possible adoption

The Ad Hoc Code Review and Rulemaking Committee of the Minnesota Plumbing Board is reviewing the 2018 Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC) and proposed amendments for possible adoption as the Minnesota Plumbing Code.

The current Minnesota Plumbing Code incorporates and adopts the 2012 UPC with amendments. The Plumbing Board has not decided whether to move forward with adopting the 2018 UPC with amendments. The Ad Hoc Committee will complete its review of the 2018 UPC and make a recommendation to the Plumbing Board about the 2018 UPC and any recommended modifications to it.

Propose a code amendment

The Ad Hoc Committee is currently reviewing requests for action (RFA). RFAs can be completed and submitted by anyone who has a proposed amendment to the 2018 UPC for use in Minnesota. Download an RFA form and view those already submitted at www.dli.mn.gov/about-department/boards-and-councils/plumbing-board-requests-action. The web page is updated frequently so check back often.

Meetings and agendas

Agendas and a schedule of meetings of the Ad Hoc Committee are at www.dli.mn.gov/about-department/boards-and-councils/plumbing-board-ad-hoc-rulemaking-committee. Committee meetings are conducted at the Department of Labor and Industry and are open to the public.

Online plan review and permit applications begin in 2019

In early 2019 we will launch an electronic plan review and permit application system for building and plumbing projects.

The new system allows application for plan review and permits online from any location or device and integrates with ePlans, our electronic plan review solution.

Read more and register for email updates about the project at www.dli.mn.gov/business/get-licenses-and-permits/online-plan-review-and-permit-applications.

Frequently asked questions about places of public accommodation

What are places of public accommodation?

Buildings containing assembly spaces that are designed for 200 or more people that are used as sports or entertainment arenas, stadiums, theaters, community or convention halls, special event centers, or indoor amusement facilities. These include both new buildings and existing buildings undergoing additions or alterations.



Who has jurisdiction over plan review and permitting?

The local building official. If there is no local building code enforcement, DLI has jurisdiction. State law related to places of public accommodation became effective July 1, 2017. Projects with land-use applications to local zoning boards that date after June 30, 2017, and are under DLI jurisdiction, require both plan review and permitting through DLI. When fire protection systems (sprinklers) regulated by Minnesota Statutes Chapter 299M are required, those plan reviews and inspections are conducted by the state fire marshal.

Are architect- and engineer-signed documents required?

Yes. Regardless of local or DLI jurisdiction, an architect licensed in Minnesota must prepare and certify the plans for all new construction including additions and any remodeling that either changes the occupancy classification or the building access or exit patterns. An engineer licensed in Minnesota must certify all existing construction where the risk category is increased in accordance with IBC Table 1604.5 and for the structural design of all new construction. An engineer is also required when there is a load change on the building's mechanical systems.

Are privately owned buildings exempt?

No. The law applies to both public and privately owned and operated facilities. The uses listed in the definition are specific. Facilities used exclusively as places of worship are not among the listed uses defined as a place of public accommodation. Construction work at places of worship still require plans be prepared and certification by licensed design professionals.

Does the law apply to barns rented for parties, weddings or receptions?

Yes. When designed for assembly occupancy by 200 or more people, the law applies.

Read more about places of public accommodation at www.dli.mn.gov/workers/building-officials/places-public-accommodation.

Residential building contractor license renewal approaching

Roughly half of all Minnesota residential building contractor and remodeler licenses expire March 31, 2019.

Renew online at <https://secure.doli.state.mn.us/license/Default.aspx>. You can also review and update the information we have on file for your license.

As part of renewal, licensees must submit a liability insurance certificate and workers' compensation insurance compliance form. Download forms at www.dli.mn.gov/business/residential-contractors/contractor-and-remodeler-license. Completed forms can be sent to dli.license@state.mn.us, faxed to 651-284-5746 or mailed to us. Insurance agents may submit an ACORD form as long as DLI is listed as a certificate holder.

Qualifying person continuing education

The qualifying person for a building contractor or remodeler license must complete 14 hours of DLI-approved continuing education (CE) every two years. However, the individual's deadline for completing their CE is not always the same as the expiration date of the contractor's business license. Check a qualifying person's CE status at <https://secure.doli.state.mn.us/lookup/licensing.aspx>.

Approved continuing education courses are at <https://secure.doli.state.mn.us/ccldecourses/>.

Licenses not received before March 31 are subject to a \$90 late fee. For the fastest processing, we recommend submitting renewals by March 1.

Contractors who choose not to renew online should complete and mail these forms and the license fee to us: www.dli.mn.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/rbc_renewal18.pdf.

Questions?

Contact us at dli.license@state.mn.us or 651-284-5034.

Master electrician licenses expire in February

All current Minnesota master electrician licenses expire Feb. 28, 2019. Renew online at <https://secure.doli.state.mn.us/license/Default.aspx>. The renewal fee is \$73 (reduced from \$88 in 2016 and \$118.40 in 2014). Once continuing education is completed and license fee paid, your license is renewed.

Continuing education

Sixteen hours of approved continuing education must be completed before renewing your license. Renewing without completing continuing education may result in license suspension and a fine of \$1,000.

Of the required 16 hours, at least 12 hours must pertain to the National Electrical Code. No more than four hours may pertain to technical topics related to electrical installations and equipment, or the Minnesota statutes governing electrical work. View more information about continuing education at www.dli.mn.gov/workers/electrician-or-electrical-installer/continuing-education-electrical.

View approved continuing education courses at <https://secure.doli.state.mn.us/ccldecourses/>.

Questions?

Contact us at dli.license@state.mn.us or 651-284-5031.

Repeated infractions result in large fines

- A contractor from Redwood Falls, whose residential building contractor license was revoked in 2005, was found in 2017 performing unlicensed contracting. The contractor was ordered to stop unlicensed activity and fined \$10,000 of which \$8,000 was stayed contingent on compliance with contracting laws. In 2018, the contractor was again contracting with homeowners for plumbing, electrical and residential construction projects. The original \$8,000 fine was imposed, plus an additional \$10,000. The contractor was again ordered to stop all unlicensed activity.
- In 2017, an unlicensed contractor from Forest Lake fraudulently used a licensed contractor's license number to obtain permits and secure customers. He was ordered to stop all unlicensed activity and pay a \$10,500 fine, of which \$7,500 was stayed contingent on obeying state contracting laws. In 2018, the contractor again contracted with customers illegally. The contractor was paid nearly \$230,000 for projects, some of which were never finished and others not started. Additionally, the contractor was again using another contractor's license number to obtain permits and secure contracts. The initial \$7,500 fine was imposed, an additional fine of \$50,500 was assessed, and he was ordered to stop all unlicensed activity.
- A licensed electrical contractor was fined \$2,500 and its license was suspended until it obtains the required \$25,000 bond and responds to the department's requests for information.



Enforcement actions

View enforcement and license actions levied against licensees.

More information

View summaries of enforcement actions at www.dli.mn.gov/workers/homeowners/file-complaint. For questions about contractors or enforcement actions, contact us at 651-284-5069 or dli.contractor@state.mn.us.

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

Before hiring a contractor, visit our 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/workers/homeowners.

New high pressure piping, plumbing inspectors join DLI

High pressure piping

Minnesota's lead high pressure piping inspector, Earl Gruis, retired at the end of 2018, ending a 13-year career inspecting projects for western and southwestern Minnesota. T.J. Peterson was recently hired as the new inspector for this area. Peterson brings a strong background in welding and has spent the last 14 years of his high pressure piping career in the ammonia refrigeration field. He may be reached for inspection requests or questions at 612-434-0117 or ted.peterson@state.mn.us.

Plumbing

Kara Topper was recently hired as a plumbing inspector for the southeastern region of Minnesota. Topper is a master plumber who comes to DLI from the University of Minnesota's Building Codes Department where she reviewed plumbing plans and conducted on-site inspections of plumbing work. Prior to that, she worked for the city of Minneapolis where one of her duties was managing the city-wide Backflow Prevention Program. She can be reached at kara.topper@state.mn.us.

Inflatable amusement equipment requires annual electrical inspection

At or before the first operation of the year, inflatable amusement devices including bounce houses, jumping castles, slides and movie screens must be inspected for electrical safety.

The owner or operator of the equipment must provide us the schedule of when the equipment will be used and apply for an inspection at least 14 days before the first engagement or setup.

Visit www.dli.mn.gov/business/electrical-contractors/portable-and-temporary-power for more information about the requirements, affected inflatable devices and inspection process.



Corrections and changes to National Electrical Code available online

The National Electrical Code (NEC) may be amended through tentative interim amendments (TIA) or corrected by errata. The NEC, as adopted in Minnesota, consists of the current edition together with any TIA or errata.

We've compiled the amendments and corrections to the NEC at www.dli.mn.gov/business/electrical-contractors/electrical-codes-and-standards to make it easier for homeowners, electrical installers and contractors to comply with the code.

Questions?

Contact us at dli.electricity@state.mn.us.

Inspectors visit one of state's first utility scale battery storage systems

Connexus Energy's project near Isanti, Minnesota, is one of the first solar and storage systems in the country to use batteries integrated with a solar array to manage peak demand.

Connexus Energy, Minnesota's largest electric cooperative and a member of Great River Energy, is nearing completion of two such sites located in Ramsey and Athens Township that will add 10 megawatts of solar PV to Connexus' energy mix. It will also integrate large-scale battery storage at both sites, for a total of 15 megawatts of battery storage.

Utility-scale battery storage systems (BSS) are expected to be integrated across many Minnesota solar PV sites. Electrical area representatives recently reviewed the electrical installation with representatives from NextEra and Faith Technologies to stay current with the latest battery technology and installation practices.



DLI electrical area representatives visited one of the first solar and storage systems in the country to use batteries integrated with a solar array.

FAQs about solar and battery storage technology

Due to the expected continued growth of BSS, we recently updated the Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Systems FAQ document to include battery storage technology to address electrical licensing questions and inspection fees. Read more at www.dli.mn.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/solarFAQ.pdf.

DLI electrical reps take part in annual MASMS conference

DLI electrical staff recently participated in the annual Minnesota Educational Facilities Management Professionals Association (MASMS) conference to help educate and register schools and individuals who plan to perform electrical work.

MASMS is a group of more than 700 individuals who work in the areas of facilities, grounds, health and safety operations for Minnesota schools and higher education.

For several years, DLI has participated at the MASMS conference in St. Cloud by hosting a booth at the tradeshow and conducting presentations during their education sessions. This year, DLI was represented by Electrical Representatives Sheldon Monson and Steven Dudley.

Read more about electrical safety in Minnesota schools at www.dli.mn.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/eli_bulletin_school.pdf.



Sheldon Monson, DLI electrical area representative, at the annual Minnesota Educational Facilities Management Professionals Association Conference.



Electrical inspection staff attend IAEI meeting

DLI electrical inspection staff (left to right) Wade Schlie, Dean Hunter, Scott Higgins and Sheldon Monson attended the Sept. 16-19, 2018, International Association of Electrical Inspector's (IAEI) Western Section Meeting in Appleton, Wisconsin.

The meeting included an educational program and a trade show. Read more about the IAEI at www.iaei.org.

DLI electrical reps tour Allianz Field



Rendering of Allianz Field. www.mnufc.com/stadium/renderings

DLI electrical representatives took part in a tour of the new Allianz Field in St. Paul on Oct. 16, 2018.

The facility will be the home of the Minnesota United FC, the Minnesota Loons, and feature more than 6,000 linear feet of LED fixtures.

The tour was organized by the North Central Electrical Engineering Society, and hosted by Mortenson Construction and Gephart Electric. The highlight of the futuristic-looking stadium will be the LED lighting that includes 1,660 color-changing LED fixtures (6,100 linear feet) that will illuminate the exterior façade fabric of the stadium and 360 LED fixtures to illuminate the natural turf playing field.

The stadium will deliver 30 MW of power for all of the required systems, with separate facilities for the fire pump and an emergency generator.