

# CCLD REVIEW

Construction Codes and Licensing Division • Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry • Spring 2019



DLI's Spring Seminars are hosted at locations throughout Minnesota in April. Register soon to reserve a spot.

## Spring Seminar filling quickly

*Attendees receive continuing education credits*

Register soon to reserve a seat at DLI's Spring Seminar: Decks, Porches and Radon, scheduled at locations throughout Minnesota in April.

The seminar will address code changes for residential deck construction found in the 2018 International Residential Code, along with code requirements that apply when converting a deck into a porch or conditioned space. Attendees will also learn about the new Minnesota Department of Health radon licensing and mitigation rules for existing buildings. The presenters are Paul Swett and Don Sivigny of DLI. The cost to attend is \$85.

### Continuing education

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

### Dates, locations and register

View dates, locations and register to attend at <https://secure.doli.state.mn.us/events/>.

### Questions?

Contact Tim Manz at [timothy.manz@state.mn.us](mailto:timothy.manz@state.mn.us) or 651-284-5590.

## Nancy Leppink named commissioner of DLI

Nancy Leppink has been selected as the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry's commissioner. She began March 4.

Leppink previously represented DLI as an assistant attorney general and then worked as the agency's general counsel from 1999 to 2009. After 24 years in state service, she was



Nancy Leppink

appointed by the Obama Administration to be the deputy administrator of the Wage and Hour Division of the U.S. Department of Labor and led the division as its acting administrator. She also served as a branch chief for the International Labour Organization, in Geneva, Switzerland, and was responsible for its international work to assist the governments and the employer and worker organizations of its 187 member states to improve their labor administration, labor inspection and occupational safety and health capacities.

### Deputy commissioner announced

Roslyn Robertson was recently announced as DLI's deputy commissioner. Robertson has 30 years of experience working at DLI in a variety of leadership roles and has significant experience in the program areas of Labor Standards, Apprenticeship, OSHA and Construction Codes and Licensing.

# Schedule of board and council meetings

Below is a schedule of board and council meetings at DLI. Visit [www.dli.mn.gov/about-department/boards-and-councils](http://www.dli.mn.gov/about-department/boards-and-councils) to view meeting minutes, agendas, rulemaking documents and schedules for these meetings and additional boards and councils.

## Board of Electricity

- April 9, 2019
- July 9, 2019
- Oct. 8, 2019

## Board of High-Pressure Piping

- April 11, 2019
- July 11, 2019
- Oct. 10, 2019

## Plumbing Board

- April 16, 2019
- July 16, 2019
- Oct. 15, 2019

### Rulemaking notices

Sign-up to receive notices of rule proceedings from DLI.

Visit [www.dli.mn.gov/about-department/rulemaking](http://www.dli.mn.gov/about-department/rulemaking) for details and to register.

## Building Official Limited and Accessibility Specialist Training Program

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

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 forms must be submitted.

View more information about the certification overview and course enrollment forms at [www.dli.mn.gov/workers/building-officials](http://www.dli.mn.gov/workers/building-officials).

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

## Contact information

### CCLD main contact info

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Toll-free: 1-800-657-3944  
Fax: 651-284-5746

### Visit the [Contact Us](#) page

### Licensing information

[DLI.License@state.mn.us](mailto: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](mailto:DLI.Electricity@state.mn.us)

### Boiler, high-pressure piping, boats-for-hire inspection

Phone: 651-284-5544  
Fax: 651-284-5746  
[DLI.Code@state.mn.us](mailto:DLI.Code@state.mn.us)

### Plumbing information

Phone: 651-284-5063  
Fax: 651-284-5746  
[DLI.Plumbing@state.mn.us](mailto:DLI.Plumbing@state.mn.us)

### License enforcement details

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

### Contractor registration

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

## DLI prepares for adoption of the 2018 I-Codes

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

DLI staff members are making progress toward adoption of the 2018 I-Codes.

Staff have reviewed the provisions of the 2018 I-Codes and have been drafting amendments to current rules and to some of the 2018 I-Code provisions. Rule drafts and are being finalized in anticipation of moving forward with the adoption process.

Once the rule drafts are completed, 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 in the rulemaking dockets at [www.dli.mn.gov/about-department/rulemaking/construction-codes-and-licensing-rulemaking](http://www.dli.mn.gov/about-department/rulemaking/construction-codes-and-licensing-rulemaking).

### Department continues to accept comments

DLI continues to accept comments about each of the I-Codes being adopted. Submit comments about a code or rule by sending an email to [dli.rules@state.mn.us](mailto:dli.rules@state.mn.us). Please include the rule chapter number or I-code 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](http://www.dli.mn.gov/about-department/rulemaking/construction-codes-and-licensing-rulemaking).

## Committee reviews Plumbing Code for possible recommendation

The Ad-Hoc Code Review and Rulemaking Committee of the Minnesota Plumbing Board is completing its review of the 2018 Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC) and proposed modifications. Once complete, the committee will make a recommendation to the Plumbing Board about its findings.

The Plumbing Board will then decide whether to move forward with adopting the 2018 UPC with amendments.

The current Minnesota Plumbing Code incorporates and adopts the 2012 UPC with amendments.

To see the committee's meeting schedule and to follow its progress, visit [www.dli.mn.gov/about-department/boards-and-councils/plumbing-board-ad-hoc-rulemaking-committee](http://www.dli.mn.gov/about-department/boards-and-councils/plumbing-board-ad-hoc-rulemaking-committee).

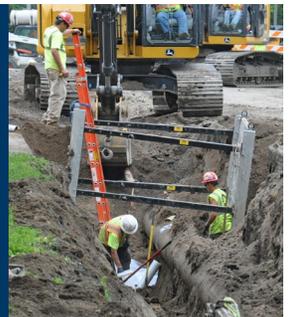
### Plumbing Code Q&A

See page 5 for questions and answers about the Minnesota Plumbing Code.

## Excavation Safety Stand-down

Make a plan to protect workers and prevent accidents

April 15-19, 2019



## Excavation Safety Stand-down

Minnesota OSHA, along with other safety professionals, is promoting and participating in a third annual statewide Excavation Safety Stand-down from April 15 through 19.

The goal of the stand-down is to raise awareness among employers and workers about preventing excavation accidents, which have resulted in three fatalities to Minnesota workers since 2015, due to trench collapses.

During the stand-down, employers and workers are asked to pause their workday to talk about excavation safety and discuss topics such as how to properly slope, shore or shield workers from hazards during excavation projects. Read more at [www.dli.mn.gov/excavation](http://www.dli.mn.gov/excavation).

## Online plan review and building permit application launches

Since its launch in late January 2019, 50 percent of plumbing and building plan review and permits have been submitted online instead of through paper applications that were required in the past.

The new system streamlines and speeds up the process for requesting building and plumbing plan review and permits. Users are able to request and pay for plan review and permits online as well as search previous records.

### User feedback

A recent survey reported that 80 percent of users had a positive experience with the new system. Additional refinements to the system are being added based on user feedback.

In late 2019 and early 2020, the system will be expanded to include the agency's electrical, high pressure piping, enforcement, elevator, boiler and manufactured structures permitting and related activities.

### Questions?

Learn more and create an account at [www.dli.mn.gov/business/get-licenses-and-permits/online-applications-plan-review-and-permits](http://www.dli.mn.gov/business/get-licenses-and-permits/online-applications-plan-review-and-permits).

## It's illegal for contractors to pay homeowners' insurance deductibles

*Law requires explanation or requirements be included in contract language*

State law prohibits contractors from offering to pay homeowners' insurance deductibles or offering anything of value as encouragement to enter into a contract to repair damage covered by an insurance claim. A newer law (effective since Aug. 1, 2018) requires that contractors include a written notification about the law in their "initial estimate." The "initial estimate" also includes price agreeable contracts. Insurance companies are required to provide a similar written notice to homeowners in their initial correspondence about a claim.

### Why the new law?

Many contractors who have complied with the law that prohibits paying deductibles have lost business to contractors who illegally offer to pay deductibles or offer rebates or upgrades. Homeowners are unclear about this law and some still expect their contractor to help with insurance deductible costs. This new law provides contractors with solid information to show that this practice is illegal.



### What do I need to do?

If your company does not perform insurance repair to homes, you do not need to do anything as this law does not affect your business. If you do perform insurance repair work, you will need to update your contracts to include a written notification about the law that prohibits paying deductibles.

The law does not require specific language, but one example is:

State law (Minn. Stat. § 325E.66) prohibits contractors from offering to pay a customer's insurance deductible or offering anything of value as an inducement to enter into a contract for home repairs that are to be paid for as a part of an insurance claim. Contractors who make such an offer are subject to public enforcement action by the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry, including fines of up to \$10,000 per violation.

**Questions?** Contact us at 651-284-5069 or [dli.contractor@state.mn.us](mailto:dli.contractor@state.mn.us).

# Questions and answers about the Minnesota Plumbing Code

Can an alternate material or method be requested under the plumbing code and where can I find more information?

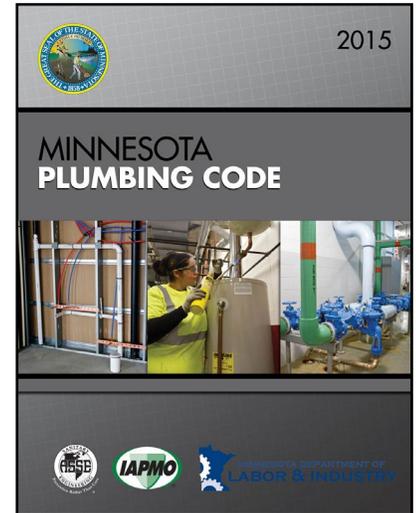
Yes. The department has procedures for reviewing materials or methods that are not recognized in the Minnesota Plumbing Code (Chapter 4714, Section 301.2.0). To be acceptable for evaluation, the alternate fixture, material or method must not be expressly approved, nor expressly prohibited in the Minnesota Plumbing Code.

For more information about alternate requests visit [www.dli.mn.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/pe\\_alternate.pdf](http://www.dli.mn.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/pe_alternate.pdf).

1. Can elevator pit drains discharge to the storm drainage system?
2. Can elevator sumps be located in elevator machine rooms?

1. No. Both the Minnesota Plumbing Code and Elevator Code require elevator pit drains to discharge to the sanitary sewer using an indirect connection. If a sump is used, it must be located outside of the elevator pit with a dry pan drain installed to prevent ponding of any water or hydraulics in the pit to keep the pit dry.
2. No. The Minnesota Elevator Code does not allow the installation of any plumbing fixtures or elevator sumps to be located in the machine room. The room must be kept dry and free of leaks or moisture to prevent damage to the electronics for the elevator equipment.

More information about elevator pit drains and sumps is at [www.dli.mn.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/pe\\_list\\_pit\\_drain.pdf](http://www.dli.mn.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/pe_list_pit_drain.pdf).



What is considered an emergency floor drain under the Plumbing Code, Table 702.1?

Emergency floor drains are floor drains that are located in restrooms, under emergency eyewash/shower equipment and in laundry rooms. Tell-tale floor drains for commercial kitchen sinks are not considered emergency floor drains as those floor drains receive indirect waste piping from beverage and kitchen equipment.

## Questions?

Visit [www.dli.mn.gov/about-department/our-areas-service/phone-and-email-directory](http://www.dli.mn.gov/about-department/our-areas-service/phone-and-email-directory) for staff contact information.

## Free on-site safety and health consultations available

DLI offers a free consultation service called MNOSHA Workplace Safety Consultation to help employers find out about potential hazards at their worksites, improve safety management systems and apply for grants to abate safety hazards.

The program targets small, high-hazard businesses. It is separate from the OSHA Compliance inspection activities and no citations are issued as part of a consultation visit.

### Learn more and request a consultation

- On the web: <http://workplace.doli.state.mn.us/consultation/>
- Email: [osha.consultation@state.mn.us](mailto:osha.consultation@state.mn.us)
- Call: 651-284-5060



## Enforcement actions: Unlicensed contractor fined \$20,500

- An unlicensed Maple Grove contractor contracted with multiple homeowners to perform remodeling projects, including plumbing and electrical work. In addition, the unlicensed contractor fraudulently used the license number of a similarly named residential building contractor to obtain permits. The contractor was ordered to cease and desist from unlicensed residential building, electrical and plumbing contractor activity and fined \$20,500.
- A licensed Apple Valley residential building contractor performed unlicensed plumbing work during a kitchen remodel. The contractor agreed to be censured, cease and desist from unlicensed plumbing work, and pay a \$2,000 fine. An additional \$5,000 fine was stayed on the condition of no future violations.
- A state electrical inspector observed a licensed electrical contractor from Forest Lake allowing registered unlicensed electricians to perform electrical work without being directly supervised by a licensed electrician. The contractor agreed to be censured and ensure that their registered unlicensed electricians are appropriately supervised while engaged in electrical work. They also agreed to a \$3,000 fine, of which \$2,000 was stayed on the condition of no future violations.
- An unlicensed Saint Cloud contractor was found to have engaged in unlicensed residential building contractor, plumbing and electrical work. The contractor was ordered to cease and desist from unlicensed activity and fined \$7,000.



**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](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.dli.mn.gov/workers/homeowners).

## Stay in touch with DLI news

### LABOR AND INDUSTRY



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](http://www.dli.mn.gov/about-department/news-and-media/sign-news-department-labor-and-industry)

# Board of Electricity begins adoption of 2020 National Electrical Code

At its Jan. 8, 2019, meeting, the Minnesota Board of Electricity unanimously passed a motion to start the formal rulemaking process to adopt the 2020 National Electrical Code (NEC).

The next step is to publish a Request for Comments in the State Register. The tentative target date for enforcement of the 2020 NEC is July 1, 2020.

For more information and to sign-up to receive rulemaking-related updates, visit [www.dli.mn.gov/about-department/boards-and-councils/board-electricity](http://www.dli.mn.gov/about-department/boards-and-councils/board-electricity).

## Electrical exam guide updated

A study guide for individuals preparing to take an exam for a personal electrical license from DLI has been revised and updated.

The purpose of the guide is to ensure that applicants for personal electrician licenses understand basic qualifications, knowledge areas and exam criteria and format to enable them to become licensed.

### More information

- Download the guide and learn more about personal electrical licensing at [www.dli.mn.gov/workers/electrician-or-electrical-installer/licensing-personal-electrical-license](http://www.dli.mn.gov/workers/electrician-or-electrical-installer/licensing-personal-electrical-license).
- Contact us at [dli.license@state.mn.us](mailto:dli.license@state.mn.us).

## Record snowfall doesn't slow inspector

Following record snow in February 2019, Randy Edel, contract electrical inspector, pictured, employed snow shoes to complete required inspections at a large Minnesota solar site. With the project's commissioning date approaching, there was no time for a weather delay.



Wade Schlie (pictured) and Steven Dudley, DLI electrical representatives, presented at the Minnesota Federation of County Fairs Convention in Bloomington.

## Electrical safety at carnivals and fairs

Wade Schlie and Steven Dudley, DLI electrical representatives, attended the 2019 Minnesota Federation of County Fairs convention in Bloomington in January.

The two met with fair board members and owners of fairs, circuses and inflatable operations to discuss the electrical inspection and safety requirements for the 2019 season.

Schlie and Dudley also conducted two presentations about electrical safety, inspections and licensing requirements. One presentation was for the fair board members, and one was for the owners and operators.

DLI attends this event yearly to promote electrical safety and share any electrical code or safety changes that may affect the fair season.

View more about safety requirements at [www.dli.mn.gov/business/electrical-contractors/portable-and-temporary-power](http://www.dli.mn.gov/business/electrical-contractors/portable-and-temporary-power).

# New bulletins about food trucks, inflatable amusement devices available

Minnesota's electrical inspectors have been performing electrical inspections of amusement rides, concession and game trailers, tent exhibits and a variety of attractions ever since electrical power distribution was first deployed at county fairs, circuses, festivals and similar outdoor events decades ago.

In recent years, inflatable amusement devices and self-propelled food trucks have become very popular. Although they fall into the overall category of types of electrified units that are subject to electrical licensing and inspections, there are a few differences from traditional amusement rides and concession trailers that are outlined in new bulletins available below.



## More information

- Food trucks and similar mobile food units: [www.dli.mn.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/eli\\_portable-foodtrucks.pdf](http://www.dli.mn.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/eli_portable-foodtrucks.pdf)
- Inflatable amusement devices: [www.dli.mn.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/eli-portable-inflatable.pdf](http://www.dli.mn.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/eli-portable-inflatable.pdf)

## DLI electrical staff tour Cummins Power Systems manufacturing facility

DLI electrical staff toured the Cummins Power Systems manufacturing facility in Fridley on Feb. 19, 2019.

The tour, arranged by the North Central Electrical Engineering Society (NCEES), included a visit to an anechoic sound test chamber that was the size of an aircraft hangar. The chamber is used to ensure that engine-generator sets (i.e. gen-sets) manufactured by the company meet global sound attenuation standards.



Power generation equipment at Cummins Power Systems in Fridley. DLI electrical staff toured the facility in February 2019.

The tour also included a demonstration of the facility's backup and peak load-shaving power system which requires less than 10 seconds to start up and keep the \$1 billion manufacturing facility running, with no interruption of power, and with seamless synchronization to the electrical grid.

More information about NCEES is available at [www.ncel.org/page.aspx?id=20](http://www.ncel.org/page.aspx?id=20).

## Bulletin explains coordination of overcurrent protective devices

For coordination of overcurrent protective devices (OCPDs), there continues to be confusion in the electrical industry regarding "selective coordination" as compared to "coordination," and more importantly, what the National Electrical Code requires or allows.

View more information at [www.dli.mn.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/eli\\_bulletin\\_ocpd\\_coordination.pdf](http://www.dli.mn.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/eli_bulletin_ocpd_coordination.pdf).

## Find code requirements with Local Code Lookup

Visit our one-stop "Local Code Lookup" at <http://workplace.doli.state.mn.us/jurisdiction> – to 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 inspections.