

CCLD REVIEW

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

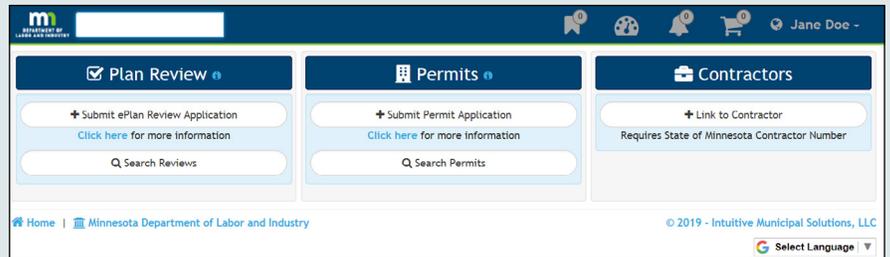
New system for electrical and high pressure piping permits launches soon

Users must create a new account to request permits online

On Oct. 7, 2019, we will launch a new system to obtain electrical and high pressure piping permits.

What you need to know

- Permits for existing projects will migrate, so any work-in-progress will be available and completed in the new system once it launches.
- To complete the upgrades, all online permit and plan review applications will be unavailable from 3 p.m., Friday, Oct. 4, 2019, through 7 a.m., Monday, Oct. 7, 2019.
- Users must create a new account to request permits. View instructions about how to create an account at www.dli.mn.gov/business/get-licenses-and-permits/online-applications-plan-review-and-permits.



Benefits of the upgrade

- Web-based application is available from any internet-connected device.
- Dashboard for users to track projects.
- Permit, inspection status and itemized invoicing notifications sent by email with ability to pay from your cart for 10 days.
- Refined GIS address validation provides accurate project location.

Questions?

- Contact us at ims.support.dli@state.mn.us.
- View more information and instructions to create an account at www.dli.mn.gov/business/get-licenses-and-permits/online-applications-plan-review-and-permits.

Seminar: Proposed amendments to the 2018 International Building Code

The 2019 Fall Seminar will focus on the proposed Minnesota amendments to the 2018 International Building Code and changes to the 2018 Minnesota Accessibility Code. The seminar is offered in October at locations throughout Minnesota. Presenters for this seminar are DLI-CCLD staff members Greg Metz, Karen Gridley and Tim Manz.

Continuing education

Building officials will receive six hours of continuing education credit for attendance.

More information and register

View dates, locations and register at <https://secure.doli.state.mn.us/events/>. For help with questions, contact Paul Swett at paul.h.swett@state.mn.us or 651-284-5953.

Building official limited and accessibility specialist training program

The next training program for prospective building official limited and accessibility specialists is Oct. 28-Nov. 1, 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 (www.dli.mn.gov/workers/building-officials).

Is there a prerequisite to attend the accessibility specialist training?

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

Questions?

Contact Paul Swett at paul.h.swett@state.mn.us or 651-284-5953 or visit www.dli.mn.gov/workers/building-officials for more information.

Schedule of board and council meetings

Below is a schedule of board and council meetings supported by CCLD. Visit 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

- Oct. 8, 2019

Board of High-Pressure Piping

- Oct. 10, 2019

Combative Sports Advisory Council

- Oct. 22, 2019

Construction Codes Advisory Council

- Oct. 21, 2019 (tentative)

Plumbing Board

- Oct. 15, 2019

Rulemaking notices

Sign-up to receive notices of rule proceedings. Visit www.dli.mn.gov/about-department/rulemaking for details and to register.

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

Phone: 651-284-5012
Toll-free: 1-800-657-3944
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: 651-284-5746
DLI.Code@state.mn.us

Plumbing information

Phone: 651-284-5063
Fax: 651-284-5746
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 continues adoption of the 2018 I-Codes

An administrative law judge with the Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) has approved the adoption of the 2018 International Existing Building Code with amendments. DLI is preparing other codes for review by the OAH.

Dual Notices were published in the State Register for public comment about the adoption of the 2018 International Residential Code and the commercial provisions of the 2018 International Energy Conservation Code on Sept. 16, 2019. The proposed rules and Statement of Need and Reasonableness are available at www.dli.mn.gov/about-department/rulemaking/construction-codes-and-licensing-rulemaking.

Submit comments

DLI accepts comments about the adoption of the I-Codes and proposed amendments. Submit comments about a code or rule by sending an email to dli.rules@state.mn.us. Include the rule chapter number or I-Code in the subject line.

Subscribe for updates

Sign-up to receive updates about rule proceedings, including when Dual Notices are published, at www.dli.mn.gov/about-department/rulemaking/construction-codes-and-licensing-rulemaking.

Texas contractor fined \$10,000 for unlicensed electrical work

- An electrical contractor from Irving, Texas, was found to have engaged in unlicensed electrical work in Minnesota. The contractor was ordered to cease and desist from performing electrical work in Minnesota and fined \$10,000, of which \$5,000 was stayed contingent on no future unlicensed activity.
- A licensed residential remodeler from Carlisle, Iowa, was found to have engaged in unlicensed plumbing and electrical work. The contractor was censured, ordered to cease and desist from performing plumbing or electrical work in Minnesota and fined \$5,000, of which \$4,000 was stayed contingent on no future violations.
- An unlicensed Champlin contractor was found to be acting or holding himself out as a residential building contractor, remodeler or roofer without having a license. The contractor was ordered to cease and desist from engaging in the unlicensed activity and fined \$10,000.
- A licensed Elko residential building contractor was found to have offered an inducement to a homeowner to secure an insurance-funded residential building project in violation of Minnesota law. The contractor was censured and ordered to immediately stop offering to pay any portion of an insurance deductible to a homeowner, or offering to compensate a homeowner, to secure a project. Additionally, the contractor was fined \$3,500, which was stayed contingent on future compliance.
- An unlicensed Pine City contractor was found to be acting or holding himself out as a residential building contractor, remodeler or roofer without having a license. The contractor was ordered to cease and desist from engaging in the unlicensed activity and fined \$8,500.



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-and-view-enforcement-actions. Questions? Contact us at 651-284-5069 or dli.contractor@state.mn.us.

Contractor registrations expire Dec. 31, 2019

All contractors who provide commercial or residential building construction or improvement services must either be licensed by DLI (if required by law) or registered in the Construction Contractor Registration Program.

All current contractor registrations expire Dec 31, 2019. Visit www.dli.mn.gov/business/independent-contractor-registration to renew your registration. There is no fee to apply or renew.

More information

Read more, register and renew at www.dli.mn.gov/business/independent-contractor-registration.

Worker misclassification

The purpose of the registration program is to make it easier to investigate worker misclassification. Misclassification occurs when a contractor has employees but treats them as independent contractors. Rather than covering their workers for workers' compensation and unemployment insurance and withholding payroll and FICA taxes, some employers pay their workers cash or give them 1099 tax forms instead of W-2s, denying them the rights and benefits that employees are entitled to under state and federal laws.

A worker or owner of a business cannot be treated as an independent contractor unless they are licensed by DLI or registered in the Contractor Registration Program, and they **meet all nine factors of a nine-factor test**.

If not registered, an individual is considered an employee and not an independent contractor.

Plumbing contractor, journeyworker licenses expire Dec. 31, 2019

All plumbing contractor and journeyworker plumber licenses expire Dec. 31, 2019. Starting Oct. 1, 2019, visit www.dli.mn.gov/business/plumbing-contractors/plumbing-contractor-license-renewal to renew your license

When renewing, you can update the information we have on file for your business. The plumbing contractor license renewal fee, which was recently reduced, is \$128 and can be paid online with a credit or check card. The renewal fee for journeyworker plumbers is \$43.

Continuing education for journeyworkers

Journeyworker plumbers must complete 16 hours of approved continuing education before renewing their license. Renewing without completing continuing education could result in license suspension and a \$1,000 fine. A list of all approved courses is at <https://secure.doli.state.mn.us/ccldcourses>.



Plumbing contractor and journeyworker plumber licenses expire Dec. 31, 2019.

Questions?

- Visit www.dli.mn.gov/business/plumbing-contractors/plumbing-contractor-license-renewal.
- Contact us at 651-284-5034 or DLI.license@state.mn.us.

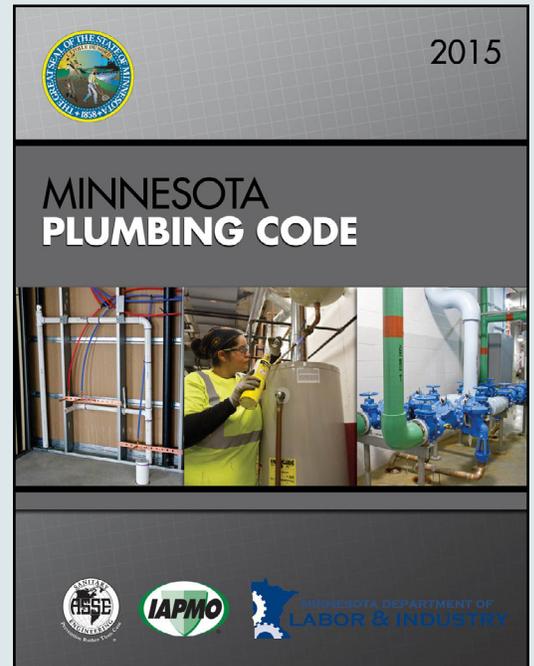
Questions and answers about the Minnesota Plumbing Code

Does the Minnesota Plumbing Code require access covers on gravity grease interceptors located on the exterior of buildings to be secured to prevent unauthorized access?

Yes. The Minnesota Plumbing Code, Section 1014.3.3 requires that all gravity grease interceptors be constructed in accordance with referenced standard IAPMO Z1001-2007, or the design must be approved by the authority having jurisdiction (AHJ). The referenced standard IAPMO Z1001-2007, requires that all gravity grease interceptors be designed and constructed with gasketed access covers to prevent unauthorized access.

This requirement means the grease interceptors are manufactured, furnished and installed with gas-tight, bolted access covers to prevent unauthorized access. Interceptor designs that are reviewed and approved by the AHJ as alternatives must provide the equivalent safety measures to prevent unauthorized access.

The code also requires grease interceptors be cleaned and maintained regularly for efficient operating conditions which will require the loosening and removal of the bolted covers after installation. It is important that the owners work with their pumping service contractors to ensure all covers are secured after each cleaning by refastening the covers properly to prevent unauthorized access and potential safety hazards. The interceptor cleaning should be performed by an authorized and trained pumping service individual.



When do storm drainage systems installed outside of buildings have to be tested?

There are three installation cases where the Minnesota Plumbing Code Section 1109.1 requires the storm drainage system installed outside of a building to be tested in accordance with Section 712:

- All storm drainage systems, including catch basins or manholes installed within 10 feet of the building, must be tested to disclose leaks to protect the building foundation.
- Storm drainage systems installed within 10 feet of water service lines, including at water crossings, must be tested.
- Any section of the storm drainage piping that passes through contaminated soils or contaminated water must be tested.

Can a one-, two- or five-gallon neutralization tank (also known as a dilution trap) be used as a fixture trap for a science lab sink?

No. Regardless of the size of a neutralization tank, it must not be used as a fixture trap of a science lab sink. The Minnesota Plumbing Code Section 1003.1 requires traps for sinks be of standard design and sinks must be separately trapped by an approved type of liquid seal trap. All fixtures upstream of a neutralization tank must be trapped and vented as a chemical waste system prior to discharging to the neutralization tank.

Questions?

Visit www.dli.mn.gov/about-department/our-areas-service/phone-and-email-directory for staff contact information.

New electrical bulletin explains electrical datum plane requirements

Electrical datum planes are referenced in the National Electrical Code, Article 555 (Marinas, Boatyards, Residential/Commercial Docking Facilities and Floating Buildings) and Article 682 (Natural and Artificially Made Bodies of Water).

The datum plane is a horizontal plane from which heights and depths are calculated. Generally, the electrical datum plane is the horizontal plane 2 feet above the normal highest water level, and this distance determines the level at which electrical equipment can be placed.

Informational bulletin

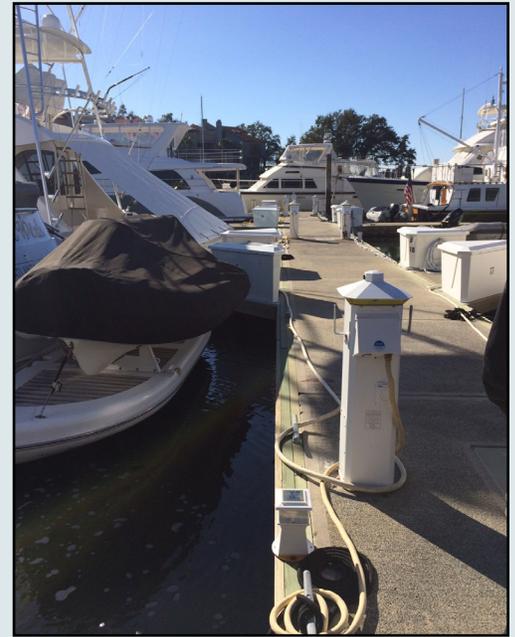
A new electrical bulletin includes more information about electrical datum planes and placement of electrical equipment:

www.dli.mn.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/eli_bulletin_edp.pdf.

View all electrical codes and standards bulletins at www.dli.mn.gov/business/electrical-contractors/electrical-codes-and-standards.

Questions?

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



Electrical datum planes, referenced in the National Electrical Code, are explained in a new electrical bulletin.

DLI represents Minnesota at annual NERA conference

The National Electrical Reciprocal Alliance (NERA) consists of 17 member states that promote electrical license reciprocity based on similar, complimentary and interchangeable requirements for licensed individuals.

Steve Dudley, DLI electrical representative, (pictured, front row, at right) represented Minnesota at NERA's annual meeting in Midvale, Utah, Aug.12-14, 2019.

Meeting topics included:

- Tim McClintock from the National Fire Protection Agency presented about code changes in the 2020 National Electrical Code.
- Challenges licensees encounter with reciprocity.
- How NERA states could reciprocate faster when emergency situations arise.
- How NERA could standardize the journeyworkers exam using a standard bank of exam questions.
- Share the differences in the licensing requirements for each state.
- Look at a nationwide licensing comparison to see which states could potentially become a NERA member.
- Listing and labeling requirements in each state.



Steve Dudley, DLI electrical representative (front row, at right) represented Minnesota at the National Electrical Reciprocal Alliance annual meeting in Midvale, Utah, Aug, 12-14, 2019.



Staff assist with 'Hay Days' festival safety

Local electrical inspector Stephen Fischer was assisted by DLI inspectors Neil Furman, Dean Hunter and Tim Emery to complete the electrical inspections at Hay Days Grass Drags near North Branch in September.

Along with thousands of spectators, the event includes snowmobile races, mud racing, side-by-side racing, a freestyle show and more.

Each year, staff perform transitory electrical inspections throughout the summer to help ensure safety at county fairs, local festivals and other similar events.

View more information about these types of electrical inspections at www.dli.mn.gov/business/electrical-contractors/portable-and-temporary-power.

Free on-site safety and health consultations

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
- Call: 651-284-5060



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