

CCLD REVIEW

CONSTRUCTION CODES AND LICENSING DIVISION
MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY

FALL 2013

Construction Industry Conference slated for Feb. 6, 2014 First-ever event to feature industry partners, state agencies, workshops

The State of Minnesota and its construction industry partners will host the first-ever Minnesota Construction Industry Conference Feb. 6, 2014, in the Twin Cities.



STATE OF MINNESOTA

CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY CONFERENCE

RESIDENTIAL * COMMERCIAL * HIGHWAY/HEAVY

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

“This is an exciting opportunity for construction contractors to access the information they need to be successful in working with and for the state government,” said Martha Henrickson, director of workforce relations, Association of General Contractors. “Contractors that attend this conference will gain new perspectives and insight and can share their feedback as they connect with regulatory and enforcement officials.”

Along with the general sessions, each construction-industry sector – highway/heavy, commercial building and residential – will have five workshops. Planned

session topics include: business development, building code changes, contracting with the state, licensing and compliance, safety and health compliance and consultation, workforce development, and a panel discussion with state commissioners. Also, state subject matter experts will be available for one-on-one sessions to answer contractor questions.

“This public-private collaboration is an excellent idea; one the state’s homebuilders support,” said Remi Stone, executive vice president, Builders Association of Minnesota. “The conference will help contractors learn more about their regulatory obligations and discuss the current issues facing them in this dynamic and often challenging industry.”

The construction conference will also feature a trade show of industry-related exhibitors and sponsors.

➤ Learn more at www.dli.mn.gov/construction

Speakers bureau

Need a speaker for an event? DLI’s speakers bureau can assist

DLI staff members regularly speak to community, industry and school groups about issues that affect employees, employers, property owners and other stakeholders.

As part of its outreach efforts to stakeholders, DLI’s speakers bureau can provide interested parties with a knowledgeable speaker in an array of topics. For more details about having a speaker at your event visit www.dli.mn.gov/speakers.asp.



DLI staff members are available for speaking engagements through its new speakers bureau.

Storms bring contractor complaints

Law bans contractors from paying insurance deductible, providing similar compensation

Storms that struck the Twin Cities in August 2013 generated a large number of complaints from residential building contractors alleging that other contractors were engaging in violations of recent legislation banning contractors from covering homeowners' insurance deductible or compensating homeowners for providing repair services.

[Minn. Statutes 325E.66](#), was originally enacted in 2010, yet has been amended twice to tighten up its application. The current law states that it is illegal for contractors who perform any type of storm repair work that is covered by an insurance claim to “advertise or promise to pay, directly or indirectly, all or part of any applicable insurance deductible or offer to compensate an insured for providing any service to the insured.”

Contractors performing storm repair on roofing and siding cannot do the following:

- cover or rebate all or part of a homeowner's deductible;
- offer a sign or other credit either before or after work is performed;
- offer a free materials upgrade;
- offer a gift card, free restaurant meal or any other thing of value;
- provide a coupon or other discount in connection with insurance-related repair work.

In addition to possible enforcement action by DLI, a contractor who violates these prohibitions may be subject to civil action by the insurance company or the homeowner and the insurance company is not obligated to consider the contractor's estimate.

DLI has taken enforcement action against several contractors who have offered discounts, rebates, gifts and other things of value to homeowners who have experienced storm damage.

Questions about residential building contractor laws and rules can be directed to CCLD Enforcement Services at (651) 284-5069 or DLI.contractor@state.mn.us.



It is illegal for contractors who perform any type of storm repair work that is covered by an insurance claim to “advertise or promise to pay, directly or indirectly, all or part of any applicable insurance deductible or offer to compensate an insured for providing any service to the insured.”

- [Minn. Statutes 325E.66](#)

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](#).

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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
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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 program

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

Lead changes will affect plumbing products, materials

Effective Jan. 4, 2014, the Reduction in Lead Drinking Water Act amends the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) which will affect all plumbing products and materials sold or installed in Minnesota for drinking water systems.

The change makes it unlawful at a nationwide level for any person to introduce into commerce or use in any drinking water system, materials including plumbing pipes, fittings and fixtures that do not meet the requirements of the revised federal definition of “lead-free.”

Under the SDWA, the definition of lead-free has been revised to clarify that not more than 8 percent lead content means “not more than a weighted average of 0.25 percent lead when used with respect to the wetted surfaces of pipes, pipe fittings, plumbing fittings and fixtures.” Solder and flux limits remain the same: “not to exceed 0.2 percent lead.

What does this mean for plumbing in Minnesota?

This law will affect all plumbing products and materials sold or installed in Minnesota for drinking water systems. Only plumbing products

Learn more
For more information about the federal lead-free requirements and exemptions is available from the U.S. EPA at:
<http://nepis.epa.gov/Adobe/PDF/P100GRDZ.pdf>

and materials that meet the revised lead-free definition can be used in water supply plumbing installations or replacements on and after Jan. 4, 2014. This requirement supersedes any requirement in place in Minnesota codes and statutes.

The Minnesota Plumbing Board is reviewing the Minnesota Plumbing Code for revisions to conform to the revised lead-free definition of the SDWA.

Are there exceptions to the lead-free plumbing change?

The amendments to the SDWA provides some exemptions including:

(A) Applications that are exclusively used for nonpotable systems. This includes pipes, pipe fittings, plumbing fittings or

fixtures and backflow preventers in nonpotable systems or uses where the water is not used for human consumption. Examples of nonpotable applications are lawn irrigation, industrial processing, manufacturing, vehicle washing, or boiler make-up water piping, after backflow preventers.

(B) Toilets, bidets, urinals, fill valves, flushometer valves, tub fillers, shower valves, service saddles, or water distribution main gate valves two inches in diameter or larger.

Compliance

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has determined that the standards for compliance of the revised lead-free requirements are either NSF Standard 61-G or NSF 372. Lead-free products typically bear a certified mark by a nationally accredited certification body such as UL, NSF, IAPMO R&T, CSA, ICC-ES, WQA, Truesdail, or ETL that includes texts consisting of NSF-61-G, NSF pw-G, NSF-372, or low lead content, for compliance. Manufacturers of plumbing material may also be contacted to verify compliance with the new lead-free requirements.

Locate inspectors quickly

Find code requirements and code inspectors online

DLI has built a one-stop “Local Code 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.



DLI's Local Code Lookup helps homeowners and contractors find local code requirements and inspectors in one place.

Licensed facilities do not qualify for ‘minor remodel’

To improve the process of handling small plumbing projects that include five or fewer fixtures, DLI recently identified the category of “minor remodel” projects that do not require plumbing plan submittal.

This process only applies to certain types of non-licensed facilities. If an establishment has a license or will receive a license from the Minnesota Department of Agricultural, Minnesota Department of Health, Minnesota Department of Corrections or any

local health departments, a plumbing plan must be submitted to DLI for review.

Examples of licensed facilities that do **not** qualify for the “minor remodel” exception include:

- convenience stores
- gas station with food and beverage service
- restaurants
- continental breakfast areas
- bars
- coffee shops

- water bottling facilities
- food manufacturing facilities
- grocery stores
- hospitals
- nursing homes
- supervised living facilities
- and other types of licensed facilities

To avoid delays in licensing of an establishment, it is important plumbing plans are submitted to DLI for review and approval prior to any remodeling or installation.

More information about plumbing plan review requirements

- Read more about the process and the projects that are eligible for minor remodels at www.dli.mn.gov/CCLD/PlanPlumbingFAQ.asp#minor_remodel.
- View a checklist outlining the process at www.dli.mn.gov/CCLD/PDF/plumbing_plan_check.pdf.

Accelerated plumbing plan review fees end Jan. 1, 2014

Minnesota’s 2013 legislative session affected the plumbing plan review process at DLI.

During the session, Minn. statute 326B.49, Applications, Fees, subd. 2(10), providing for an accelerated plan review, was eliminated.

Effective Jan. 1, 2014, the agency will only accept the

standard plan review fee and all plans reviewed under the same process. As part of its strategic plan, DLI is committed to completing plumbing plan reviews in a timely manner for all submissions.

More information about plumbing plan review is available at www.dli.mn.gov/CCLD/PlanPlumbing.asp.

Stay in touch

- Follow DLI on Twitter at www.twitter.com/mndli
- View DLI’s YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/user/mndli1
- Subscribe to DLI’s RSS feed to be instantly notified of news at www.twfeed.com/atom/mndli
- Sign up for other DLI newsletters focusing on workers’ compensation, OSHA and more at www.dli.mn.gov/publications.asp



Minnesota Building Code

DLI to work with ICC in publication of new building code

DLI is working on an agreement with the International Code Council (ICC) to have all the codes that Minnesota adopts, except those under the authority of the boards, incorporated into their respective model code and then printed by ICC as part the Minnesota Building Code.

DLI believes it will be of great value to designers, contractors and building officials to have the amendments included in the text of the code and contained in one

document instead of two. It is important the documents be complete and accurate so coordination and validation will be a priority. DLI wants to have these publications available for purchase before the effective date of the new code.

More information will be available in the future from DLI and ICC about adoption and publication availability.

Elevator updates

Changes to inspection fees, licensing rules begin in January

On Jan. 1, 2014, many of the changes to elevator inspection and licensing provisions contained in Chapter 85 of the 2013 session laws will go into effect.

The changes to elevator inspections include deleting an existing \$1,000 limit on inspection fees and setting the hourly rate for inspections for additional or requested inspections at \$80 when performed during normal working hours, and \$120 when performed outside of normal working hours, including weekends and holidays.

Also, beginning Jan. 1, 2014, individuals seeking the journeyman elevator constructor and master elevator constructor licenses are required to pass new elevator examinations based on both the elevator code and electrical code.

Additional information on these changes, including a new elevator license examination guide, is available at: www.dli.mn.gov/CCLD/Elevator.asp.

Boiler blast

Boiler sized too small for inspection explodes, damages daycare

State boiler inspectors recently completed an investigation into a hot water heating boiler explosion that occurred in February 2013.

While the size of the boiler excluded it from required inspections, DLI staff members investigated the cause of the explosion. The complete findings are available at www.dli.mn.gov/cclD/BoilerIncidentsDayCare.asp.

There were no injuries from the explosion, although damage to the building was extensive.

» View a slideshow of images and read the report at www.dli.mn.gov/CCLD/BoilerIncidentsDayCare.asp.



Questions arise about CSST and liquid propane gas systems

Electrical and heating contractors are sometimes concerned that making the required corrugated stainless steel tubing (CSST) bonding connection to a section of pipe or manifold supplied by an underground liquid propane (LP) line could inadvertently turn an underground gas supply pipe into a grounding electrode, which is specifically prohibited by several construction codes.

Contractors and installers of CSST gas systems must assure the tubing is properly bonded to the electrical grounding electrode system of the premises. The bonding of interior metal gas piping systems that may become energized is not only a requirement of the National Electrical Code (NEC) but the bonding of these systems is also required by NFPA 30, the Flammable and Combustible Liquids Code, NFPA 58, the Liquefied Petroleum Gas Code and NFPA 54, the National Fuel Gas Code.

The National Fuel Gas Code, Sections 7.13.1 and 7.13.2 require the above-ground portion of a CSST gas piping system to be electrically continuous and bonded to the electrical service grounding electrode system with a bonding jumper not smaller than 6 AWG copper at a metallic pipe or fitting between the point of delivery and the first downstream CSST fitting.

Section 6.5.4.4 of the Flammable and Combustible Liquids Code requires any electrically isolated section of metallic piping or equipment to be bonded and grounded.

Section 6.9.3.16 of the LP Gas Code requires underground metallic piping or tubing from an LP gas storage container



CSST gas system installers must assure tubing is properly bonded to the electrical grounding electrode system of the premises.

to be provided with dielectric fittings installed above ground and outdoors that provide electrical isolation from the fixed piping system of the building, just as utility supplied gas systems have a dielectric union on the customer side of the gas meter.

Verifying the presence of the dielectric fitting will guarantee that the below-ground portion of a metal gas piping system is not connected to the interior gas distribution. Because of this isolation, intentionally bonding CSST to the electrical grounding electrode system will not convert the underground gas piping into a grounding electrode.

Web updates

Visit www.dli.mn.gov to stay current about activity at the Department of Labor and Industry

A few of the most recent updates:

- View continuing education courses on the [CEU directory page](#).
- Keep up-to-date with code changes at DLI's [rulemaking web page](#).
- Sign up for other agency [newsletters and email lists](#).
- View key DLI performance markers in numerous areas at [DLI's Dashboard](#).

Electrical	Building	Plumbing	Other permits	Inspectors
Apply for a new or renew an existing electrical permit	Initial application For new application Building permit app. Mechanical permit Scaffold permit Per calculator	For new application Inspection application Fee calculator	High pressure piping Manufactured structures Industrial and modular buildings Elevators Boilers	Electrical Inspector Plumbing High pressure piping Manufactured structures Boilers / Steam for fire Building Code State projects

Sampson named president of Western Section IAEI

DLI's Electrical Construction Code Representative M. "Sam" Sampson was named the new president of the Western Section of the International Association of Electrical Inspectors during the organization's September meeting in Colorado Springs, Co.

Previously, Sampson served as first vice president of the organization.

Founded in 1904, the Western Section is the largest of the six sections of the IAEI and includes seventeen states: West Virginia, Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Kentucky, Wisconsin, Illinois, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Arkansas, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Wyoming and



2013 International President Steve Douglas of the IAEI Canadian Section, left, presents the president's gavel to Sampson.

Colorado.

IAEI is a membership driven, non-profit association promoting safety throughout the electrical industry by

providing education, certification of inspectors, advocacy, partnerships and leadership in electrical codes and standards development.

"We are extremely proud of Sam's accomplishment," said John Williamson, supervisor of DLI's electrical inspection unit. "Sam's appointment to this important leadership position is the result of many years of hard work and dedication to promote and ensure safe electrical systems in all of the places that people work and live."

Read more about the Western Section of the IAEI at www.iaei-western.org.

Enforcement actions

License revoked for failing to disclose criminal past

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

- In August 2013, DLI revoked the license of a residential building contractor from Burnsville who provided misleading information on its license application by failing to disclose the involvement of its principal who had a criminal history that would have caused the agency to deny the license application. In addition to revoking the license, the order imposed a \$20,000 penalty on the company and a \$10,000 penalty on the individual who was not disclosed as an owner. The company and its principal were also ordered to cease and desist from acting as a residential building contractor.
- In August 2013, the department issued an administrative order against an unlicensed contractor from Wycoff, Minn., ordering him to cease and desist from unlicensed activity and pay a civil penalty of \$11,000.
- A bathroom fixture company performed unlicensed building contractor, plumbing and electrical work and was ordered to cease and desist and penalized \$5,000.
- An unlicensed contractor from northern Minnesota was fined \$5,000 and ordered to cease and desist from offering to perform and performing the work of a power limited technician, electrical contractor or technology system contractor.

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.