

CCLD REVIEW

Construction Codes and Licensing Division • Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry • Spring 2020

Guidance for municipalities and contractors about continuing inspections

Some local governments have, or are considering, reducing their services. However, as the construction industry continues to build and renovate buildings, from houses to hospitals, it is important that timely inspection services are maintained.

If your city has, or is considering, reducing inspection services, **you must contact us** to ensure that enforcement of the State Building Code is maintained in your municipality by the designated building official. Ceasing all inspection services is not an option.

- If you have or are considering reducing inspection services, contact Rich Lockrem at 651-284-5868 or rich.lockrem@state.mn.us.

Help for contractors obtaining inspections

We are communicating with the construction industry and cities, counties and building officials about the need to provide timely construction inspections.

If a contractor encounters a problem obtaining a municipal inspection, we first recommend trying to resolve it with the designated building official or other municipal administrator responsible for providing services. If the building official or municipality cannot be reached, a staff member from our Enforcement Unit is available for assistance and consultation.

- For help obtaining municipal inspections, contact Wayne Gartland at 651-284-5892 or dli.contractor@state.mn.us.

View more information including frequently asked questions at www.dli.mn.gov/inspections.



Continuing education deadlines extended 90 days for licensees

Submit your license renewal before the expiration date

Continuing education deadlines have been extended 90 days for licenses that expire in March, April and May 2020.

License renewals must still be submitted prior to the current expiration date. Late fees will apply to renewals submitted after the expiration date. Renew a license at <https://secure.doli.state.mn.us/license/intro.aspx>.

Questions?

Contact dli.license@state.mn.us.

The 2020 Spring Seminar is canceled

DLI's Spring Seminar about Minnesota Rules Chapter 1309 and amendments to the 2018 International Residential Code, originally scheduled for April at locations throughout Minnesota, has been canceled.

Registrants will receive a refund for the \$85 registration fee. Refunds will be applied to the credit card used to register for the seminar and may take four to six weeks to process.

We are researching alternative methods to share information about the proposed Minnesota amendments to the 2018 International Residential Code.

License exams suspended

All DLI license exams are suspended indefinitely. Rescheduling is not available at this time. Follow us on Facebook and Twitter for the most recent updates.

- www.facebook.com/MinnesotaDLI
- www.twitter.com/mndli

Extra exam sessions will be added once testing resumes. Exam applications can still be submitted and will be reviewed.

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

- ~~April 14, 2020~~ (canceled)
- July 14, 2020
- Oct. 13, 2020

Board of High-Pressure Piping

- ~~April 9, 2020~~ (canceled)
- July 9, 2020
- Oct. 8, 2020

Combative Sports Advisory Council

- TBD

Construction Codes Advisory Council

- TBD

Plumbing Board

- ~~April 21, 2020~~ (canceled)
- July 21, 2020
- Oct. 20, 2020

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

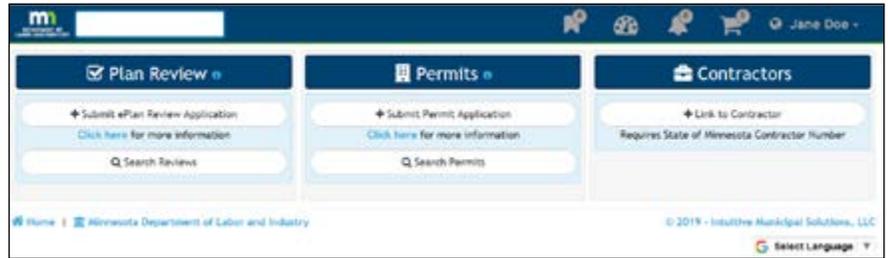
Contractor registration

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

Boiler, elevator, manufactured structures permits moving to new system

In June 2020, permits for boilers, elevators and manufactured structures will move to a new permitting system.

Users will need to create a new account. Any permits-in-progress for existing projects will migrate to the new system. New features include allowing applicants to apply, pay for and track permits online, anytime, from any device.



Questions?

Sign up for updates about the system launch

- [Boilers and boats for hire](#)
- [Elevators](#)
- [Manufactured structures](#)

Safety Grant Program supports workplace safety

The Safety Grants Program, administered by Minnesota OSHA (MNOSHA) Workplace Safety Consultation, supports projects intended to reduce the risk of occupational injuries and illnesses. The program awards matching funds up to \$10,000 to qualifying employers that implement projects designed to reduce the risk of injury and illness to their employees. Grant projects are based on findings and recommendations of a written hazard survey. Qualified applicants must be able to initially fund the project, which the grant program reimburses after the project is completed.

During state-fiscal-year 2019 (July 1, 2018, through June 30, 2019), employers submitted 223 safety grant applications. Of these, 173 grants were awarded to private- and public-sector employers. Industry types awarded included automotive, construction, health care, logging, manufacturing and other service industries, plus municipalities. A total of \$1,216,743 was awarded in reimbursed funds.

Some of the equipment purchased included: fall protection; trenching and excavation cave-in protection; safe patient-handling equipment; tools and equipment for silica dust exposure control; material handling equipment; other tools to minimize exposure to ergonomic risk-factors; security equipment; ventilation systems; mechanized logging equipment; machine guarding; personal protective equipment (PPE); permit-required confined-space entry equipment; and road-construction-zone safety equipment.

More information and apply

www.dli.mn.gov/business/workplace-safety-and-health/mnosha-wsc-safety-grant-program-application

Rulemaking continues for the 2018 Minnesota Plumbing Code

The Minnesota Plumbing Board is on track to propose amendments to the Minnesota Plumbing Code by incorporating by reference the 2018 Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC), with amendments, by the end of 2020.

Proposed rule drafts, comments received and other information are available on the rulemaking docket at www.dli.mn.gov/about-department/rulemaking/rulemaking-docket-minn-r-chpt-4714-2018-upc.

Agendas, meeting minutes, a schedule of the board meetings and a link to sign up to receive rulemaking notices can be found at www.dli.mn.gov/about-department/boards-and-councils/plumbing-board.

All meetings are open to the public and conducted at the Department of Labor and Industry, 443 Lafayette Rd. N, St. Paul, MN 55155.

Residential building contractor license renewals due

Roughly half of all Minnesota residential building contractor and remodeler licenses expire March 31, 2020. 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>. **Continuing education deadlines have been extended 90 days** for licenses that expire in March, April and May 2020. License renewals must still be submitted prior to the current expiration date. Late fees will apply to renewals submitted after the expiration date.



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

License renewals received after March 31 are subject to a \$90 late fee.

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_renewal19.pdf.

Questions?

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

Municipal fee revenue and expenses report due June 30, 2020

Municipalities: the Municipal Construction and Development Fee Revenue and Expenses Annual Report is due by June 30, 2020.

The expense and revenue information can be submitted electronically or by mail. Visit www.dli.mn.gov/workers/licenses-permits-and-plan-reviews/municipal-revenue-reporting-system for more information and to submit the report.

Looking for a phone number or email address?

Visit ww.dli.mn.gov/about-department/our-areas-service for contact information for DLI staff members.

Utah solar contractor fined \$40,000

- A solar contractor from Utah went out of business, leaving approximately 80 residential projects incomplete. DLI revoked the company's residential building contractor and electrical contractor licenses, ordered it and its owners to stop acting or holding itself out as a residential building contractor and from performing electrical work in Minnesota, and fined the company and its owners \$40,000.
- An unlicensed West Des Moines, Iowa, electrical contractor was ordered to stop engaging in unlicensed activity and fined \$5,000, which was stayed contingent on future compliance.
- An unlicensed White Bear Township contractor was ordered to stop performing plumbing work in Minnesota and fined \$3,000, of which \$2,700 was stayed contingent on future compliance.
- A licensed Vadnais Heights residential building contractor was found to have demonstrated financial irresponsibility by failing to satisfy or appeal several civil judgments and for breaching contracts with multiple homeowners. The contractor's license was revoked, the company was ordered to stop acting or holding itself out as a residential building contractor and fined \$26,900.



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.

Continuing education requirements for unlicensed plumbers

All registered unlicensed plumbers must complete two hours of DLI-approved continuing education (CE) relating to the State Plumbing Code each year before renewing their unlicensed registration. The change was adopted by the Minnesota Plumbing Board in May 2019.

Unlicensed plumber registrations expire June 30, 2020. To renew, unlicensed plumbers must:

- submit a \$19 registration renewal fee,
- submit a completed work experience verification form: www.dli.mn.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/pe_work_experience.pdf, and
- complete two hours of continuing education.
- Renew online at <https://secure.doli.state.mn.us/license/Default.aspx>.

View a directory of approved courses at <https://secure.doli.state.mn.us/cldcecourses/>.

Course sponsors report attendance directly to DLI so you do not need to submit any proof of attendance with your renewal. Courses can be completed in-person or online.

Questions?

- More information about CE for plumbers is at www.dli.mn.gov/business/plumbing-contractors/continuing-education-requirements-plumbers.
- Contact us at dli.license@state.mn.us or 651-284-5031.

Tiny houses and the Minnesota Plumbing Code

Tiny houses are a popular topic of interest as the construction industry seeks additional affordable housing options in Minnesota.

Tiny houses constructed as dwellings on-site or off-site must meet the minimum construction standards of the Minnesota State Building Code.

Tiny houses must be constructed to provide for basic sanitation, health and safety for human habitation for complete, independent and permanent living across Minnesota. Both the Minnesota Residential Code and the Minnesota Plumbing Code require at least:

- one flushing toilet,
- one lavatory,
- one kitchen sink, and
- one bathtub or shower.



Tiny houses must be constructed to provide for basic sanitation, health and safety for human habitation.

Fixtures must be provided with an approved and adequate supply of potable running water piped to meet the requirements of the Minnesota Plumbing Code. Hot water must be provided for bathing, cooking, laundry and washing purposes. An approved drainage system must be installed and connected to a public sewer or a private sewage disposal system in accordance with the Minnesota Plumbing Code. These requirements apply to all dwellings, including tiny houses, constructed anywhere in the state.

A composting toilet is not a code-approved plumbing fixture and must not be substituted for a code-required flushing toilet. Composting toilets/chemical technologies and vault toilets are considered privies and regulated by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

Tiny houses constructed as a manufactured home as defined under Minnesota Statutes, section 327.31, subd. 6, are subject to the same construction requirements as a dwelling unit.

More information about tiny houses is available at www.dli.mn.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/tiny_houses.pdf.

Joel Amato named director of National Board

Former Minnesota Chief Boiler Inspector Joel Amato was named the new executive director of the National Board of Boiler and Pressure Vessel Inspectors in December 2020. He is the eighth executive director in the history of the National Board. He started his new duties Jan. 6, 2020. Amato was the chief boiler inspector for Minnesota for 20 years.



Building plan review and the Minnesota State Building Code

DLI will review building projects in accordance with the 2020 Minnesota State Building Code as of March 31, 2020. Complete application packages received for plan review before March 31, 2020, will be reviewed and permitted based on the 2015 Minnesota State Building Code.

Projects submitted on March 31, 2020, and later, will be reviewed under the new 2020 Minnesota Building Code unless the design team has participated in a preliminary plan review/code consultation meeting before March 31. Building officials with delegation agreements for inspections will receive code edition notification on the letters they receive when plan review is approved.

Commercial building code changes for reroofing

Spring often means reroofing season. Changes related to reroofing in the 2020 Minnesota Building Code include:

- Reroofing and existing roof with slopes less than 1/4:12 must:
 - have a minimum slope of 1/8 : 12,
 - document technical infeasibility to providing required drainage,
 - provide structural calculations demonstrating ponding capacity to the level of the secondary emergency drainage system or point of overflow, and
 - Must install a secondary (emergency) drainage system in compliance with IBC Section 1502.
- IBC Section 1502 has a new table to accurately size scuppers. Secondary emergency drainage systems may need to be enlarged if scuppers are used and scuppers are currently undersized.
- The new energy code requires R-30 continuous roofing insulation where located completely above the roof deck.
- Insulation R-values may only be reduced from the current code requirement by approval of the building official, and then only with documentation that the required thickness would inhibit positive drainage.

Electrical safety at Minnesota carnivals and fairs



DLI Electrical Representatives Steven Dudley (pictured) and Wade Schlie attended the Minnesota Federation of County Fairs annual convention in Bloomington in January 2020.

During the convention staff met with carnival owners, inflatable operations, circuses, food vendors and fair-board members. They responded to questions and concerns from attendees and shared inspection and safety documentation.

Schlie and Dudley also presented about electrical licensing, safety and inspections. One presentation was for carnival owners and operators and the other for members of fair boards. DLI attends this event each year to promote electrical safety and share changes attendees may encounter for the next season.

Changes for bonding arc-resistant corrugated stainless steel tubing

2018 NFPA 54 sec. 7.12.3, and 2018 IFGC sec. 310.3:

Arc-Resistant CSST. This section applies to corrugated stainless steel tubing (CSST) that is listed with an arc-resistant jacket or coating system in accordance with ANSI LC 1/CSA 6.26.

The CSST must be electrically continuous and bonded to an effective ground fault current path. Arc-resistant-jacketed CSST is considered to be bonded where it is connected to an appliance that is connected to the appliance grounding conductor of the circuit that supplies that appliance. (NEC 250.104(B)) This new section in the model codes states that arc-resistant jacketed CSST products are to be bonded in the same manner as rigid steel gas pipe, which is covered in NFPA 54 sec. 7.12.1 and IFGC 310.1.

Where any CSST component of a piping system does not have an arc-resistant jacket or coating system, the bonding requirements of NFPA 54 sec. 7.12.2 (IFGC 310.2) apply. The CSST without an arc-resistant jacket must have a bonding connection made to the metallic pipe, pipe fitting or the CSST fitting (not the tubing itself) and the minimum bonding conductor size is a #6 copper. The maximum length of the bonding conductor between the tubing and the premise's grounding electrode system should be installed as short as practicable and limited to no more than 75 feet.



CSST arc-resistant jacket or coating that will no longer require additional bonding.

Solar installations and the 2020 Minnesota Residential Code

All new applications for solar PV installations submitted on and after March 31, 2020, must comply with the 2020 Minnesota Residential Code for residential applications

A new bulletin, Solar Photovoltaic Systems and the 2020 Minnesota Residential Code, that outlines requirements is available at www.dli.mn.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/fs_res_solar.pdf.

More solar resources are at www.dli.mn.gov/business/electrical-contractors/solar-photovoltaic-pv-resources.



Photo credit: Equisolar Solar Company

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