

# CCLD REVIEW

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

## Plans to resume exam license testing being finalized

DLI's Construction Codes and Licensing Division anticipates being able to resume license testing exams by the end of June or beginning of July.

It is the agency's primary goal to ensure the health and safety of all license exam testers and DLI staff. Currently, the agency is finalizing a plan to address safety concerns and secure testing locations in the metro area and around the state to offer testing options at multiple locations simultaneously. The goal is to expedite license testing as rapidly as possible once DLI has COVID-19 safety plans that align with the executive orders issued by the governor.

Check [www.dli.mn.gov/business/get-licenses-and-permits/license-exam-schedule](http://www.dli.mn.gov/business/get-licenses-and-permits/license-exam-schedule) and our Facebook and Twitter accounts for the most current information. Qualified exam applicants will be notified by email when details about resuming testing are finalized.



## Virtual training to replace seminar

Due to the restrictions of COVID-19 pandemic, DLI's Construction Codes and Licensing Division canceled its in-person training about code amendments to the 2018 International Residential Code. Staff have been working to create an online seminar to share the training material that was canceled.

It will include continuing education for residential contractors, building officials and manufactured home installers. Learn more at [www.dli.mn.gov/workers/residential-contractors/2020-virtual-seminar](http://www.dli.mn.gov/workers/residential-contractors/2020-virtual-seminar).

**Questions?** Contact Chad Payment at [chad.payment@state.mn.us](mailto:chad.payment@state.mn.us) or 651-284-5841.

## Building Official Forum 2020 rescheduled to October

The sixth annual Building Official Forum is Thursday, Oct. 8, 2020, and Friday, Oct. 9, 2020, in Bemidji. Attend one or both dates; different content is presented each day. There is no cost to attend and the events include a meal and three continuing education credits for building officials for each session.

### When

- **Thursday, Oct. 8, 2020, 12:30 to 3:30 p.m.;** includes three continuing education credits and lunch buffet.
- **Friday, Oct. 9, 2020, 8 to 11 a.m.;** includes three continuing education credits and breakfast buffet.

### Where

Hampton Inn, 1019 Paul Bunyan Drive, Bemidji, MN 56601. A block of hotel rooms is reserved under "Building Official Forum 2020." Call the Hampton Inn at 218-751-3600 to reserve a room.

### Register

Register to attend at <https://secure.doli.state.mn.us/events>.

**Questions?** Contact [lyndy.logan@state.mn.us](mailto:lyndy.logan@state.mn.us).

## DLI adoption of the 2018 I-Codes

DLI has completed the adoption process for the I-codes. All I-codes were effective March 31, 2020, except for the International Mechanical Code and International Fuel Gas Code, which went into effect April 6, 2020.

DLI has been working with the International Code Council to develop custom code books that include Minnesota amendments integrated with the 2018 I-codes.

The following 2020 Minnesota code books are available at the ICC website:

- Minnesota Building Code
- Minnesota Residential Code
- Minnesota Conservation Code for Existing Buildings
- Minnesota Energy Code
- Minnesota Accessibility Code
- Minnesota Fire Code

The Minnesota Mechanical and Fuel Gas codes will be available for order in July. More information and links to the 2020 Minnesota codes are at [www.dli.mn.gov/business/codes-and-laws/2020-minnesota-state-building-codes](http://www.dli.mn.gov/business/codes-and-laws/2020-minnesota-state-building-codes).

## 2020 National Electrical Code adoption delayed

Adoption of the 2020 National Electrical Code (NEC) has been delayed and it will not be effective in Minnesota on July 1, 2020, as anticipated.

The Board of Electricity received 25 valid requests for hearing regarding the adoption of the 2020 NEC. That hearing has been rescheduled to Aug. 19, 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**The 2017 NEC will remain in effect until the adoption process is complete.**

- All permits, installations and inspections will continue to be issued or performed under the 2017 NEC.
- All electrical license examinations will continue to cover material from the 2017 NEC.
- Continuing education courses will be reviewed and approved under the 2017 NEC or 2020 NEC.

### More information

- Visit the [Board of Electricity Rulemaking Docket](#) for more information.
- Contact us at [dli.rules@state.mn.us](mailto:dli.rules@state.mn.us).

*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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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)

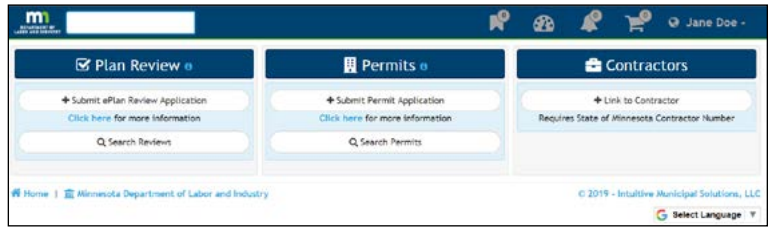
#### Contractor registration

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

# Boiler, elevator, manufactured structures permits moving to new system

On June 22, 2020, permits for boilers, elevators and manufactured structures will move to a new permitting system.

DLI's previous system used to process online boiler installation and elevator permit applications – eTrakiT – was discontinued in May 2020. Users will need to create an account in the new system once it launches June 22, 2020.



- The new system is web-based and can be accessed from any location or device.
- Existing permit data will migrate, so any work-in-progress will be available and completed in the new system.
- New features include allowing applicants to apply, pay for and track permits online, anytime, from any device.

**Questions?** Visit [www.dli.mn.gov/business/get-licenses-and-permits/permits](http://www.dli.mn.gov/business/get-licenses-and-permits/permits).

## 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](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

- July 14, 2020
- Oct. 13, 2020

### Board of High-Pressure Piping

- July 9, 2020
- Oct. 8, 2020

### Combative Sports Advisory Council

- TBD

### Construction Codes Advisory Council

- TBD

### Plumbing Board

- July 21, 2020
- Oct. 20, 2020

### Rulemaking notices

Visit [www.dli.mn.gov/about-department/rulemaking](http://www.dli.mn.gov/about-department/rulemaking) to sign-up for notices of rule proceedings.

## Municipalities: Submit fee report by June 30

Minnesota municipalities must submit a Municipal Construction and Development Fee Revenue and Expenses Annual Report by June 30, 2020.

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

If a municipality has collected \$5,000 or less in construction and development-related fees, contact [eileen.mcniff@state.mn.us](mailto:eileen.mcniff@state.mn.us).

## Looking for a phone number or email address?

Visit [www.dli.mn.gov/about-department/our-areas-service](http://www.dli.mn.gov/about-department/our-areas-service) for contact information for DLI staff members.

## Enforcement actions: Unlicensed Mankato contractor fined \$35,500

- An unlicensed residential building contractor from Mankato was found to have engaged in unlicensed activities and to have breached contracts with multiple homeowners. The contractor was ordered to cease and desist from the unlicensed activity and fined \$35,500.
- A Minneapolis electrical contractor designated an ineligible person to be its responsible licensed individual and allowed unlicensed electricians to work without supervision. The company's contractor license was revoked and its owner's registered unlicensed electrician and plumber registrations were suspended until he pays a \$5,000 fine and proves that he is a W-2 employee of a licensed contractor.
- An unlicensed La Crosse, Wisconsin, elevator contractor was ordered to cease and desist from engaging in unlicensed activity and fined \$5,000, of which \$4,500 was stayed contingent on no future violations.
- An unlicensed Forest Lake residential building contractor was ordered to cease and desist from unlicensed activity and fined \$3,000.



**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-and-view-enforcement-actions](http://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](mailto:dli.contractor@state.mn.us).

## Building plan review questions and answers: storm shelters

### When are storm shelters required by the new codes?

Storm shelters are required in roughly the southern third of Minnesota, including the Twin Cities metro area, for specific building uses. See the Minnesota Building Code Section 423.3 and 423.4 for a list of affected counties.

Storm shelters are required in new construction for critical emergency operations uses (no matter the size) and K-12 schools with an occupant load greater than 50. Critical emergency operations uses include 911 call centers, emergency operations centers, fire stations, rescue stations, ambulance stations and police stations. Not listed are hospital emergency rooms trauma centers and similar uses. Storm shelters are required when additions are made to an existing K-12 school and the additional occupant load to the school site is 50 or more.



### How do you determine occupant load for storm shelters?

The occupant load for determining the required size of storm shelters is based on the number of occupants to be sheltered. This may differ from the occupant load of the building determined by the means of egress requirements because means of egress must assume each space to be fully occupied to ensure adequate egress

'Storm shelters' continues on page 5.

‘Storm shelters’ continued from Page 4.

width from each space. Spaces such as cafeterias, which are used by occupants counted in other areas of the building, need not be counted again for the purposes of storm sheltering. The core requirement is for the E occupancy, so if there are ancillary functions that happen in the same space but after hours, such as a basketball tournament, those functions are not required to be sheltered. Building officials will need to use their discretion.

**Does the Minnesota Conservation Code for Existing Buildings section 1106.1.1, Exception 1, mean that the storm shelter only needs to accommodate the occupants of the addition and not the entire school?**

No. Charging language requires that storm shelters require all occupants on the site. If the addition is not large enough to shelter all the occupants on the site, the shelter must be designed to accommodate the required capacity of the addition, not the occupant load of the addition. What this means, is that if the addition isn’t large enough to shelter all of the occupants on the site, then the entire addition must be constructed as storm shelter, but it doesn’t need to be made any larger for the sole purpose of storm sheltering the entire population of the site.

**The ICC-500 section 106.1.1 requires a peer review by an independent registered design professional. What is the requirement for this section?**

This section is not necessarily requiring someone from outside of the design firm to review and validate the work. It is requiring a licensed design professional, other than the architect or engineer of record, to provide some sort of certified letter or affidavit declaring that they have reviewed the documents and find the design conforms to the ICC-500 standards. The peer review may occur from within the same design firm, but the design professional must also include that they were not involved in the design of the project.

**Plan Review Services update:**

CCLD Building Plan Review Services staff continue to operate providing full service to stakeholders. Staff are available to assist with code questions and follow up by phone, email and video-conferencing platforms.

Recently, submission of electronic plan review application packages have increased from 75% to 96% compared to paper submissions. We encourage electronic submission of documents which reduce logistical challenges of routing to staff and mailing hard copy documents.

**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](mailto:osha.consultation@state.mn.us)
- Call: 651-284-5060

**Find code requirements, inspectors 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 and includes contact information for inspectors.

# Plumbing questions and answers: backflow certifications

## Why are backflow preventers required to be tested and rebuilt?

Backflow preventers are an important and necessary part of the building drinking water supply system because they prevent unsafe connections from allowing contaminants to enter the system, keep the water supply safe for human consumption and provide basic sanitation. Testing and rebuilding ensure the backflow preventers function as designed and protect the drinking water system.



Reduced pressure zone backflow assembly device (RPZ) | [www.watts.com](http://www.watts.com)

## What types of backflow preventers are required to be tested and/or rebuilt?

1. RPZ (Reduced pressure zone backflow assembly device). These are the most complex and sophisticated backflow devices for high-hazard and backpressure applications. RPZs have always been required to be tested.
2. NON-RPZ (Non-reduced pressure zone backflow assembly device). There are multiple types: pressure type vacuum breaker, spill proof vacuum breaker, and double check valve backflow prevention assembly devices. Some non-RPZ devices are for high-hazard application and some are for low-hazard applications. The current Minnesota Plumbing Code requires all non-RPZ devices to be tested if they were installed on or after Jan. 23, 2016.

## What is a DLI-certified backflow prevention tester and what can they do?

- A DLI-certified backflow prevention tester can perform work relating to opening and closing valves, hook-up a testing gauge to a backflow device and make observations. A tester is not allowed to open and work on any backflow prevention device.
- A DLI-certified backflow prevention tester can work with any company to perform testing of a backflow device.
- A DLI backflow prevention tester does not need to be a licensed plumber or work for a plumbing contractor but must show proof they have a current ASSE 5110 certification to receive a DLI backflow prevention tester certificate (Minn. R. Chapter 4716).

## What is a DLI certified backflow preventer rebuilder and what can they do?

- To rebuild or perform work on backflow preventers, the individual must carry a DLI backflow prevention rebuilder certificate.
- A DLI-certified backflow preventer rebuilder can open and perform work on internal parts or replace a backflow device, as well as test the device.
- To receive a DLI backflow prevention rebuilder certificate, an individual must be a Minnesota-licensed plumber, be employed by a Minnesota-licensed plumbing contractor and be certified by the ASSE for both ASSE 5110 and 5130 certifications (Minn. R. Chapter 4716 and Minn. Stat. section 326B.437).

View more information about backflow testing requirements at [www.dli.mn.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/fs\\_backflow.pdf](http://www.dli.mn.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/fs_backflow.pdf).

# Unlicensed plumber registration renewals due by June 30

## *New continuing education requirement for registered unlicensed plumbers*

Registrations for unlicensed plumbers expire June 30, 2020. Unlicensed plumbers – not their employer – are responsible for providing their annual work experience to DLI.

### **Annual continuing education now required**

New rules adopted by the Minnesota Plumbing Board require all registered unlicensed plumbers to take two hours of [DLI-approved continuing education \(CE\)](#) relating to the Minnesota Plumbing Code before their June 30 renewal each year.

- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the deadline for reporting CE has been extended 90 days. Be sure to renew your registration by paying the \$19 renewal fee and reporting your plumbing work experience for the past year by June 30, but you have until Sept. 30, 2020, to complete your two hours of CE.
- Your CE sponsor will report your attendance to DLI – you do not have to submit a course completion certificate.

### **Don't forget to report your plumbing work experience**

The only record of your work experience that DLI has is the information you provide – your employer does not automatically report this information.

- [Report your experience on this form](#) and upload it with your [online renewal](#) or email it to [DLI.license@state.mn.us](mailto:DLI.license@state.mn.us).
- You can review your accumulated work experience as you have reported to DLI at [our online license lookup tool](#).

### **How do I renew?**

Have the responsible licensed master plumber for your employer sign off on your [work experience form\(s\)](#) and [renew at https://secure.doli.state.mn.us/license/intro.aspx](https://secure.doli.state.mn.us/license/intro.aspx).

### **What is the renewal fee?**

The annual renewal fee is \$19. A late fee of \$5 must be added to any renewals not received by DLI by June 30, 2020.

### **Do I have to renew online?**

You can also renew by mailing us a check for the \$19 renewal fee along with your [work experience verification form\(s\)](#). Make checks payable to “MN Department of Labor and Industry.”

### **Questions?**

Contact us at 651-284-5031 or [DLI.license@state.mn.us](mailto:DLI.license@state.mn.us).

## Stay in touch with DLI news



Sign up for more newsletters and email lists.

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

[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)

# Three new 2017 National Electrical Code rules in effect

The adoption of the 2020 National Electrical Code (NEC) in Minnesota has been delayed (see Page 2). Until the 2020 NEC is adopted, the 2017 NEC is the currently adopted electrical code in Minnesota. However, there are three provisions in the 2017 NEC that became effective on Jan. 1, 2020. The three-year deferral from 2017 to 2020 gave the electrical industry and manufacturers time to design, test, implement and manufacture the necessary equipment related to the new provisions.

## 2017 NEC 240.67 (Arc Energy Reduction)

- Where fuses 1,200-amperes or higher are installed, the NEC contains special rules for documentation, methods to reduce clearing time, and performance testing. The requirement for arc energy reduction for fuses is similar to the requirement for circuit breakers in NEC 240.87.

## 2017 404.2(C) (Switches Controlling Lighting Loads)

- Grounded conductors must be extended to any switch location as needed for switching devices that require line-to-neutral voltage for the operation of electronic standby circuits in the switch. Some exceptions may be applicable.

## 2017 404.22 (Electronic Lighting Control Switches)

- Electronic control switches must be listed and they must not induce current on the equipment grounding conductor during normal operation. Some exceptions may be applicable.



## Solar resources available

Frequently asked questions about solar photovoltaic systems and energy storage systems were recently updated.

- View the updated document at [www.dli.mn.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/solarFAQ.pdf](http://www.dli.mn.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/solarFAQ.pdf).

Additional solar resources including licensing and permit requirements, research and codes and standards are also available.

- View more solar resources at [www.dli.mn.gov/business/electrical-contractors/solar-photovoltaic-pv-resources](http://www.dli.mn.gov/business/electrical-contractors/solar-photovoltaic-pv-resources).

## Questions?

Contact us at [dli.electricity@state.mn.us](mailto:dli.electricity@state.mn.us).

## Guide outlines proper cleaning, disinfecting for electrical equipment

The National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA) recently published NEMA GD 4-2020 COVID-19 Cleaning and Disinfecting Guidance for Electrical Equipment.



Managing the SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) virus requires proper cleaning and disinfecting of equipment, so members of NEMA developed guidance to answer common questions for how to maintain cleanliness while preserving the functionality and integrity of electrical equipment.

- NEMA GD 4-2020 is available as a free download on the NEMA website.
- More NEMA COVID-19 resources are available at [www.nema.org/about/covid-19-response](http://www.nema.org/about/covid-19-response).