

CCLD REVIEW

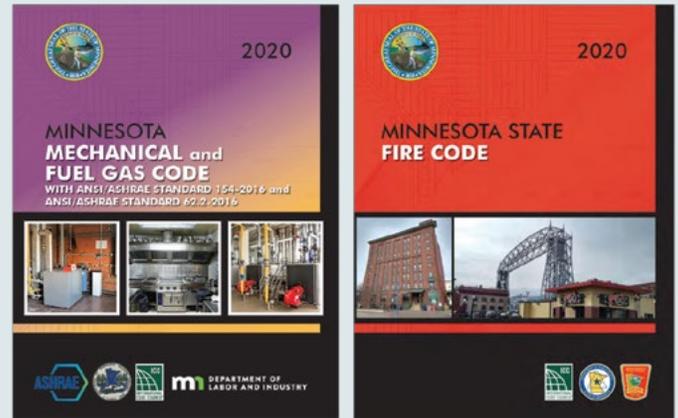
Construction Codes and Licensing Division • Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry • Fall 2020

Registration is open for 2020 Fall Seminar

Register to attend the 2020 Department of Labor and Industry (DLI), Construction Codes and Licensing Division's (CCLD) Fall Seminar.

Topics include Minnesota amendments to the International Mechanical Code (IMC), International Fuel Gas Code (IFGC) and International Fire Code (IFC).

The seminars will be conducted online and include continuing education credits for building officials, residential contractors, residential remodelers and manufactured home installers.



View more information and register: www.dli.mn.gov/business/residential-contractors/2020-fall-seminar

Minnesota Amendments to the 2018 IMC and IFGC

- Oct. 6 and Oct. 22, 2020

Minnesota Amendments to the 2018 IFC

- Oct. 8 and Oct. 20, 2020

Questions?

Contact Chad Payment at chad.payment@state.mn.us or 651-284-5841.

Virtual training about International Residential Code available

A free, self-paced, online training that focuses on Minnesota amendments to the 2018 International Residential Code (IRC) is available.

The training offers up to seven hours of continuing education credit for residential contractors, building officials and manufactured home installers.

Register:

www.dli.mn.gov/workers/residential-contractors/virtual-seminar

Questions: Contact Chad Payment at chad.payment@state.mn.us or 651-284-5841.



Code adoption update:

Adopted rules for elevators and related devices; hearing about possible amendment of Minnesota Residential Energy Code; 2020 NEC hearing

Elevator Code

DLI has completed the adoption process to update the codes and standards referenced in Minnesota Rules, Chapter 1307, Elevators and Related Devices. The updated codes include ASME A17.1/CSA B44-2016 Safety Code for Elevators and Escalators and ASME A17.3-2015 Safety Code for Existing Elevators and Escalators, among others. The updated codes and standards for elevators and related devices are effective Sept. 28, 2020.

Residential Energy Code

The Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) conducted a public hearing Aug. 3, 2020, to gather input about whether it is appropriate to amend the existing Minnesota Residential Energy Code by adopting the 2018 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC). An administrative law judge (ALJ) is reviewing the public input and will issue a Report and Recommendation to the commissioner of DLI by September 30.

Follow the process in the rulemaking docket at www.dli.mn.gov/about-department/rulemaking/rulemaking-docket-minnesota-rules-chapter-1322.

2020 National Electrical Code (NEC) hearing

A hearing was conducted Aug. 19, 2020, regarding the adoption of the 2020 NEC. An ALJ heard testimony and comments submitted regarding the 2020 NEC and the code development process. The ALJ will review the testimony and comments and issue a report in mid-October. The Board of Electricity will review that report and comply with the necessary steps in the adoption process. View the rulemaking docket for the 2020 NEC at www.dli.mn.gov/about-department/rulemaking/rulemaking-docket-minnesota-rules-1315.

Forum 2020 has been canceled

The 2020 Building Official Forum – scheduled for October 2020 – has been canceled. We plan to resume the Building Official Forum in 2021.

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

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

Limited Building Official and Accessibility Training Programs

Building Official Limited and Accessibility Specialist Training programs that were postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic will resume online Oct. 26 to 30, 2020.

The introductory training programs – typically offered as in-person courses three times each year – provide exposure to the basic concepts and subject matter needed to begin a career as a municipal building inspector or accessibility specialist. Participation is mandatory prior to taking the corresponding license exam.

Learn more and apply to attend at www.dli.mn.gov/workers/building-officials/building-official-limited-program.

License exam update

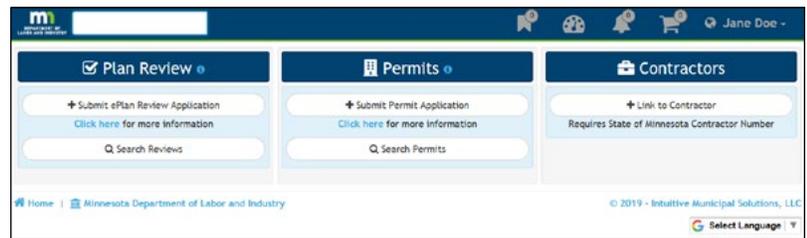
Metro, outstate locations available for exams

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, CCLD was forced to suspend license exams at all testing sites in mid-March and cancel more than 800 exams that had already been scheduled throughout the spring and early summer.

On June 29, 2020, CCLD resumed exams at two sites: the Earle Brown Center in Brooklyn Center and the University of Minnesota Continuing Education Center in St. Paul.

Since that time, CCLD has resumed a regular schedule of exams at its offices in St. Paul and on a rotating basis in Baxter, Detroit Lakes, Duluth and New Ulm. In the three months since testing resumed nearly 1,800 exams have been administered and an additional 600 are scheduled in October.

Exam updates and scheduling information are available www.dli.mn.gov/business/get-licenses-and-permits/license-exam-schedule and shared on social media.



Online plan review and permit application system expanded

Our online plan review and permit application system continues expansion with addition of elevator, boiler and manufactured structures permits and plan review.

The agency's transition to online permits and plan review began in January 2019 for building and plumbing plan review and permits, integrating with its online plan review system e-Plans. Electrical and high pressure piping permits followed in October 2019. In June 2020, elevator, boiler and manufactured structures were added. Additional upgrades and enhancements are planned with more details available later this fall.

Each year the agency:

- completes 3,100 plan reviews;
- issues 122,000 construction permits; and
- performs 190,000 inspections.

For more information, to sign up for system updates and to create an account, visit www.dli.mn.gov/business/get-licenses-and-permits/online-applications-plan-review-and-permits. Questions? Contact us at iMS.support.dli@state.mn.us.

Enforcement actions: Contractor fined \$17,000

- An unlicensed Shoreview/Brooklyn Center residential building contractor was found to have violated an Order of the Commissioner by continuing to engage in unlicensed activity and for engaging in fraudulent, deceptive or dishonest practices. After a contested case hearing, the contractor was ordered to cease and desist from engaging in further unlicensed activity and the \$17,000 fine imposed by CCLD Enforcement was upheld. Upon appeal, the Commissioner's Order was affirmed by the Minnesota Court of Appeals and the unlicensed contractor's subsequent appeal to the Minnesota Supreme Court was denied.
- A Maple Grove/Golden Valley contractor was found to have engaged in unlicensed electrical work. The contractor was ordered to cease and desist from performing electrical work and fined \$7,500, of which \$4,500 was to be forgiven contingent on the completion of required corrective action and full future compliance.
- A licensed Eden Prairie residential building contractor was found to have engaged in unlicensed plumbing work. The contractor was censured, ordered to cease and desist from performing plumbing work and fined \$2,500, of which \$2,000 was stayed contingent on no future violations.
- A Howard Lake contractor was found to have engaged in unlicensed residential building construction. The contractor was ordered to cease and desist from the unlicensed activity and fined \$5,000, of which \$4,000 was stayed contingent on no future violations.



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.

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. 13, 2020

Combative Sports Advisory Council

- TBD

Board of High-Pressure Piping

- Oct. 8, 2020

Plumbing Board

- Oct. 20, 2020

Rulemaking notices

Visit www.dli.mn.gov/about-department/rulemaking to sign-up for notices of rule proceedings.

Seven municipalities to be awarded Building Official Training Grants

We will be awarding grants from the Building Official Training Grant Program to seven municipalities. Congratulations to the cities of Waite Park, Edina, Shakopee, Brooklyn Park, Maple Grove, Alexandria and Prior Lake. Learn more about the program at www.dli.mn.gov/bot.

Municipalities must file expense and revenue information

The Municipal Construction and Development Annual Report was due June 30, 2020. However, with the challenges brought on by COVID-19, the deadline was extended to Aug. 31, 2020. Currently, approximately 30 municipalities have yet to submit their report.

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. The report is required to be filed annually with the department (Minn. Stat. § 326B.145).

If the municipality has collected \$5,000 or less in construction and development-related fees, contact eileen.mcniff@state.mn.us.

State plan review for one- and two-family dwellings

Minnesota Statutes, section 326B.136, "Certain Inspections," was enacted into law in 1984. It gives the state building official the authority to review and approve plans and specifications for IRC-1 Single-Family Homes and IRC-2 Two-Family Homes where the plans and specifications will be used for construction in more than one municipality. The local building official is required to issue a building permit upon application and presentation of approved plans and specifications bearing the approval of the state building official if the requirements of all other local ordinances are satisfied. The State Building Code limits fees for subsequent review of master plan approved documents to 25% of the normal plan review fee. These fees are in place to coordinate local ordinances and site-specific requirements, not for a second building code review of the construction documents.



If you have questions about this process contact Greg Metz at greg.metz@state.mn.us or 651-284-5884.

License verification and assistance program

CCLD has implemented a license verification and assistance program that is aimed at achieving two goals. The first is to identify unlicensed residential building activity specifically focusing on areas of the state that do not have local building code enforcement. A second complimentary goal of the initiative is to provide consultation to licensed contractors at construction sites, specifically assisting with State Building Code compliance and interpretation. Contact Charlie Durenberger at charles.durenberger@state.mn.us or 651-284-5827 for help with questions.

CCLD launching consumer awareness campaign

The department has retained a marketing firm to assist in the development a two-year, statewide awareness campaign about the importance of hiring licensed residential building contractors. The goal of the campaign is to:

- Raise awareness about the risks associated with hiring unlicensed contractors.
- Highlight the benefits of hiring professional licensed building and remodeling contractors.
- Educate local governments of the importance of licensure and their role in providing consumer resources.

Contact Kelly Cooper at kelly.cooper@state.mn.us or 651-284-5813 for help with questions about the program.

COVID-19 impacts on continuing education for licensees

To help meet the needs of licensees during the COVID-19 pandemic, many continuing education providers have converted their canceled classroom courses into webinars.

These are live classes that allow you to see and interact with the instructor from your home or office. There are also self-paced online courses available. View a list of all of approved continuing education courses at <https://secure.doli.state.mn.us/cldcecourses/>.

Continuing education deadlines

DLI granted a 90-day extension of the deadlines for continuing education reporting for licensees whose licenses expired between March 1 and July 31, 2020. However, the expanded availability of online courses has eliminated the need for additional extensions.

Although your license expiration date is the deadline for completing your continuing education, only completing your continuing education does not renew your license. Once you have completed your continuing education you must also pay the license renewal fee, which can be done online at <https://secure.doli.state.mn.us/license/Default.aspx>. **Questions?** Contact us at dli.license@state.mn.us.

Master plumber licenses expire December 31

All current master plumber licenses expire Dec. 31, 2020. Yellow reminder postcards will be mailed at the beginning of October and licenses can be renewed beginning Oct. 1, 2020.

Plumbers can renew their license online at <https://secure.doli.state.mn.us/license/Default.aspx>. When completed online, your license is renewed upon payment of the \$73 renewal fee. Renewals received after Dec. 31, 2020, will be assessed a late fee of \$30.

Continuing education

Plumbers must complete 16 hours of DLI-approved continuing education (CE) before renewing. Renewing a license without completing all CE is a basis for license suspension and a fine of \$1,000. There is no limit on the number of hours of CE that can be completed online.

Of the required 16 hours of CE:

- At least eight hours must pertain to the State Plumbing Code.
- No more than eight hours may pertain to technical topics related to plumbing installations and equipment, or the Minnesota statutes governing plumbing work.
- Up to 16 hours may relate to the State Plumbing Code.

Course sponsors report your attendance to us so you do not have to send us documentation of your attendance, though you should keep copies for your own records. Also, be sure to provide your master license number (beginning with "PM") when you apply to take CE and when you sign-in to attend your courses.

Plumbers who have more than one type of license can apply their CE courses to each of their licenses – only the number of hours required for the license with the highest CE requirement must be fulfilled. View approved CE courses at <https://secure.doli.state.mn.us/cldcecourses/>.

Questions? Contact us at dli.license@state.mn.us or 651-284-5031.

Plumbing questions and answers: backflow devices

What type of backflow prevention device is required for faucets and fixture fittings with pull-out spouts or handheld sprays?

Most plumbing faucets and fixture fittings with pull-out spouts or side sprays are manufactured with integral backflow protection as part of a product. The product must be listed to the backflow prevention requirements of ASME A112.18.1/CSA B125.1, or be protected with a backflow preventer device that is in accordance with ASME A112.18.3, and be installed in accordance with their listing requirements and the manufacturer's installation requirements.



Common applications are residential type kitchen sinks, breakroom sinks, showers and combination tub-showers.

Can a chemical or soap dispenser connect to a mop sink faucet?

When acceptable to the administrative authority as an alternate method, an ASSE 1055 listed chemical dispenser may be connected to a mop sink faucet when a properly installed pressure bleeding device is located downstream of the mop sink atmospheric vacuum breaker.

More information about backflow requirements for chemical dispensers can be found at Minnesota Plumbing Code, Section 603.5.17, or visit www.dli.mn.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/pe_list_chemical_dispenser.pdf for illustrations.

What type of backflow prevention device is required for a lawn irrigation system?

Systems designed with no backpressure conditions, having no pumps, connections for pumping equipment downstream of the backflow device, or chemical injection may be protected by a properly installed and listed atmospheric vacuum breaker (ASSE 1001), a pressure vacuum breaker (ASSE 1020), or a spill-resistant pressure vacuum (ASSE 1056). An atmospheric vacuum breaker may only be used when shut-off controls are not installed downstream of the device that would keep the atmospheric vacuum breaker under constant pressure.

Systems designed with backpressure conditions, with pumps or connections for pumping equipment capable of creating backpressure, or systems that include a chemical injector or provisions for chemical injection must be protected by a reduced-pressure principle backflow prevention assembly (ASSE 1013).

View the Minnesota Plumbing Code, Section 603.5.6, for more information about protection from lawn irrigation systems.

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. It also lists contact information for inspectors throughout Minnesota.

Licensing requirements for residential solar PV installations

DLI has received many inquiries regarding state license requirements for the installation of solar photovoltaic (PV) systems on residential roofs. Because municipalities generally require building permits for this work and they are required to verify state licensure before issuing permits, an important question is whether a state residential building contractor, remodeler or roofer license is required for this work.

The state residential contractor licensing law has always contained an exemption for “specialty contractors” who perform work in just one skill area. Generally, DLI has interpreted the work involved in attaching the non-electrical elements of the support system for a solar PV system to a residential roof as that of a specialty contractor. Therefore, no state residential building contractor, remodeler, or roofer license is required unless the support system for a residential roof must be reinforced in order to support the additional load of the solar PV system. Also, integrated-grounding elements of the support system (racking) are classified as electrical work and must be installed by a licensed electrical contractor.



Solar PV resources: www.dli.mn.gov/business/electrical-contractors/solar-photovoltaic-pv-resources

Free 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
- Call: 651-284-5060



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CCLD building plan reviewer Peter Villard retiring

Peter Villard, a staff member in DLI's Building Plan Review unit for 13 years, is retiring. He served as a senior plan reviewer with deep knowledge in the planning and construction of health care facilities, schools and detention facilities. He started with DLI after thirty years of private practice in the Twin Cities area. His talent and expertise will be missed. We wish Peter the best of luck in his retirement.

New wood-stove emission standards effective in Minnesota

Newly installed residential heating systems in Minnesota that burn wood must meet new federal emission standards for wood smoke.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) adopted regulations for wood-burning appliances in 2015 that

gave manufacturers five years to bring to market devices certified to meet those standards. The standards had two "steps" — an initial standard for 2015 and a more restrictive one that took effect in May 2020.

Federal regulation of wood-stove emission standards is still being debated, but Minnesota has its own state law requiring compliance with the new emission standards, which also took effect in May. Regardless of what the EPA does, Minnesota's compliance deadline of May 2020 has not changed.

What the standards mean for Minnesotans

- In Minnesota, only 2020-certified units can be advertised, offered for sale, sold or installed. If a dealer is offering to sell a pre-2020 stove or boiler that isn't certified, they are in violation of the law.
- Permanent labels: Once a manufacturer's model line is 2020-certified, each unit must have an approved, permanent label affixed. The labels must be visible when installed.

Questions?

- EPA standards: www.epa.gov/burnwise
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency resources: www.pca.state.mn.us/air/cleaner-burning-appliances



Elections are coming soon ... are you registered to vote in Minnesota?

You can check to see if you are registered to vote in Minnesota at mnvotes.sos.state.mn.us.

You can register to vote at sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/register-to-vote.



Looking for a phone number or email address?

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