



Master Plumbers Council of the City of New York, Inc.

Aka

Licensed Plumbing Association of New York City, Inc.
240-21 Braddock Avenue, Bellerose, NY 11426

Phone: (718) 793-6300 • Fax: (516) 677-5374 Website: www.nycmpc.org

2024 Officers

Anthony Vigilante
President
Leonard Williams
Vice President
Robert McManus
Treasurer
Anthony Caiazzo
Secretary

Dear General Counsel Sehgal:

The following comments are presented on behalf of the Master Plumbers Council of the City of New York, Inc. (MPC) in response to the NYC Department of Building's (DOB) proposed amendments and repeal of various Licensing Rules.

Our technical committee has reviewed the proposed changes and offers the following comments:

2024 Directors

Richard Bonelli
Robert Giuliantie
Sunny Johal
Angelo Lemodetis
Michael Loise
Darren Lundin
Michael Maniscalco
John Sideris
Daniel Vessio

1. **Repeal Section 19-01 regarding examination, license, and conduct of the business of master plumbers and master fire suppression contractors.**

The MPC supports the repeal of this final rule in Chapter 19. The majority of these provisions are obsolete, have been superseded or now are contained within the Code and other sections of Title 1 of the Rules of the City of New York.

2. **Increase the fees for licensing written and practical examinations.**

The Code maintains that persons who possess a Journeyman registration are not licensees and thereby granted exemptions and accommodations in the licensing rules. A full gas work qualification is also not a license and individuals are not authorized to perform fuel gas work in NYC except under the direct and continuing supervision of a NYC licensed Master Plumber. Limited gas work qualifications are valid for five years from the date of issuance and cannot be renewed. The first limited qualifications shall expire in April of 2024.

Executive Director

John F. DeLillo, Jr.

Individuals who do not obtain a full gas work qualification can no longer work on gas piping systems, may face reduced work hours, or be furloughed. The present exam fees and content are posing an impediment to people seeking to obtain this important qualification. This issue requires immediate attention to avoid a shortage of qualified people needed to complete this work.

We propose that the Department utilize the International Code Council's Contractor/Trades examination program to administer this exam. This program is an independent testing program designed to provide licensing agencies with information regarding qualified trade professionals. It provides an independent appraisal of a person's competency, and the test results can be used to satisfy the testing requirements.

Benefits of using ICC to administer the exam:

1. Questions based on essential information a gas installer needs to know to be safe and effective.
2. Lower cost (Exam price is published at +/- \$115.00).
3. Administered by a nationally recognized third party.
4. Computer based exam, available at approved locations and requires pre-authorization to register.
5. Custom built test with a pool of questions to be approved by the Department at no charge.
6. Open book exam (tests knowledge vs memorization).
7. Department will access a portal to confirm the applicant passed the exam.



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The reason for the limited qualification expiration was to prevent anyone from holding back on a person's professional development. The process to achieve the full gas work qualification should not be an impediment. Adoption of this proposal would make this qualification more accessible to NYC residents, minimizes compliance costs for the discrete regulated community and is consistent with achieving the stated purpose of this rule.

3. Add language that used to be in Section 28-401.7 of the Administrative Code regarding commencing the license application process within one year of passing the examination.

The MPC opposes this proposed change as it will conflict with the current language. The current language requires the applicants to furnish all requested forms within one year of the date of the Department's notice of approval. The proposed additional section states the applicant must commence the license application process within one year of passing the examination. The two sections conflict with each other. We propose that the first paragraph be stricken, and the proposed language be adopted with the following changes listed below.

(x) An applicant who passes a required examination must commence the license application process with the department within one year of the Department's notice of approval of passing the examination for licensure. Where both written and practical tests are required, the license application process must commence within one year of passing the practical test.

4. Add language from rule 19-01 requiring licensed master plumbers and licensed master fire suppression piping contractors to have a sign outside their place of business that includes their license number.

The addition of this language would conflict with another section of the Code, no longer serves a purpose and would be inequitable. The MPC opposes the addition of this language.

Section 28-401.18.2 of the NYC Administrative Code requires a licensee to post a photocopy of their license in a conspicuous place near the entrance to the licenses' place of business.

Section 28-401.18 of the NYC Administrative Code requires a licensee to maintain a NYC location where a licensee can be contacted by the public by mail, telephone, electronic mail, or other modes of communication. The terminology being repealed "where customers and salesmen are interviewed" no longer applies in 2023.

During the 2022 Code revision process the Department repealed Article 417 (License Board) and the plates issued to licensed Master Plumbers. The stated reason was that the Department believes that all license types should be treated equally. The inclusion of this extra requirement for licensed Master Plumbers/Master Fire Suppression Piping Contractors and no other licenses would be inequitable.

Depending on how their leases are written, licensees may not be permitted to post a photocopy of their license in a window or hang a sign at their place of business. Failure to comply may lead to the licensee being charged under Section 28-401.19.6 of the NYC Administrative Code. The changes adopted in the 2022 Code to posting requirements, notification requirements and the repeal of the outdated Rule 19-01 are adequate to ensure that licensees are in full compliance.



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Today, the Master Plumbers Council represents over twenty percent of all NYC active licensed Master Plumbers. LMPs' conduct business in a highly regulated trade. The rules governing them must be clear and should not be overly burdensome as this can impede job creation and slow economic growth. This in turn undermines the prosperity and the economic wellbeing of all NYC residents.

Please review our proposed changes and comments. We believe they will accomplish the purpose of the Codes, are not in conflict with other rules, are narrowly drawn to be practical and clearly explains the requirement of the rule.

Regards,
The Master Plumbers Council
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