

State Board of Examiners of Plumbing, Heating and Fire Sprinkler Contractors

July 2020

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State Board of Examiners of Plumbing, Heating, and Fire Sprinkler Contractors

www.nclicensing.org

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COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to affect many aspects of daily life, the Board continues to closely monitor current conditions, State mandates and CDC recommendations. The Board staff continues to work remotely the majority of the time, reporting to the office only when absolutely necessary to ensure that the work of the Board is carried out as efficiently and effectively as possible as we enter the fourth month of the pandemic control measures.

As of July 6, 2020, the following measures are in effect. The Board may end or extend certain items as deemed necessary as we move forward through these unprecedented circumstances.

- A number of fee increases that were proposed and approved prior to the pandemic were scheduled to become effective July 1, 2020; however, the Board has postponed these increases until January 1, 2021; however, the annual license renewal fee increases for 2021 will be effective when the renewal period begins on October 1, 2020.
- Late Renewal Processing Fees are waived beginning on March 10, 2020 through August 1, 2020.
 Refunds have been issued to licensees who paid late fees after March 10, 2020.
- 3. Copies of complaint files will be provided at no cost to homeowners requesting copies for use in small claims court to recover money from unlicensed contractors.
- 4. Licensees required to purchase code books as a condition of a probationary requirements will not have to do so until January, 2021.
- 5. Extensions to the 30-day examination eligibility window will be granted until all restrictions have been removed and PSI scheduling backlog has returned to pre-pandemic levels.

New Licenses Now Available

Beginning July 1, 2020, four new licenses will be available:

- Private Educational Institution Plumbing Technician
- Private Educational Institution Heating Group 1 Technician
- Private Educational Institution Heating Group 2 Technician
- Private Educational Institution Heating Group 3 Technician

The licenses are available (and required) for individuals who perform tasks requiring a license at privately owned educational institutions.

While the licenses are new, the requirement for licensure is not. Any individual who is employed by a private educational institution and engages in activity which requires a license pursuant to G.S. 87-32 is required to hold a license which is listed in the name of the employer. In the past, if a licensed contractor was in this position, placing the license in the name of the private educational instituion would prevent them from contracting any other work, as a license may only be listed and used by a single entity. Not placing the license in the name of the entity is a violation of the law. Many licensees faced a moral, ethical and economic dilemma.

The Board is well aware that there are many maintenance staff employees all across the state who are performing tasks during the course of the workday in violation of these long-standing licensing requirements. The new license classifications provide an opportunity for these entities and their employees to bring themselves into compliance with the law. An individual who currently holds a Class I plumbing and/or heating contractor license may apply for the PEIT license in their respective category, without the need for providing evidence of experience, education, or passing the technical exam. This allows the individual to place their contractor license in a name other than that of the state or local government agency.

An employee of a private educational institution who does not currently hold a license as described above may apply if he/she has 3,000 hours (18 months) of experience in the installation, maintenance, service or repair in the category (plumbing or heating) for which licensure is being sought.

21 NCAC 50 .0314 PRIVATE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION PLUMBING OR HEATING TECHNICIAN

- (a) Applicants for a license as a Private Educational Institution Plumbing or Heating Technician shall obtain a license based on experi ence set forth in Paragraph (c) of this Rule and shall pass the Class I technical and Board laws and rules part of the Board –administered examination described in 21 NCAC 50. 0301 related to the category for which a technician license is sought. The applicant need not pass the business part of the examination.
- (b) Applicants for a license as a Private Educational Institution Plumbing or Heating Technician shall present evidence to establish 3000 hours of experience in the installation, maintenance service or repair of plumbing or heating system related to the category for which a technician license is sought, whether or not a license was required for the work performed.
- (c) Applicants for a license as a Private Educational Institution Technician who currently hold an active plumbing or heating contractor license issued by this Board qualify for the corresponding State and local government technician license without examination.
- (d) Applicants for a license as Private Educational Institution Technician who currently hold an active plumbing or heating technician license obtained by examination and issued by the Board qualify for the Corresponding Private Educational Institution technician license without examination.

21 NCAC 50 .0315 RESPONSIBILITIES OF PRIVATE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION TECHNICIAN LICENSEES

- (a) A licensed Private Educational Institution Technician shall list their license with the Board in the name of the private educational institution by whom the licensee is employed.
- (b) The holder of license as a Private Educational Institution Technician shall be a full-time employee of a private education institution.
- (c) A Private Educational Institution Technician licensee shall ensure that a permit is obtained from the State or local code enforcement official of the jurisdiction where the worksite is located before commencing any work for which a license is required by the Board. The licensee shall also ensure that a request for final inspection of the work for which a license is required is made within 10 days of the earlier of the system being made operational or placed in service, absent agreement with the permitting authority. Absent agreement with the authority having jurisdiction the licensee shall not be relieved of responsibility to the Board to arrange inspection until a certificate of compliance or the equivalent is obtained from the authority having jurisdiction or the licensee has documentary evidence of his effort to obtain the same.
- (d) The failure of a licensee to comply with the permit and inspection obligations outlined in this Rule shall be considered by the Board as evidence of incompetence or misconduct in the use of license from the Board.
- (e) A Private Educational Institution Technician licensee shall be responsible for general supervision to the extent of his or her qualifications, compliance with the codes and standards contained in Rule .0505 of this Chapter, and assurance that permits and inspections are obtained.
- (f) The "general supervision" required by G.S. 87-26 is the degree of supervision necessary and sufficient to ensure that the work is performed in a workmanlike manner and with the requisite skill and that the installation is made in accordance the codes and standards contained in Rule .0505 of this Chapter, manufacturer installation instructions and industry practice. General supervision requires that review of the work done pursuant to the Private Educational Institution Technician license be performed by the Private Educational Institution Technician licensee while the work is in progress.
- (g) In each Private Educational Institution location, branch, or facility of any kind from which work requiring a license pursuant to G.S. 87, Article 2 is carried out there shall be on duty all hours during which the work requiring license is carried out, at least one licen see who holds the appropriate Private Educational Institution Technician license in the classification required for the work being proposed or performed, whose license is listed in the name of the particular Private Educational Institution at that location, and who is engaged in the work of the Private Educational Institution at the institution location or at an institution job site and who has the responsibility to exercise general supervision over the work and who has been empowered to act for the Private Educational Institution, as defined in Rule .0505 of this Chapter, of all work falling within his or her license qualification. Evidence of compliance shall be required as a condition of renewal or retention of license and falsification shall constitute fraud in obtaining license. The standards set forth in Rule .0512 of this Chapter shall be applied.
- (h) An unlicensed person employed by a Private Educational Institution licensed and supervised pursuant to G.S. 87, Article 2 shall not be required to have a license and shall not be subject to an action for injunctive relief brought by the Board if the unlicensed person is a bona-fide employee of the State and local government.
- (i) The annual license fee for a Private Educational Institution Technician license is one hundred fifty dollars (\$150.00), except as provided in Paragraph (j) of this Rule.
- (j) The annual license fee for a Private Educational Institution Technician license that is listed as the second or subsequent licensee at the same agency location is seventy-five dollars (\$75.00).

Disciplinary Classes Affected by COVID-19 Restrictions

Due to the restrictions on group gatherings, all courses that were scheduled for May or June have either been cancelled or rescheduled. Below is a listing of the changes.

This is as of this publication date (July 6, 2020). Please be aware that it may be necessary to make further changes or cancellations depending on future actions by the Governor. Please check the Education tab of our website for the latest

Board Laws & Rules Class — The classes scheduled for May 6th in Raleigh and May 7th in Statesville have been cancelled. Licensees who were required to attend these classes are expected to attend the next available classes on August 19th in Raleigh and August 20th in Statesville,

Special Contractor Business Management Course — The class scheduled for June 24th & 25th has been cancelled. Licensees who were required to attend this course are expected to attend the next available classes on September 23rd & 24th.

Special Fuel Gas Code & Design Courses — Session A, originally scheduled for May 30th, has been rescheduled for August 22nd. Session B has been rescheduled for November 21st. Session C will be offered in early 2021.

Special Plumbing Code & Design Courses — Session A, originally scheduled for May 9th, has been rescheduled for August 8th. Session B has been rescheduled for November 7th. Session C will be offered in early 2021.

Special Mechanical Code Course — Session A, originally scheduled for June 11th, has been rescheduled for September 2nd. Session B has been rescheduled for November 4th Session C will be offered in early 2021.

Special Mechanical Design Course — The class scheduled for June 17th & 18th has been cancelled. Licensees who were required to attend this course are expected to attend the next available classes on September 9th & 10th.

Well Seal Installation, Protection & Sanitation Class



Licensed plumbing contractors who perform, or wish to perform, work involving the installation of well pumps, including breaking the seal and sanitizing the well, must complete the Well Seal Installation, Protection and Sanitation Class in order to be exempt from the Level D Well Certification otherwise required by the North Carolina Well Contractor's Certification Commission.

The 2010 Memorandum of Agreement (click here to read) between the Well Commission and the plumbing contractor's board allows this exemption only if the contractor has completed the course within a two-year period of the well work. Performing work without the certification or a recent class makes the plumbing contractor to disciplinary fines imposed by the Well Commission.

The next class is scheduled for Tuesday, July 21, 2020 at AFTERDISASTER, I3501 Asbery Avenue, Charlotte, NC.

To register for the class, you may do one of the following:

- visit www.phccnc.com and look under the Professional Education tab
- call the PHCCNC office at 919-532-0522



North Carolina State Agencies

NC Department of Insurance		919-647-0000 NC Department of Labor 800-634-7854		919-807-2796
•	Mark Burns	919-647-0006	NC Department of Revenue	919-252-3052
	(Plumbing Interpretations)		NC Electrical Licensing Board	919-733-9042
•	David Rittlinger (Mechanical & & Gas Interpretations)	919-647-0008	NC General Contractor Licensing Board	919-571-4183
•	Dan Dittman (Energy Interpretations)	919-647-0012	NC Irrigation Contractors Licensing Board	919-872-2229
•	Charlie Johnson (Fire Code Interpretations)	919-647-0094	NC Refrigeration Licensing Board	919-779-4711
•	Lori Miller 919-647-0029 (Building Code Bookstore)		NC Secretary of State	919-807-2225
			NC Well Commission	919-707-5882

State Board of Examiners of Plumbing, Heating & Fire Sprinkler

Office Staff Directory

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To view a regional map and listing of counties, please visit our website at www.nclicensing.org and click on the "Administrative Officers" button, or simply click here.

Website Information: www.nclicensing.org (Download Forms)

Online license renewal is available for licensees who wish to use it and pay the renewal fee with a MasterCard or Visa. The online renewal link can be found on the home page of our website. If you do not have your username and password, or have any other questions regarding online renewal, please contact DJ Soltys at 919-875-3612, ext. 203.

You may obtain any of the following forms 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by visiting our website and clicking on the 'Forms' button on the left side of the screen.

Compliant Form

- Complaint against licensed or unlicensed contractors

Change of Address or Status

- I. Address Change: Licensee
- 2. Address Change: Sub-licensee
- 3. Trade Name Change (Licensee or firm name in which business is conducted)
- 4. Add Sub-licensee
- 5. Delete Sub-licensee

Renewal Forms

- I. Renewal Form—2020 without Sublicensees
- 2. Renewal Form—2020 with Sublicensees
- 3. Renewal Form—2020 and Previous Years with or without Sublicensees
- 4. Reinstatement Form 2020 Sub-licensees returning to Contractor status

New Applicant Forms

- 1. Plumbing, Heating, and Fuel Piping Contractor Examination Application
- 2. Restricted Limited Plumbing Contractor Examination Application
- 3. Fire Sprinkler Installation & Inspection Contractor Examination Application
- 4. Residential Fire Sprinkler Installation Contractor
- 5. Plumbing, Heating & Fuel Piping Technician
- 6. State & Local Government Technician Examination Application
- 7. State & Local Government Technician Application (without examination)
- 8. Private Educational Institution Technician Application
- 9. Private Educational Institution Technician Application (without examination)
- 10. Fire Sprinkler Inspection Technician Examination Application
- II. Fire Sprinkler Inspection Technician Application (without examination)
- 12. Fire Sprinkler Maintenance Technician
- 13. Book Reference List for All Applicants
- 14. Request for Exam Review (for examinees who have failed a recent exam)
- 15. Re-examination Application (for examinees who wish to retake an exam)
- 16. Customer Affidavit

Military & Military Spouse Applicant Forms

- I. Active Duty or Veteran: Plumbing, Heating, Fuel Piping and Fire Sprinkler Installation Contractor
- 2. Military Spouse: Plumbing, Heating, Fuel Piping and Fire Sprinkler Installation Contractor

Online Ordering

- I. Books Board's Laws & Rules and Business & Project Management for Contractors
- 2. Request for Copy (Reprint) of License
- 3. Request for Register of Licensees
- 4. Request for Verification of License
- 5. Request for Listing of Current Applicants



Disciplinary Actions

The Board is required by law to investigate every complaint received. If the findings of the investigation indicate that a violation of the laws and rules enforced by the Board have occurred by a licensed or unlicensed individual and/or firm, a number of disciplinary actions are available to the Board. Recent actions are reflected in the four reports that follow:

- Letter of Caution Report
- Consent Agreement Report

- Field Resolution and Resolution Review Committee Report
- Attorney's Report

Letter of Caution Report

Upon completion of investigations, a Letter of Caution can be issued to a licensee where it is determined through an investigation that a violation has occurred by one of our licensees. The Letter of Caution is issued to address and affirm issues they should improve upon or be more mindful of for future jobs:

N ame	City/Town	Date	<u>Name</u>	City/Town	Date
Arnold, Michael W.	Wilmington, NC	03/02/2020	Schoolcraft, Kevin D.	Calypso, NC	03/04/2020
Blue, Steven	Maxton, NC	02/10/2020	Tomlin, Joshua S.	Statesville, NC	02/19/2020
Buchanan, Ronald W.	Morganton, NC	02/21/2020	Webb, Jeffrey S.	Gastonia, NC	02/13/2020

Consent Agreement Report

A Consent Agreement is an affidavit taken from unlicensed individuals performing plumbing, heating and fire sprinkler work without a license. These individuals sign a Consent Agreement stating that they will not perform any work requiring a license until they are properly licensed to do so. If you see these individuals performing contracting activities in the field, please report them to this office.

<u>Name</u>	City/Town	Date	Name	City/Town	Date
Beaver, Lucas J. Beharry, Robert Best, Michael Brown, Keith S. Chatman, Robert Craven, Brian Dixon, Hubert Dohner, Steven R. Finney, Nicky Francis, Jason E. Galloway, Nathan B. Hayes, Andy B. Hazen, Christopher	Morrisville, NC Fayetteville, NC Greenville, NC Gainesville, GA High Point, NC Winston-Salem, NC Greenville, NC Pine Knoll Shores, NC Pinnacle, NC Charlotte, NC Murphy, NC Louisburg, NC Charlotte, NC	04/29/2020 06/02/2020 06/04/2020 05/27/2020 04/21/2020 04/27/2020 06/01/2020 05/06/2020 04/22/2020 05/11/2020 05/19/2020 05/13/2020	Holt, Jeffrey A. Jordan, Jacob J. Lewis Jr., Horace May, Danny L. Moss, Cecil B. Newton, Ted L. Park, James R. Parris, William C. Pearson, Michael L. Poole, Wesley D. Popescu, Andrew R. Sisson, Scott A. Wilson, Anthony	Raleigh, NC Chapel Hill, NC Harrellsville, NC Raleigh, NC Louisburg, NC Denver, NC Hendersonville, NC Canton, NC Ellijay, GA Oakboro, NC Youngsville, NC Gastonia, NC High Point, NC	05/19/2020 05/07/2020 05/20/2020 05/21/2020 05/20/2020 06/11/2020 05/04/2020 04/15/2020 05/19/2020 04/30/2020 04/23/2020 04/30/2020

Resolution Agreements

A Field Resolution Agreement is a voluntary agreement by which a licensee enters into some type of sanctions against their license instead of appearing before the Resolution Review Committee or the Full Board at a formal hearing. All of the Agreements are reviewed by a member of the Resolution Review Committee and then presented to a Board hearing panel for approval prior to the agreement being adopted as a final agency decision. If a complaint has not been resolved in the field through a Field Resolution Agreement, then the case can be referred to the Resolution Review Committee. During the Resolution Review Committee meeting, a licensee can enter into a Review Committee Resolution Agreement in place of appearing before the Board at a formal hearing; the agreement is then presented to a Board hearing panel for approval prior to the agreement being adopted as a final agency decision. Cases that cannot be resolved through the use of Field Resolution Agreements or Review Committee Resolution Agreements are forwarded to formal hearings before the Board. Listed below are the different agreements entered into by the field staff and the Resolution Review Committee that have been approved by the Board. The information below does not contain all of the facts or details of each case. Specific details of any of the following cases can be obtained by e-mail (information@nclicensing.org) or upon written request to the Board's office.

Wesson, Henry D. Two Brothers Utilities, LLC Shelby, NC License# 05489 P-I

Allegations licensee engaged in business under a different name or style of business than appears on his license, and provided a

letter in support of the exam application of Chad Wesson that he was paid in cash and with a form 1099 for licensed plumbing work in violation of GS 87-21 and section .0512 of the Board Laws and Rules for paying Chad Wesson and employees of Two Brothers Utilities, LLC in cash and or with a form 1099.

Note: Due to recent restrictions on the Board staff resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, there is only one Resolution Agreement to report for this period.

Attorney's Report

The Attorney's Report contains information pertaining to cases that have been adjudicated in a formal proceeding of the Board or in the courts of North Carolina. Disciplinary actions against licensed contractors are typically imposed during a Formal Hearing of the Board. Court action is necessary when unlicensed individuals are in violation of the Board's Laws and Rules or in circumstances where licensees are found to be in violation of any order(s) issued by the Board.

Beam, Daniel R. Advance, NC

license. Judgment of Permanent Injunction engaging in business as a plumbing or heating from engaging in business as a plumbing or contractor until properly licensed to do so.

Bridgers, James G. Stantonsburg, NC

do so.

Church, Jeffrey C. Morganton, NC

Allegations of fuel piping contracting without a license. Judgment of Permanent Injunction contractor until properly licensed to do so.

Clewell, Benjamin Charlotte, NC

Allegations of heating contracting without a license. Judgment of Permanent Injunction a valid license. Judgment of Permanent Infiled 5/13/20 enjoining the Defendant from engaging in business as a plumbing or heating contractor until properly licensed to do so.

Gildersleeve, Jake Virginia Beach, VA

Allegations of heating contracting without a license. Judgment of Permanent Injunction filed 4/22/2020 enjoining the Defendant from engaging in business as a plumbing or heating contractor until properly licensed to do so.

Gosline, Jr., William L. Wilmington, NC

heating contractor until properly licensed to forwarded to Judge on 5/27/20. do so.

Guntaka, Mukesh Waxhaw, NC

Allegations of heating contracting without a Allegations of heating contracting without a do so.

Kent, Phillip D. Candler, NC

Allegations of heating contracting without a Allegations of fuel piping contracting without valid license. Judgment of Permanent Injunc- a valid license. Judgment of Permanent Intion filed 5/6/20 enjoining the Defendant junction filed 3/30/20 enjoining the Defendfrom engaging in business as a plumbing or ant from engaging in business as a plumbing heating contractor until properly licensed to or heating contractor until properly licensed to do so.

Kiser, Maxwell Pinebluff, NC

Allegations of heating contracting without a valid license. Judgment of Permanent Injuncfiled 5/13/20 enjoining the Defendant from tion filed 5/20/20 enjoining the Defendant tion filed 4/22/2020 enjoining the Defendant engaging in business as a plumbing or heating from engaging in business as a plumbing or do so.

Lockwood, Frank P. Aurora, NC

Allegations of fuel piping contracting without junction filed 4/29/2020 enjoining the Defendant from engaging in business as a plumbing or heating contractor until properly licensed to do so.

McCall, Van T. Indian Trail, NC

Allegations of heating contracting without a valid license in violation of prior Judgment of Permanent Injunction. Proposed Motion & Order to Show Cause forwarded to Judge on 10/11/19 requesting hearing for 2/17/20. Notice of Hearing to Show Cause forwarded to Clerk on 10/24/19. Defendant served 10/28/19. Show Cause hearing continued until March 2, 2020. Order of Contempt filed Allegations of plumbing contracting without a 3/2/20 ordering a 30 day suspended sentence valid license. Judgment of Permanent Injunc- and to pay restitution in the amount of tion filed 5/6/20 enjoining the Defendant \$1,000 to the homeowner within 60 days of from engaging in business as a plumbing or the entry of the Order. Proposed Order

Mode, Donald Shelby, NC

Allegations of fire sprinkler contracting withlicense. Judgment of Permanent Injunction out a valid license. Judgment of Permanent filed 5/6/20 enjoining the Defendant from filed 4/22/2020 enjoining the Defendant Injunction filed 4/22/2020 enjoining the Defendant from engaging in business as a plumbheating contractor until properly licensed to ing or heating contractor until properly licensed to do so.

Oromond Jr., Jay L. Newport, NC

Allegations of plumbing contracting without a valid license. Judgment of Permanent Injunction filed 4/22/2020 enjoining the Defendant from engaging in business as a plumbing or heating contractor until properly licensed to do so.

Schwartz, Adam E. **Boiling Springs, SC**

Allegations of plumbing contracting without a valid license. Judgment of Permanent Injuncfrom engaging in business as a plumbing or heating contractor until properly licensed to heating contractor until properly licensed to do so.

Schwartz, Eric R. Landrum, SC

Allegations of plumbing contracting without a valid license. Judgment of Permanent Injunction filed 4/22/2020 enjoining the Defendant from engaging in business as a plumbing or heating contractor until properly licensed to do so.

Taylor, Joshua Fayetteville, NC

Allegations of heating contracting without a valid license. Judgment of Permanent Injunction filed 3/5/20 enjoining the Defendant from engaging in business as a plumbing or heating contractor until properly licensed to

Vargas, Almengor Mills River, NC

Allegations of plumbing contracting without a license. Judgment of Permanent filed 4/22/2020 enjoining the Injunction Defendant from engaging in business as a plumbing or heating contractor until properly licensed to do so.