

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

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S.C. Williford, Chairman

J.G. Peace, H. Singh, N.J. Whitaker, R.J. Long, J.L. Harrison, Jr., Susan Lee

January 2000



2000—a great time to be alive

Inside this issue:

The Board and staff all wish you a Happy New Year. We hope this next year will be a great year for all of you.

Right now we are in the middle of renewals and very busy. As a reminder you are required by law to renew every year by December 31st or not use your license. Your license will be listed as expired in our computer system if you do not renew for the year. You are required by law to renew whether you receive a written notice or not—even if your renewal notice somehow didn't track you down. If you were not at the last address you gave us in writing, the postmaster would have mailed it back to us.

If you do not have your renewal notice you can write your name, address, license number, business name if applicable and sign it. Include the same fee as last year if **no changes** have been made. If changes have been made call the office for directions. (919)875-3612. Important - We have a tremendous backlog of renewals we are processing. If you sent it in and have not received your license back be patient. There are over fifteen thousand licenses being renewed and many licensees waited to mail their renewal forms in. If you have a problem with an inspection department have them call us. Before you call verify your check has been deposited.

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Child Support Through Payroll Deductions

As employers you may be required to deduct court ordered child support payments, from an employee's wages or salary. This evolved into a somewhat burdensome process for employers who were required to make payments to various Clerks of Courts throughout the state. The North Carolina General Assembly has recently revised this system to simplify the process for everyone. Since October 1, 1999 all child support payments in North Carolina have been

collected at one central location – the NC Child Support Centralized Collections. This new system is designed to simplifying the process, improving the speed and accuracy of child support collections and distribution. This change will benefit employers who in the past may have had to mail checks to various Clerks of Court. All employers who deduct child support payments must now forward the payment to the following address: NC Child Support Centralized Collections,

P.O. Box 90012, Raleigh, North Carolina 27675-9012. The Clerks of Superior Court will not accept any payments sent after 24 September 1999 and may return the payment to the sender. If you have any questions regarding Centralized Collections, please feel free to call: 1-800-531-1818. You can also contact your local child welfare agency for further information.



REMEMBER:

- ▶ Get permits before you start work
- ▶ Make sure estimates and contracts are in writing
- ▶ Get to know your building inspectors before you have a problem

SUMMARY OF FORMAL PROCEEDINGS

BOWDEN, JAMES HAYWOOD

Greensboro, NC

Heating contracting without a license in violation of prior Court order. Order of Contempt entered by the Court on 9/13/99 finding the Defendant in contempt of the prior order of the court and sentencing him to be confined to the Guilford County jail for a 30 day period for each violation and stayed for 3 years with provision that Defendant pay a fine in the amount of \$1,500.00 plus outstanding costs to the Clerk of Guilford County Superior Court by September 3, 1999. (Defendant has NOT paid as of 9/29/99).

COMMANDER, JAMES

Jarvisburg, NC

License No. 14413 PH-3-II

Allegations of probation violation in that Respondent failed to abide by the terms of the prior order of the Board. Formal hearing held 3/10/99.

Order entered by the Board 4/2/99 suspending the license of Respondent as a plumbing and heating, Group 3, Class II contractor for a period of 1 year. Respondent requested reinstatement of license.

Hearing held 8/10/99.

Order entered by the Board on 9/1/99 reinstating the license of Respondent as a plumbing and heating contractor subject to the express condition that on or before 5/1/2000 Respondent must comply with the terms of the original probation order entered on 6/9/98 for the period 6/9/98 and 5/2/99 providing that Respondent produce copies of written contracts; obtain permits as required prior to commencement of work; maintain and produce copies of job files and service logs and commit no violation of Article 2, Chapter 87 or the Rules of the Board. License of Respondent as a plumbing and heating contractor will be revoked if the terms of this order are not met by 5/1/2000.

WOOD, THOMAS BRANSON

Comfort Zone Services, Inc.

Canton, NC

License #17740 H-1&3-I

Allegations of misconduct in the

business of heating contracting in that Respondent installed an inadequate duct system; failed to properly seal ductwork; connected the condensate pump drain to the plumbing system through a direct connection rather than through an indirect connection; installed a "P" trap into the plumbing system although Respondents do not hold a plumbing license from this Board; failed to seal the filter access area; failed to install a track for the filter; failed to properly insulate the two new supplies in the great room; failed to convert orifices from natural gas to propane; failed to design the system properly, installing a 120,000 BTU system for a 1800 sq. ft. residence; failed to make the necessary corrections until after contact by the local code enforcement official and commencement of the Board's investigation; failed to obtain permits; failed to leave installation instructions at the location of the installation; failed to install a draft regulator; failed to install piping with the required 1/4" rise per foot along the entire length of the flue pipe; failed to connect all safety switches; and, installed the vent within 1/2" of combustible material. Final Order entered on 8/10/99 placing the license of Respondent on probation for 6 months with provisions that Respondent have written contracts; maintain service logs, maintain job files, obtain permits as required prior to commencement of work; submit quarterly reports documenting his compliance with the provisions of the probation order for review by the staff of the Board, maintain records detailing and documenting his compliance with the provisions of this probation order and commit no violation of Article 2, Chapter 87 or the Rules of the Board.

WORKMAN, JOHN

Workman & Sons Plumbing

Ashland, KY

Allegations of plumbing contracting without a license.

Complaint filed with the Court.

Permanent injunction entered 8/26/99 enjoining Defendant from engaging in business as a plumbing, heating or fire sprinkler contractor.

Board Considers Changes in Rules

The Board will conduct a public hearing on February 8, 2000, beginning at 8:30 a.m. in the McKimmon Center on Western Boulevard, Raleigh, NC. The purpose of the hearing will be to receive public comment as to whether or not the Board should add to or change its rules relative to a number of issues. Among the matters to be considered are the following:

- Creation of a Limited License for installation of hot water heaters, together with elimination of the rule allowing certain hot water heaters to be installed without license.
- Creation of a Limited License for installation of backflow prevention devices, a matter of interest primarily to irrigation contractors and possibly installers of water filtration equipment.
- Whether or not to implement a program of regular examinations on dates and at places other than the current April and October Raleigh Schedule.
- Modification of rules relative to active involvement of licensee and the business so as to require the licensee for the firm to be physically present at the business location or on a firm job site 1500 hours annually.
- Detailing of rules with respect to what constitutes a bona fide employee working under the license of another ---- for example, W-2 Forms, inclusion on the licensees' payroll, control over the method and manner of work and obligation to the property owner or general contractor.
- Adoption of a rule requiring the display of license numbers on yellow page advertising, firm contracts, proposals or permit applications.
- Clarification of the responsibility of licensee to arrange inspection and obtain a Certificate of Occupancy or Certificate of Compliance.
- Clarification of Board rules relative to the requirement of H-2 license for installation of multiple units aggregating more than fifteen tons serving interconnected space.
- Clarification of Board Rules respecting the Administrative Hearing Procedures.
- Changes in exam application fees.

The text of the current working draft of possible rules on the foregoing will be published in the North Carolina Register and is available through the Board office. Comment in writing may be provided to the Board on or before February 14, 2000. Persons desiring to speak at the public hearing on February 8 are requested to notify the Board office on or before February 7, 2000.



Pass/Fail October 1999 Exam Results

Plumbing, Class I

332 took exam
144 passed
188 failed

Plumbing, Class II

98 took exam
26 passed
72 failed

Heating, Group 1, Class I

56 took exam
30 passed
26 failed

Heating, Group 2

49 took exam
35 passed
14 failed

Heating, Group 3, Class I

307 took exam
139 passed
168 failed

Heating, Group 3, Class II

50 took exam
20 passed
30 failed

Fuel Piping

33 took exam
24 passed
12 failed

Seminars 2000

DATES FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION

January

Date	County / Counties	Field rep	Location	Time
1/13/00	Stanley	Wayne	Stanley County Agri-Civic Center	7:00-9:00pm
1/17/00	Catawba, Alexander	Dale	Catawba Valley Community College	6:00-8:00pm
1/18/00	Buncombe, Madison	Dale	Ashville-Buncombe Community College	6:00-8:00pm
1/18/00	Randolph	Wayne	Randolph Community College	7:00-9:00pm
1/19/00	Buncombe, Madison	Dale	Ashville-Buncombe Community College	6:00-8:00pm
1/20/00	Harnett	Wayne	Harnett County Administration Office	7:00-9:00pm
1/20/00	Burke, McDowell	Dale	Western Piedmont Community College	6:00-8:00pm
1/24/00	Chatham	Wayne	Cooperative Extension Building	7:00-9:00pm
1/25/00	Guilford (plumbing)	Wayne	Guilford Technical Community College	7:00-9:00pm
1/25/00	Cleveland	Dale	Cleveland Community College	6:00-9:00pm
1/27/00	Guilford (heating)	Wayne	Guilford Technical Community College	7:00-9:00pm

February

2/7/00	Lumberton, Robeson	Wayne	Lumberton Recreation Dept.	7:00-9:00pm
2/22/00	Caldwell	Dale	Caldwell Inspection Office	6:00-8:00pm

March

3/7/00	Forsyth	Wayne	to be announced	7:00-9:00pm
3/14/00	Forsyth	Wayne	to be announced	7:00-9:00pm
3/15/00	Franklin	Wayne	Franklin Co. Administration Bldg.	7:00-9:00pm
3/23/00	Alamance	Wayne	to be announced	7:00-9:00pm
3/28/00	Johnson	Wayne	Agricultural Ext. Auditorium	7:00-9:00pm

Bill Tomlinson celebrated his 25th year with the Board in 1999. His expertise is invaluable to the Board and he acts as both Director of Education and Senior Field Representative.

Continuing Education – Bill Tomlinson

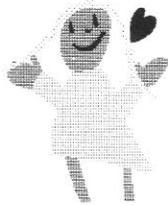
**Get a certificate
for attending your
class!**

As you read this, the Board's staff will have conducted 51 educational seminars, contacted 9018 licensees and has addressed over 4000 attendees. Valuable information has been relayed and received from those who attended the seminars. Additional seminars will be held in January, February and March.

The results of many one on one conversations with our licensees has been positive. On the other hand, the Board is quite alarmed at the high number of licensees who failed to attend the seminars for whatever reason. At this time, the

Board is studying the results of the seminars held and the future of education as a license requirement. Seminars for the year 2000 are presently being reviewed and the results of that study will be made available soon.

We thank the licensees who attended the Continuing Education Seminars for making the seminars successful.



GOOD GUYS IN ACTION!!

This column is going to be devoted to those of you out there that are going the extra mile to help others. Please send me items to mention.

**

Accolades go out to the North Carolina Plumbing Heating Cooling Contractors and the NCPHCC Auxiliary for their quick response to a plea from our staff for help after Hurricane Floyd. Will Enecks our eastern field representative shared a story from school staff at Pitt Elementary School in the flood zone. Many of the children had lost everything including their most prized personal possessions. One of

the children had stated that he had seen his teddy bear float away in the storm.

I'm proud to report that your Board staff started a drive to provide toys and necessities to the children. They had met with somewhat minor success when the NCPHCC and the NCPHCC auxiliary jumped in and made the day...we were able to send thousands of dollars in valuable beanie babies, stuffed toys, money and handmade Christmas stocking with many items stuffed inside.

Now that the holidays are over, please don't forget that the folks in the flood areas still need our help.

EXAM APPLICATIONS

Applications are currently being mailed. ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE IN THE BOARD OFFICE BY FEBRUARY 1, 2000 FOR THE APRIL 3RD AND 4TH EXAMS. The application form has changed please read carefully, complete accurately, sign and have notarized.

**Giving back to
your community is
important.**

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

The Board's rule, 21 NCAC 50.0408 (c) reads as follows:

- (C) The licensee shall notify the Board of any change in location or mailing address from that shown on the last license renewal invoice within 30 days after the change takes place.

The above rule requires you to notify the Board of a change of address within 30 days after the change takes place. Compliance with this rule benefits you and the Board. The Board is able to keep its records up to date if you notify the office of an address change. The Board is also able to keep you up to date if it has your correct address. Through the newsletter, the Board notifies you of new requirements for licensed contractors, code amendments, educational opportunities, public rule hearings that may affect you, and much more. The newsletter will not get to you if the Board does not have your correct address. The Board notifies you when your license is going to expire and sends you an invoice. This invoice will not get to you if the Board does not have your correct address.

Remember to notify the Board when you move. You may be missing out on some valuable information, if you do not.

North Carolina

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Exam applications are currently being mailed out. All requests for applications must be in writing.

2000 Hearing Dates

January 12, 2000	February 9, 2000	March 7, 2000
April 11, 2000	May 9, 2000	June 13, 2000
July 11, 2000	August 8, 2000	September 12, 2000
October 10, 2000	November 7, 2000	December 12, 2000

(Summary Hearings would be held the day after each of the above)

Business Meeting Dates

February 9, 2000 (Same day as Hearings)
April 3, 2000 (1st day of April Examinations)
June 13, 2000 (Same day as Hearings)
August 16, 2000 (Same date as Exam Review)
October 9, 2000
December 12, 2000 (Same day as Hearings)

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