



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

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J. L. Harrison, Jr., Chairman  
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### PROPOSED CHANGES IN BOARD RULES

Sandi O'Brien, Executive Director

In the last newsletter we covered new rules that were applicable to Limited Fire Sprinkler licensing. This time the rules mentioned are related to all our licenses.

- 21 NCAC 50.0308 This rule gives further clarification to the applicant that fails an exam three times. It reduces the additional hours needed prior to sitting for the exam again from fifty contact hours to 32 hours.
- 21 NCAC 50.0402 Has language that makes it even clearer that you cannot allow your license number to be used by anyone other than yourself and that you hold an executed contract with the property owner. *Letting someone else use your license is considered "license selling" and could result in you losing your license.*
- 21 NCAC 50.0404 This section stated that you had to be at your business either in the field or office at least 1500 hours annually. It now includes the language or all hours during which the activities described herein are carried out. *This means that if work is being done under your license qualification you have to be at work.*
- 21 NCAC 50.0405 You can only qualify your primary business location. You can only be listed on one license at a time. In other words you can't list your plumbing for one business and HVAC for another. The only exception is the new Fire Sprinkler maintenance license and that a new qualification may be

listed separately in the name of the employer. It can only be used onsite for the business listed.

- 21 NCAC 50.0406 You have had to put your license number on contracts for some time. Now you also have to have it on proposals and bids. To assume the work on a job when someone else pulled the permit you must provide written notice along with the approval of the property owner and local inspection department.
- 21 NCAC 50.0408 You cannot use a name for a business that is substantially similar to a name that is already in use. You can't steal some one's name trying to use their business reputation to get business.
- 21 NCAC 50.0409 If you have not kept your license current, in addition to having to pay fees for past years you will also have to have evidence of continuing education for each prior year. *Remember—we do not have an inactive status so during the time your license is expired you are risking losing your license if you fail to reinstate in time. You cannot use your license while it is expired and you are treated just like any other unlicensed person.*
- 21 NCAC 50.0413 Defines proposal or bid, which refers to a firm offer or commitment to perform work and which becomes a contract upon acceptance but does not include a non-binding estimate.

Rules continued on page 2

#### Inside this issue:

Proposed Changes In Board Rules	1-2
New Flash	2
Board Holiday Closing Schedule	2
John A. Ward, Jr.	3

2003  
*Four of*  
NC Code  
CE Hours

#### TAKE NOTE:

- ♦ You must have 4 of your 6 CE hours in Board approved classes dealing with NC Code by 12/31/2003.
- ♦ Check your CE hours online by clicking "CE hours" at [www.nclicensing.org](http://www.nclicensing.org)

**Remember, You Can Not Renew Your License Without Completing Your Required Continuing Education Hours.**

- 21 NCAC 50.0502 In a joint venture both the bid or proposal must have the name and license number of all the participants and bids must have the same information on the outside of the envelope.
- 21 NCAC 50.0505 Both the new maintenance and inspection licensees must be present when any work is carried out.
- 21 NCAC 50.0513 Limited Fire Sprinkler Technician License (see last issue)
- 21 NCAC 50.0514 Limited Fire Sprinkler Inspector Contractor license (see last issue)
- 21 NCAC 50.0515 Limited Fire Sprinkler Maintenance License (see last issue)
- 21 NCAC 50.1006 Clarifies how the new Resolutions Conferences will be held. Gives licensee 30 days to decide if they want to go before the full Board instead of accepting the agreement. The Board has the authority to accept or deny any agreement between the licensee and the Resolution Committee.
- 21 NCAC 50.1014 Sets up pre-hearing conferences with the licensee or their counsel and the Board's attorney 15 days before formal hearings. Subpoenas can now be sent by mail, facsimile or e-mail.
- 21 NCAC 50.1101 Examination Fees - Raises the fee to take the exam to a total of \$125.00 with the application being \$25.00 and the exam \$100.00. If you take the exam after Nov. 1st each year you can choose to obtain your license for the following year.
- 21 NCAC 50.1102 License Fees—The annual license fee for all the licenses becomes \$125.00. The application fee for a license that is not obtained by an exam conducted by the Board is \$25.00. A sub-license is \$25.00.
- 21 NCAC 50.1104—We now have a Business and Projects Management Book that cost \$40.00. This book is great to run your business and the business exam questions are from this book.



## **NEWS FLASH**

### **RENEWAL NOTICES WILL BE MAILED MID TO LATE NOVEMBER**

Help your Board staff in the renewal process by following a few tips.

- Be sure you have updated the Board with your current mailing address.
- Do not wait until the last minute to renew, as this will delay the processing of your renewal.
- Please do not call the office to ask that your renewal be expedited; renewal applications will be processed in the order that they are received.
- Please do not call the office to ask if your renewal and fee has been received. Staff cannot stop the license renewal process and search for an application to see if it was received. This greatly slows down the process.
- Read all instructions and fill out your renewal form completely. This will ensure faster completion by our staff.
- Continuing Education (CE) hours must be completed to renew license for 2004. The **only exceptions** are licensees who received their license in 2003 (including Fire Sprinkler Maintenance licensees), NICET, and Inspector licensees.
- Master license holders need to verify that their sub-licensees have completed CE requirements in order to renew license.
- Unlimited fire sprinkler contractors are to send a copy of their NICET certificate with renewal form.
- Inspectors are to send a copy of their current inspector card(s) with renewal form.

### **BOARD HOLIDAY CLOSING SCHEDULE**

November 27th & 28th, 2003  
December 24th, 25th, & 26th

## **John A. Ward Jr.**

August 23, 1920—October 18, 2003

By Bill Tomlinson

On Saturday, October 18, 2003, the Plumbing, Heating, Air Conditioning, and Fire Sprinkler Contractors of this state lost one of their greatest supporters and champion of contractors in the passing of John A. Ward, Jr. Mr. Ward achieved success as a contractor through hard work, honesty and his uncanny ability to converse with all people, regardless of their station. His understanding of things going on about him and his never give up attitude was hammered into him as a child raised in Williamston, NC.

Being rejected several times by the Army during WWII because of the loss of one eye in childhood, Mr. Ward had his congressman to write the President to get him into the service. He served from 1943 until the end of the War as a MP first in the United States and then with a M.A.S.H. unit in Southern France.

After the war, Mr. Ward entered North Carolina State University and graduated with an Engineering degree with the Class of 1950. He then served as a sales associate for Public Service Company, a Natural Gas distributor until around 1960. Mr. Ward left to enter the warm air contracting business around that same time. In 1971 Mr. Ward formed WATCO Corporation in Raleigh, NC, along with Charles Truelove and Tom Arnold, where he and his partners labored successfully until his retirement.

Mr. Ward's interests in contracting and the state association carried him from serving at a state level to the National Plumbing, Heating, Cooling Contractors Association where he was National President.

In 1990 John Ward was appointed by then Governor Jim Martin to the State Board where he served until 1997. During Mr. Ward's time on the Board he served as Secretary/Treasurer and Vice-Chairman and was instrumental in implementing the disciplinary program by serving as the Trial Officer for several years.

In April of 2001, Board Chairman Norman Whitaker appointed Mr. Ward to chair a feasibility study regarding the Board ability to purchase and own real property in lieu of leasing as had been done since 1931. As a result he then chaired a committee to locate and present a plan to purchase or build a building. The Board's pre-

sent location is the results of his labor.

Many of you who took your exam in Raleigh may remember the tall man about 6'4" with the flat top who helped to administer exams. Others may remember Mr. Ward as the Boards trial officer handling complaints by reviewing problems with contractors. Regardless of what circumstance you may have encountered with Mr. Ward, you never forgot him.

He was the kind of person who did for others and never sought a reward or recognition. His belief in giving your all to any task undertaken can be seen everywhere in his life. Mr. Ward was truly an inspiring man and he will be missed. You can only repay his support and numerous kindnesses that have influenced so many of our lives by being more giving of time and money to causes for the good of man or our industry.

As you have read this article, I hope you have come to feel that you that you too can make a difference in your community and your trade.

### **My Thoughts of John Ward**

I too wanted to take a moment to reflect on John Ward. I considered him a friend and yet I never called him John always Mr. Ward. It was out of respect for his wisdom and all he had accomplished. Mr. Ward came to see me shortly after I started at the Board in May of 1999. From that time on I frequently sought his advice and input on issues that came before me. He taught me many things about strength of character and trudging forward in life no matter what it held for you. For a long time until he became sick and after for a while he came by monthly and offered support to me and the other staff for what he called an important job. I learned that his advice was right on the mark and I learned that under the brusque exterior was a man with a heart of gold. I admired him and realized when he died that I had lost a hero. It is a hard loss to accept but I do what Mr. Ward would have wanted – I just keep going and do the right thing because that is what counts in life. Doing the right thing.

Sandi O'Brien  
Executive Director

## **DON'T FORGET !**

**All Licenses Expire at the  
end of the last business  
day of the year.**

**December 31, 2003**

**No Renewal—No License—No Work**

### **ATTENTION**

**Each licensee is to take 4 of their  
6 CE hours for 2004 renewal in  
N. C. Code changes & amendments classes**

### **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.

**Changes must be in writing with your signature.**

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**STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS OF  
PLUMBING, HEATING & FIRE  
SPRINKLER CONTRACTORS  
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