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To: All Massachusetts Building Inspectors

From: Board of Sheet Metal Examiners

Re: 271 CMR

- As of February 19, 2011 all individuals including apprentices performing sheet metal work as defined in 271 CMR must hold a sheet metal license.
- As of February 19, 2011 sheet metal permits shall be issued and inspections shall be performed.
- If any city or town needs to postpone issuing permits beyond February 19, 2011 a request should be issued in writing to the Board by February 14, 2011. This request should state the hardship requiring the extension and the method for which the city or town will ensure that unlicensed sheet metal workers are not performing work within that city or town.
- Sheet metal work includes the fabrication and installation of ventilation systems and associated air handling equipment as well as commercial/industrial metal roofing systems – see attached Board definition.
- The testing and balancing of ventilation systems must also be performed by a licensed sheet metal worker – HERS raters will be allowed to pressure test dwellings and duct systems without a license for validation of compliance with energy rebate programs only.
- The Board has adopted a “minor alterations” policy for residential furnace change-outs that would eliminate the need for a sheet metal permit – see attached “minor alterations policy”
- The Board has also adopted a “minor alterations” policy and clarifications for residential kitchen and exhaust fan requirements – see attached.
- All licenses issued during the grandfathering period are “unrestricted” which allows licensees to perform all levels of sheet metal work – although the 271 CMR states that “no sheet metal worker shall perform tasks or enter into a contract for work that is beyond the individual’s or organization’s competence”.
- As of February 19, 2011 we will offer two levels of licensure – “Restricted” and “Unrestricted”



- Restricted licensees can perform work in residential dwellings up to 3-stories in height and non-residential projects 10,000 square feet or less located within non-residential buildings 2-stories or less – these projects allow apprentice-to-journeyman ratios no greater than 1:1.
- As of February 19, 2011 “unrestricted” licenses are required for residential projects greater than 3-stories and non-residential projects greater than 10,000 square feet – these projects allow 1:1 apprentice-to-journeyman ratios for the first (4) employees on the project after which the higher ratio of 3-journeymen for each additional apprentice is required – see 271 CMR 5.02(2)(f) for additional information.
- Licensees that disagree with an interpretation of a local inspector may seek an advisory opinion from the Sheet Metal Board or designated Board staff - Appeals before the Board must be issued in writing within 10-days.
- Complaints regarding licensees shall be filed with our Division of Investigations, please contact the Board for additional information – 617-727-3022.
- 271CMR specifically recognizes the 2009 International Mechanical Code and the following sections of the 7th edition building code:
 1. 780 CMR 12.00: Interior Environments
 2. 780 CMR 13.00: Energy Conservation
 3. 780 CMR 15.00: Roof Assemblies and Roof Top Structures
 4. 780 CMR 58.00: Roof-Ceiling Construction
 5. 780 CMR 59.00: Roof Assemblies
 6. 780 CMR 60.00: Chimneys, fireplaces and Solid Fuel Burning
 7. 780 CMR 61.00: Energy Efficiency
 8. 780 CMR 62.00: Mechanical Administration
 9. 780 CMR 63.00: General Mechanical System Requirements
 10. 780 CMR 64.00: Heating and Cooling Equipment
 11. 780 CMR 65.00: Exhaust Systems
 12. 780 CMR 66.00: Duct Systems
 13. 780 CMR 67.00: Combustion Air
 14. 780 CMR 68.00: Chimneys and Vents
- Based on the complexity of the project, sketches, load and duct sizing calculations or engineered construction documents shall be submitted with the permit application at the discretion of the Building Inspector.