



2016 RULE CHANGE REMINDERS

- Effective October 1, 2016, ALL companies will be required to complete an annual registration with the Board between October 1 and December 31, in compliance with Alabama Admin. Code r. 720-x-17-.01. Annual registrations will be available online beginning October 1. Instructions will be made available at that time.
- Prorated amounts for the first year fees after July 1 of the calendar year, as outlined in r. 720-x-10-.01, will be as follows: \$12 for Apprentice, \$25 for Journeyman Plumber or Gas Fitter, and \$75 for Master Plumber or Gas Fitter. This applies only to new apprentices and those who pass a journeyman or master exam.

BOARD MEMBERS & OFFICE STAFF

Charles Owenby, Chairman

Henry McCoy Jr., Vice Chairman

Bryan Shuford, Recording Secretary

John Bimbo

Bobby Bulloch

P.E. Pilgreen

Janice Warren

David Wilcox, Executive Director

Joy Whatley, Deputy Attorney General

Kimberly Holifield, Executive Assistant III

Crystal Harrell, Accounting Technician

Kristin Ivy, Executive Secretary

Sheree Dunn, ASA II

Austin Till, Laborer

Don't Miss the Deadline!!!

2017 Renewal Season begins October 1, 2016, and runs through December 31, 2016

Please remember to send in your renewal during this time to avoid a late penalty. We accept checks, money orders, cash, or credit cards. Online renewals will also be available during this time.

If you DID NOT previously complete a Verification of U. S. Citizenship Form, you must submit this form to renew for 2017. If you have not submitted this form, you will not be allowed to renew your certification. This form can be found on our website.

BOARD DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

Number of cases October 2015 – August 2016

Certified Contractor cases:	110
Uncertified Contractor cases:	30
Consumer Complaints Addressed:	15



Common Notices of Violation among Certified Contractors:

720-x-11-.01 (Responsibility of a Master – No supervision on job site):	63
720-x-12-.01 (Responsibility of a Master Plumber – Working uncertified individuals):	73
720-x-13-.01 (Responsibility of a Master Gas Fitter – Working uncertified individuals):	8
34-37-6(a) (Performing/Proposing to perform without proper certification):	85
34-37-6(c) (Business name not properly displayed on vehicle):	34

Please note that these numbers are intended to provide an idea of what type violations our compliance officers are finding during routine job sites inspections or when a consumer complaint is received by the Board. The number of violations per each case file can be different for each case.

In addition to law changes in September 2015, the Board certified several rule changes this year. As always, please remember to visit our website frequently to stay up-to-date on all current state law and administrative rule requirements.



REVIEW OF 2015 LAW CHANGES EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1, 2015

During the 2015 Legislative Session, sweeping changes were made to the laws governing the practice of plumbing and gas fitting in the State of Alabama. It is very important that individuals certified by this board to practice in the State of Alabama not only be aware of all the laws and regulations governing their profession, but to keep informed when changes are made that might affect the day-to-day functions of their business.

The following is a few of the key changes for 2015 that you need to be aware of. Please check the Board's website for complete information concerning all the changes which became effective September 1, 2015.

Section 34-37-1 Definitions- Many subsections of this law were added or refined to better reflect the operations of the Board.

Section 34-37-13 – This section was eliminated because the bond requirement was cumbersome for contractors. The bond was initially established for consumer protection; however, the Board has opted to handle consumer complaints through administrative procedures outlined in Section 34-37-15.

Section 34-37-6(c) – requires business names on all service and construction vehicles in order to easily identify certified contractors and ensure consumer protection.

Section 34-37-6(b) – requires all companies to be registered with the Board. This also brings these companies under the jurisdiction of the Board with regards to disciplinary actions for violations of any Board law or Rule.

Educational Update

By: Phillip Till

Classes:

Since January 2016, educational activities by the Plumbers & Gas Fitters Board have grown tremendously. 42 plumbing and gas fitting classes have been open to the public. Classes have been offered in Birmingham, Dothan, Prattville, Huntsville, Auburn, Mobile, Bay-Minette and Shelby County. This has resulted in over 500 people receiving plumbing and gas training.

We designed and developed a class to participate in the Girls Can Camp at the technical school in Shelby County where we trained 15 girls in plastic water piping techniques.

We also taught common code violations to over 100 participants in Auburn at (AAPGMI).



Phillip Till teaching a plumbing class



Plumbing class at Park Supply in Huntsville

Testing:

PSI, our testing agency, has informed us that they will have the *updated exam* on the 2015 code ready for our plumbers and gas fitters on October 1, 2016.

The code review classes will change to the 2015 codes in October as well.

For information on after hours training, please visit our website at www.pgfb.alabama.gov under "Education".

Educational Update (continued) By: Phillip Till

Update on High School Programs:

The high school program in Huntsville, which was established last fall, has had tremendous support from industry. The shop and class room area in this program is state-of-the-art to teach students. The school employed **Mr. Donnie Dean** who is a well known **Master Plumber & Gas Fitter** in the area. The enrollment for this fall is 14. It would appear that this program should serve Madison County and the surrounding area very well for years to come.

The new program coming on line in Shelby County this fall (right now), will also serve companies throughout the state for years to come. Mr. Wrendon Davis, owner of Davis Plumbing is currently working with industry in the area to outfit the program with tools and equipment. The school system has ordered books and supplies. This program, as well as Madison County, will use the NCCER curriculum. **Mr. Rex Horton** who is also a **MPG** will be the instructor. They currently have 7 students enrolled in the program. Through the request of the school and industry, I will meet with Mr. Horton in the weeks to come to assist him with teaching activities and ideas for the program.

These programs are funded by industry through the State of Alabama Homebuilders Association 501(c)(3) education fund.



Presentation of a \$10,000 check to the high school plumbing program in Madison County.

Night Programs:

There are ongoing discussions with colleges in Huntsville area concerning night programs. This program would start off as a non-credit course for the people wanting to enhance their plumbing and gas fitting knowledge and skills. The 144 contact hours to be offered could also enable them to test early for those who participate.

We're
on
the
Web!!



**STATE OF ALABAMA
PLUMBERS & GAS FITTERS
EXAMINING BOARD**

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THANK YOU CERTIFIED CONTRACTORS

The Board appreciates the hard working certified contractors who are determined to deliver quality services to Alabama's consumers. These contractors spend a lot of time and money to meet the requirements necessary to maintain their certifications while unscrupulous contractors attempt to take business from the certified contractor by lowering prices and doing substandard work.

The Board often receives calls from certified contractors who are discouraged by the continued presence of uncertified contractors working without obtaining the proper certification.

The Board's officers attempt to find as many of these uncertified contractors as possible, however, when you see or know of a possible uncertified contractor working in your area, please notify the Board in order for our officers to check on the validity of these contractors.

Thank
you