

September 2022



## **SEE INSIDE FOR 2023** **RENEWAL INFO!**

# **IMPORTANT REMINDERS**

- Beginning January 1, 2022, all business are required to not only renew annually, but also pay an annual renewal fee. Please be sure to update your business information during this renewal season in order to avoid additional penalties and fees. If you have not renewed your business registration for 2022, it will cost \$50 to get it current regardless of what year your registration expired (\$25 registration fee + \$25 late renewal fee for not obtaining 2022 certification before 1/2/2022). Additionally, it will cost \$25 to renew for a 2023 registration.
- If you apply for a new license prior to December 1, you will automatically be issued a 2022 certification. If you wish to be issued a 2023 certification prior to December 1, you must send the initial registration or certification fee along with the renewal fee. If you do not wish to send the renewal fee with your initial fee, you will still be required to renew prior to January 1, 2023 in order to avoid late fees.

### **BOARD MEMBERS & OFFICE STAFF**

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Phillip Guthrie, Vice Chairman  
Janice Warren, Secretary  
Bobby Bulloch  
Isadore Gardner  
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Zane Wellls, ASA III  
Homer Haynes, ASA II

# Don't Miss the Deadline!!!

2023 Renewal Season is October 1 - December 31, 2022

**REMINDER:** 2023 certification renewals and annual business registrations must be completed online. We will not be accepting payments submitted directly to our office. Once you complete your online renewal, you will print out your certification. Medical Gas endorsements will continue to be renewed by submission of current MGA or NITC card to the Board along with the renewal fee. If you have any concerns about renewing online, please contact the Board office.

**NOTE:** Employers who renew certifications for their employees and are renewing 20 or more employees may submit payment to our office along with a list of employees, their certification numbers, and the last 4 digits of their SSN if the company wishes to pay for these renewals with one check.

## Renewal Fee Information

The Board's annual renewal fees outlined in Alabama Administrative Code r. 720-x-4-.01 changed effective January 1, 2022. This year's renewal fees will be as follows:

- Apprentice—\$35
- Journeyman Plumber or Gas Fitter—\$75
- Journeyman Plumber/Gas Fitter—\$150
- Master Plumber or Gas Fitter—\$175
- Master Plumber/GasFitter—\$350
- Business Registration—\$25

If you are renewing a certification that was delinquent prior to 2021, the late penalty will also be based on this year's renewal fee.

# Changes to Exams

Effective October 1, 2022, the Board office is no longer accepting applications for examination for the 2015 International Plumbing Code or 2015 International Fuel Gas Code. If your application was submitted and approved prior to this date, you are still eligible to test on these codes. No new exam applications are being accepted at this time.

The Board will begin accepting exam applications again on or about January 1, 2023. Test will be given on the 2021 International Plumbing Code and International Fuel Gas Code.

# Education Opportunities

As a reminder, we are offering free code review classes to help individuals prepare for examinations. We will continue to offer a limited number of classes based on the 2015 codes before the end of this year. New training classes will be offered for the 2021 codes beginning in November 2022.

Class schedules can be found on our website under Education. You can also follow us on Facebook for the most up-to-date class information. There may be a delay in updating the information on the website, but any changes to class schedules will be posted to our Facebook as soon as possible.

# Board Law & Rule Changes

Over the last several months, the Board has had a number of law and rule changes. We had a law change pass the legislature that was effective July 1, 2022. We have also adopted some rules to make some changes to our Administrative Code. For your information, we have included the text of some of the most significant rule changes over the following pages. As always, you should remember to check our website from time to time and review our law and rules for any changes or proposed changes.

## **720-X-11-.01 Work Permitted By Apprentice Plumber/Gas Fitter Performing Plumbing Or Gas Work.**

(1) It shall be unlawful and a violation of Ala. Code § 34-37-1, et seq., for an Apprentice Plumber/Gas Fitter (“Apprentice”) to perform any plumbing or gas work (as defined in Ala. Code § 34-37-1) unless said Apprentice performs the plumbing or gas work under the following conditions:

- (a) The company for which the Apprentice is working is properly registered with the Board.
- (b) The Apprentice works at all times under the direct supervision of a certified Journeyman Plumber, certified Journeyman Gas Fitter, certified Master Plumber or certified Master Gas Fitter.
- (c) The supervising Journeyman Plumber, Journeyman Gas Fitter, Master Plumber or Master Gas Fitter must remain on the job site at all times while plumbing or gas fitting work is being performed by the Apprentice.
- (d) Any Apprentice working on any job site shall be current in his or her registration with the Board.

(2) No Journeyman Plumber, Journeyman Gas Fitter, Master Plumber or Master Gas Fitter shall directly supervise on any job site more than the maximum number of Apprentices as provided for in this section: (a) On Residential Jobsites, as defined by Ala. Code § 34-37-1, up to five (5) Apprentice Plumber/Gas Fitters may be supervised by a certified Journeyman Plumber, certified Journeyman Gas Fitter, certified Master Plumber or certified Master Gas Fitter.

(b) On jobsites not otherwise defined by Ala. Code § 34-37-1 as a residential jobsite, up to three (3) Apprentice Plumber/Gas Fitters may be supervised by a certified Journeyman Plumber, certified Journeyman Gas Fitter, certified Master Plumber or certified Master Gas Fitter.

# Board Law & Rule Changes (cont'd)

## 720-X-12-.03 Separation Or Death Of Principal Master Plumber or Principal Master Gas Fitter.

(1) In the event a principal master plumber or principal gas fitter separates by termination, layoff, or voluntary resignation from the legal entity operating under his or her certification, the principal master plumber or principal master gas fitter and the legal entity shall each be responsible for notifying the Board within five (5) days of the separation by submitting the appropriate form prescribed by the Board. (a) Upon separation, the former principal master plumber or principal master gas fitter shall not attempt to perform in such capacity for himself or any other employer or entity until he or she has been removed as principal master plumber for the former employer and approved by the Board as principal master plumber or principal master gas fitter for his or her new employer.

(b) Upon separation, the entity must immediately cease entering all contracts, both verbal and written, for the performance of plumbing and/or gas fitting work. All certificate holders employed by the entity who have been operating under the principal master plumber or principal master gas fitter's certification must immediately cease all installation, maintenance, servicing, and repair of plumbing or gas systems until a new principal master plumber or principal master gas fitter has applied to and been approved by the Board.

(2) In the event a principal master plumber or principal master gas fitter is no longer able to hold a valid certificate from the Board due to his or her death or mental or physical incapacity, the legal entity employing him or her shall provide written notice to the Board of the principal master plumber or principal master gas fitter's death or incapacity within fortyfive (45) days of the principal's death or incapacitation. The entity submitting notice must provide all documentation requested by the Board to establish the principal's death or incapacitation, including, but not limited to, a death certificate or physician's attestation of incapacitation.

(a) Upon timely and complete submission of notification, the legal entity may request a limited waiver of the principal master requirement so that the entity and its certified employees may continue operating on a temporary basis. Any request made later than forty-five (45) days after the principal's death or incapacitation may be denied after a show cause hearing by the Board.

(b) Any waiver granted under (2)(a) shall expire after the 90th day following the date of the qualifying event as established by the death certificate or the physician's attestation. The entity may continue to enter new contracts and engage in the installation, maintenance, service, or repair of plumbing or gas systems while the waiver remains active. However, upon expiration of the waiver, the entity must immediately cease those operations unless and until a certified master plumber or master gas fitter has applied to the Board and been approved as the new principal master plumber or principal master gas fitter for the entity.

# Board Law & Rule Changes (cont'd)

Effective October 15, 2022, the Board will begin accepting reciprocity requests from individuals who hold a certification with the Alabama Liquefied Petroleum Gas Board. The requests must be completed on the form provided on the Board's website under Forms.

If you currently hold a Master Gas Fitter license with our Board and wish to request reciprocity for a LP Gas Board license, you will need to visit their website for additional information. However, in order for you to request the necessary license verification from our Board, you will need to fill out our license verification request and submit to us along with the \$15 license verification request fee. This form can be found on our website under "Forms".

The below rule change applies to a licensee of the LP Gas Board who is seeking a Master Gas Fitter Certification with the Plumbers & Gas Fitters Examining Board)

The below rule change applies to a licensee of the LP Gas Board who is seeking a Master Gas Fitter Certification with the Plumbers & Gas Fitters Examining Board)

## **720-X-4-.05 Reciprocity with Alabama Liquefied Petroleum Gas Board.**

(1) An individual who holds a current Employee Competency Card with a Service Technician (Residential & Commercial) endorsement from the Alabama Liquefied Petroleum Gas Board ("LP Board") may apply for reciprocity from the Board and receive certification as a Master Gas Fitter under the following conditions:

(a) Applicant must provide proof of U.S. citizenship or, if applicant is an alien, proof of lawful presence; (b) Applicant must provide verification from the LP Board that he or she possesses a current and valid Employment Endorsement Card with a Service Technician (Service & Residential) endorsement;

(c) Applicant must provide verification from the LP Board that he or she has possessed and exercised with field application the Employee Endorsement Card for a minimum of three (3) years since acquisition;

(d) Applicant must provide verification from the LP Board that he or she is in good standing and has no pending disciplinary actions.

(2) Upon verification of the application and its contents, administrative approval will be granted and a Master Gas Fitter certificate will be issued to the applicant upon payment of all prescribed fees.

(3) Any reciprocity application where a negative disciplinary history from the LP Board has been found will be subject to the director's review and approval.

The below rule change applies to a licensee of the Plumbers & Gas Fitters Examining Board who holds a Master Gas Fitter Certification and is seeking licensure with the LP Gas Board.

## **530-X-2-.18 Reciprocity with Alabama Plumbers & Gas Fitters Examining Board**

(1) An individual who holds a current Master Gas Fitter card from the Alabama Plumbers & Gas Fitters Examining Board ("Gas Fitters Board") may apply for reciprocity from the Alabama Liquefied Petroleum Gas Board ("LP Gas Board") to obtain an Employee Competency Card with Service Technician (Residential & Commercial) and Legal Compliance endorsements under the following conditions:

(a) The reciprocity shall only fulfill the written examination requirements of the LP Gas Board as outlined in Alabama Administrative Code 530-X-2-.11 Employee Competency Requirements to obtain an Employee Competency Card with Service Technician (Residential & Commercial) and Legal Compliance endorsements.

(b) Master Gas Fitters seeking to take advantage of this reciprocal agreement must either be already employed by an existing Class A, B-1, or C permit holder with the LP Gas Board, or they must obtain a Class C permit from the LP Gas Board in conjunction with the Employee Competency Card. All application requirements as detailed in the Alabama Administrative Code must be completed.

(2) Applicants must provide copies of their Master Gas Fitter card for verification that it is current and in good standing with the Gas Fitters Board. (3) The LP Gas Board reserves the right to refuse reciprocity to any applicant with a negative

## **Board Law & Rule Changes (cont'd)**

The below sections are significant changes to the Alabama Code that were changed in our law during the previous legislative session. These changes were effective July 1, 2022.

### **Definition of Residential Job Site - Alabama Code § 34-37-1**

16) RESIDENTIAL JOBSITE. A residential jobsite shall mean up to three structures located within a phase of a subdivision where the residential dwellings abut or are located adjacent to one another or where the residential dwellings are located on the same or intersecting streets. A residential jobsite shall also mean up to eight attached residential dwellings located under one roof assembly.

### **Renewal of Certification prior to paying fines and penalties - Alabama Code § 34-37-12**

A certificate holder who has either entered into an agreement with the board regarding the resolution of a violation or other disciplinary action, or who has been ordered by the board to comply with the terms of a disciplinary judgment, shall satisfy all terms and conditions of the agreement or order and shall comply with the terms of a disciplinary judgment, including the payment of all fines, fees, restitution, and penalties, before recertification is granted or renewed.

## **Other Law/Rule Change News**

- Also effective July 1, 2022, our new legislation granted the Board authority to require a continuing education requirement. At this time, the Board does not have any official plans in place to begin requiring continuing education. If and when the Board decides to begin requiring continuing education, requirements will be outlined and adopted in an administrative rule.
- If you are working in an area that does not have a locally adopted code, the Board has adopted the 2021 International Plumbing Code and 2021 International Fuel Gas code as the standard code. This will not affect any cities or counties who enforce other standards.



## 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.