



## **PGFB ADMINISTRATIVE RULES**

### **CHAPTER 720**

**ALABAMA PLUMBERS AND GAS FITTERS  
EXAMINING BOARD  
ADMINISTRATIVE CODE**

**CHAPTER 720-X-1  
DESCRIPTION OF THE BOARD**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<b>720-X-1-.01</b>	<b>Description Of The Board</b>
<b>720-X-1-.02</b>	<b>Minimum Standards For Installation, Service, And Repair</b>
<b>720-X-1-.03</b>	<b>Compliance</b>

**720-X-1-.01      Description Of The Board.**

The Board is a nine (9) member Board appointed by the Governor. The referenced statute describes the organization, general course, method of operation and method of public information. The public may make submissions and requests to the Board in writing through the mailing address:

Alabama Plumbers and Gas Fitters Examining Board  
216 Aquarius Dr., Suite 319  
Homewood, Alabama 35209

**Author:** James M. Morgan

**Statutory Authority:** Code of Ala. 1975, §34-37-2.

**History:** Filed February 6, 1991. **Amended:** Filed June 14, 2018; effective July 29, 2018. **Amended:** Published August 31, 2022; effective October 15, 2022.

**720-X-1-.02      Minimum Standards For Installation, Service, And  
Repair.**

(1) In the absence of locally adopted codes, or minimum standards for the installation, service, and repair of plumbing, gas, and medical gas, the board, pursuant to its authority under Section 34-37-2(a), Code of Ala. 1975, adopts the following minimum standards for the installation, service, and repair of plumbing, gas, and medical gas for all certified plumbing, gas, and medical gas contractors:

(a) All certified plumbing and gas contractors shall comply with the minimum technical standards required by the 2021 International Residential Code for residential plumbing and gas installations, service, and repairs. The administrative sections in Chapter 1 shall not be applicable. Where there is

a conflict between this code and a locally adopted code, this code shall govern.

(b) All certified plumbing contractors shall comply with the minimum standards of the 2021 International Plumbing Code for commercial plumbing installations, service, and repairs.

(c) All certified gas contractors shall comply with the minimum standards of the 2021 International Fuel Gas Code for commercial gas installations, service, and repairs.

(d) All certified medical gas contractors shall comply with the minimum standards of the 2021 International Plumbing Code for Nonflammable Medical Gases and the NFPA 99 for flammable medical gases. Requires certification from NITC or other board approved agency or entity.

**Author:** James M. Morgan

**Statutory Authority:** Code of Ala. 1975, 34-37-2, as amended.

**History: New Rule:** Filed June 14, 2018; effective July 29, 2018.

**Amended:** Published August 31, 2022; effective October 15, 2022.

### **720-X-1-.03      Compliance.**

The board may at any time conduct compliance checks via site visit, office visit, or by any other legal means as necessary to determine compliance with the Plumbers and Gas Fitter Examining Board's laws, and rules, and regulations. The board shall have the authority to inspect records, documents, personnel files, and any other documentation necessary to determine compliance with its laws, rules, and regulations.

**Author:** James M. Morgan

**Statutory Authority:** Code of Ala. 1975, 34-37-2, as amended.

**History: New Rule:** Filed June 14, 2018; effective July 29, 2018.

**ALABAMA PLUMBERS AND GAS FITTERS  
EXAMINING BOARD  
ADMINISTRATIVE CODE**

**CHAPTER 720-X-2  
DEFINITION OF PLUMBING**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<b>720-X-2-.01</b>	<b>Definition Of Plumbing</b>
<b>720-X-2-.02</b>	<b>Onsite Wastewater</b>

**720-X-2-.01      Definition Of Plumbing.**

(1) With respect to the single-family residential dwelling domestic water supply, the water line from the meter to the building or from the outlet side of a well pump to the building is considered plumbing. With respect to the sewer, the building sewer begins at the connection with the building drain and is considered plumbing until it reaches the property line, an individual disposal system, or a point within an easement or right-of-way.

(2) Non-residential domestic water supply and sewer represented by mechanical drawings signed and sealed by an engineer licensed in the State of Alabama shall be considered plumbing. Non-residential domestic water supply four inches in diameter and greater, and sewer lines six inches in diameter and greater, represented by civil drawings signed and sealed by an engineer licensed in the State of Alabama shall not be considered plumbing.

(3) Sewage grinder pumps and sewage lift stations with discharge lines four inches and greater, and force mains four inches and larger shall not be considered plumbing.

(4) Cutting, boring, and removal of concrete shall not be considered plumbing.

**Author:** James M. Morgan

**Statutory Authority:** Code of Ala. 1975, §34-37-2.

**History:** Filed February 6, 1991. **Amended:** Filed February 5, 2016; effective March 21, 2016. **Amended:** Filed June 14, 2018; effective July 29, 2018.

**720-X-2-.02      Onsite Wastewater.**

(1) On-site wastewater disposal systems which are represented by drawings signed and sealed by an engineer licensed in the State of Alabama shall not be considered plumbing.

(2) Any other onsite wastewater disposal systems which are permitted by the Alabama Department of Public Health shall not be considered plumbing. For the purpose of this rule, the building sewer, as defined by Alabama Department of Public Health Administrative Rule 420-3-1-.01(19), shall be considered part of the onsite wastewater disposal system.

(3) Sewage grinder pumps or sewage lift stations or pumps of any type that are installed or maintained as a component of an onsite wastewater disposal system shall not be considered plumbing and shall require an installer licensed by the Alabama Onsite Wastewater Board.

**Author:** James M. Morgan, Kelly Butler

**Statutory Authority:** Code of Ala. 1975, §34-37-2.

**History: New Rule:** Filed February 5, 2016; effective March 21, 2016. **Amended:** Published December 31, 2019; effective February 14, 2020.

ALABAMA PLUMBERS AND GAS FITTERS  
EXAMINING BOARD  
ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

CHAPTER 720-X-3  
EXCHANGE OF WATER HEATERS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

720-X-3-.01	Exchange Of Water Heaters
720-X-3-.02	Exchange Or Installation Of Gas Fixtures And Appliances

720-X-3-.01      Exchange Of Water Heaters.

(1) Water heaters may be exchanged by a certified plumbing contractor or by a certified gas fitting contractor.

**Author:** Ed Lawrence

**Statutory Authority:** Code of Ala. 1975, §34-37-2.

**History:** Filed February 6, 1991.

720-X-3-.02      Exchange Or Installation Of Gas Fixtures And  
Appliances.

(1) Supply piping from the shut off valve to the fixture or appliance, except for gas fired water heaters, shall not be considered gas pipe fitting. Any supply piping to, and including, the isolation valve shall be considered gas pipe fitting.

(2) All work that is considered gas pipe fitting must be performed by a certified individual and meet the minimum standards adopted by the Board.

**Author:** David H. Wilcox

**Statutory Authority:** Code of Ala. 1975, §34-37-2.

**History: New Rule:** Filed February 5, 2016; effective March 16, 2016. **Amended:** Published August 31, 2022; effective October 15, 2022.

ALABAMA PLUMBERS AND GAS FITTERS  
EXAMINING BOARD  
ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

CHAPTER 720-X-4  
FEES

TABLE OF CONTENTS

720-X-4-.01	Forms, Requirements, And Fee Schedule
720-X-4-.02	Applicant For Journeyman Or Master Certification From Another State
720-X-4-.03	Military Family Jobs Opportunity Act Applicants
720-X-4-.04	Emergency Certifications
720-X-4-.05	Reciprocity With Alabama Liquefied Petroleum Gas Board
720-X-4-.06	Academic Credit For Military Education, Training And Experience
720-X-4-.01	<u>Forms, Requirements, And Fee Schedule.</u>

(1) All required forms shall be made available in hard copy at the Board's office as well as in downloadable form on the Board's website.

(2) Requirements for issuance of certificates:

(a) Apprentice:

1. No written exam to be taken.
2. Submit completed Apprentice Registration form.
3. Submit completed and executed form, "Declaration of U.S. Citizenship or Lawful Presence of an Alien".
4. Pay required fee(s).

(b) Journeyman Plumber:

1. Submit completed Application for Examination.
2. Provide verifiable proof of two (2) years of current work experience as an apprentice plumber OR of completion of a Board-approved apprentice training program.

3. Submit completed and executed form, "Declaration of U.S. Citizenship or Lawful Presence of an Alien".

4. Pay required fee(s).

5. Receive a passing score on the written examination.

**(c) Journeyman Gas Fitter:**

1. Submit completed Application for Examination.

2. Provide verifiable proof of two (2) years of current work experience as an apprentice gas fitter OR of completion of a Board-approved apprentice training program.

3. Submit completed and executed form, "Declaration of U.S. Citizenship or Lawful Presence of an Alien".

4. Pay required fee(s).

5. Receive a passing score on the written examination.

**(d) Master Plumber:**

1. Submit completed Application for Examination.

2. Provide verifiable proof of one (1) year of current work experience as a journeyman plumber.

3. Submit completed and executed form, "Declaration of U.S. Citizenship or Lawful Presence of an Alien".

4. Receive a passing score on the written examination.

5. Receive a passing score on the business law examination

6. Pay required fee(s):

**(e) Master Gas Fitter:**

1. Submit completed Application for Examination.

2. Provide verifiable proof of one (1) year of current work experience as a journeyman gas fitter.

3. Submit completed and executed form, "Declaration of U.S. Citizenship or Lawful Presence of an Alien".

4. Receive a passing score on the written examination.

5. Receive a passing score on the business law examination.

6. Pay required fee(s):

(f) Medical Gas Pipe Fitter:

1. Provide verifiable proof of certification at any level by the Board in either plumbing or gas fitting.

2. Provide verifiable proof of certification as a Medical Gas Installer/Brazer from the National Inspection Testing and Certification Corporation (NITC) or equal certification from another Board-approved medical gas certification entity or agency.

3. Pay required fee(s).

(g) Reciprocal Certification under Code of Ala. 1975, §34-37-11:

1. Submit completed request for reciprocal certification.

2. Provide verifiable proof of current licensing/certification in good standing with a state with which the Board has a valid and current reciprocity agreement.

3. Submit completed and executed form, "Declaration of U.S. Citizenship or Lawful Presence of an Alien".

4. Receive a passing score on the business law examination.

5. Pay required fee(s).

(3) Fees:

(a) Apprentice:

1. Initial Registration Fee: \$35.00

2. Annual Registration Renewal Fee: \$35.00

3. Late Annual Registration Penalty: \$35.00

(b) Journeyman Level:

1. Non-Refundable Examination Fee: \$110.00

2. Initial Application Processing Fee: \$50.00

3. Initial Certificate Fee: \$75.00
4. Annual Certificate Renewal Fee: \$75.00
5. Inactive Fee: \$0.00
6. Late Annual Certificate Renewal Penalty: \$75.00

(c) Master Level:

1. Non-Refundable Examination Fee(s):
  - a. Written Exam: \$160.00
  - b. Business Law Exam: \$100.00
2. Initial Application Processing Fee: \$50.00
3. Initial Certificate Fee: \$175.00
4. Annual Certificate Renewal Fee: \$175.00
5. Inactive Fee: \$0.00
6. Late Annual Certificate Renewal Penalty: \$175.00

(d) Medical Gas Pipe Fitter:

1. Renewal Fee: \$25.00

(e) Business:

1. Initial Registration Fee: \$25.00
2. Annual Registration Renewal Fee: \$25.00
3. Late Annual Registration Renewal Penalty: \$25.00

(f) Miscellaneous Fees:

1. Records Request: \$15.00 + \$.25 per page
2. License Verification: \$15.00
3. Application for Alternative Assessment: \$15.00

(4) Fines: All violations not related to gas work shall carry a minimum fine of \$500.00. All violations related to gas work shall carry a minimum fine of \$1000.00. Maximum fine limits shall be determined by state law.

**Author:** Kelly Butler, James M. Morgan

**Statutory Authority:** Code of Ala. 1975, as amended, §§34-37-2, 34-37-6.

**History:** Filed February 27, 1992. **Repealed and New Rule:** Filed August 5, 1999; effective September 9, 1999. **Amended:** Filed September 18, 2002; effective October 23, 2002. **Amended:** Filed February 18, 2003; effective March 25, 2003. **Amended:** Filed December 11, 2003; effective January 15, 2004. **Repealed and New Rule:** July 21, 2004; effective August 25, 2004. **Amended:** Filed November 15, 2007; effective December 20, 2007. **Amended:** Filed June 6, 2014; effective July 11, 2014. **Amended:** Filed February 5, 2016; effective March 21, 2016. **Amended:** Filed June 14, 2018; effective July 29, 2018. **Repealed and New Rule:** Published June 30, 2020; effective August 14, 2020. **Amended:** Published June 30, 2021; effective August 14, 2021; operative January 1, 2022. **Amended:** Published September 30, 2024; effective November 14, 2024, operative January 1, 2025. **Amended:** Published August 29, 2025; effective October 13, 2025, operative January 1, 2026.

**720-X-4-.02****Applicant For Journeyman Or Master Certification From Another State.**

(1) The board may allow an individual who holds a license, certification, or classification in another state as a Journeyman Plumber; Journeyman Gas Fitter; Master Plumber; or Master Gas Fitter to become certified at the corresponding level in Alabama 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 other state's examining/certifying agency that the applicant is currently licensed, certified, or classified at the level corresponding to the level of certification requested in Alabama.

(c) Applicant must provide verification from the other state's examining/certifying agency that the applicant is in good standing and has no pending disciplinary actions in said state.

(d) Applicant must receive a minimum score of seventy (70) on the board's test for the corresponding level of certification in Alabama.

(2) All information must be provided on forms approved by the board. Once all required documentation has been submitted, the board or its designee will review and verify the accuracy thereof. No application will be considered complete and forwarded for review until all information and official documentation has been received at the board's office. Applications expire ninety (90) days after initial submission.

**Author:** Kelly Butler, James M. Morgan

**Statutory Authority:** Code of Ala. 1975, as amended, §34-37-2(a).

**History: New Rule:** Filed July 1, 2019; effective August 15, 2019.

**720-X-4-.03      Military Family Jobs Opportunity Act Applicants.**

(1) Pursuant to the statutory requirements found in Act 2018-540, as codified at Code of Ala. 1975, §31-1-6, any applicant for certification as a journeyman plumber, journeyman gas fitter, master plumber, or master gas fitter who is considered an "eligible individual" under Code of Ala. 1975, §31-1-6(c) shall be issued a certificate under the following conditions:

(a) he or she must possess a valid license or certificate issued by another state, district, or territory of the United States, or from any branch of the United States Armed Forces, including the National Guard; and

(b) the licensing or certification requirements of the issuing body must be greater than or substantially similar to the certification requirements of this board, as determined by the executive director's review; and

(c) the applicant must submit a completed application which documents compliance with the board's certification requirements.

Upon satisfaction of these conditions, the application will be submitted to the executive director for review. Approval will result in the issuance of the appropriate certificate to the eligible individual allowing him or her to continue working at the same certification level for one (1) year. All approvals will be reported to the board at its next regularly scheduled meeting.

(2) In the event the applicant's certifying jurisdiction did not promulgate certification requirements greater than or substantially similar to the certification requirements of this board, as determined by the executive director's review, the applicant will be notified of the specific requirements which must be met prior to receiving certification from the State of Alabama. In accordance with Code of Ala. 1975, §31-1-6(b)(2), the eligible individual concurrently will be granted a temporary permit to continue working in the same field and at the same certification level for one hundred eighty (180) days while he or she completes the specific requirements necessary to obtain a certificate from this board. Subject to the approval of the executive director, such temporary certification period may be extended as necessary to promote the intent of the Military Family Jobs Opportunity Act. All temporary certifications will be reported to the board at its next regularly scheduled meeting.

(3) Any applicant for certification as a journeyman plumber, journeyman gas fitter, master plumber, or master gas fitter who is considered an "eligible individual" under Code of Ala. 1975, §31-1-6(c) and who properly submits a request for waiver of the initial license fee shall receive the same within thirty (30) days of the board's receipt of the required documentation for waiver.

(4) A completed application submitted pursuant to this section will be administratively expedited.

**Author:** Kelly Butler, James M. Morgan

**Statutory Authority:** Code of Ala. 1975, as amended, §34-37-2 and §31-1-6.

**History: New Rule:** Filed July 1, 2019; effective August 15, 2019.

#### **720-X-4-.04      Emergency Certifications.**

(1) When a state of emergency is declared by the Governor of the state of Alabama pursuant to Code of Ala. 1975, §31-9-8, the Executive Director is authorized to waive requirements for the issuance of a certificate for journeyman plumber, journeyman gas fitter, master plumber, or master gas fitter for an out-of-state applicant, provided the applicant can produce a current equivalent license or certificate from another state, district, or territory of the United States, or from any branch of the United States Armed Forces, including the National Guard. At the request of the Executive Director, any applicant for emergency certification shall produce verifiable evidence of the applicant's good standing in the state of origin as a condition precedent to consideration of an application.

(2) The Executive Director is also authorized to waive one-half (1/2) of the applicable fee set forth in r. 720-X-4-.01.

(3) Where the state of emergency does not affect the entire state, any certification issued pursuant to this regulation shall be valid only in the counties designated in the Governor's proclamation.

(4) Certification granted pursuant to this regulation may be issued for the duration of the state of emergency, beginning at the declaration of the state of emergency and ending when the state of emergency is declared by the Governor to have ceased, or, in the alternative, when the state of emergency expires under its own terms.

(5) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (3), no certification granted pursuant to this regulation shall be valid for longer than sixty (60) days.

(6) Certifications granted hereunder are non-renewable and non-transferable.

(7) Certifications granted hereunder shall be governed by the same statutory and regulatory requirements which govern any other certification issued by this board.

(8) At all times during the state of emergency, each emergency certificate holder shall keep available for inspection his board-issued proof of certification granted hereunder.

**Author:** Kelly Butler, James M. Morgan

**Statutory Authority:** Code of Ala. 1975, as amended, §34-37-2.

**History: New Rule:** Filed July 1, 2019; effective August 15, 2019.

#### 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 Employment 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.

**Author:** James M. Morgan

**Statutory Authority:** Code of Ala. 1975, §34-37-2.

**History: New Rule:** Published August 31, 2022; effective October 15, 2022.

**720-X-4-.06      Academic Credit For Military Education, Training And Experience.**

(1) Per the Military Family Jobs Opportunity Act (Code of Ala. 1975, §31-1-6), an applicant shall be issued a license, pending approval, if the requirements of the original issuing state or governing body are substantially equivalent to that required by the Board.

(2) Per the Military Family Jobs Opportunity Act (Code of Ala. 1975, §31-1-6), if an applicant is approved for licensure, the board will waive the initial licensing fee when a transfer of station is ordered by the Armed Forces or reserves of the United States.

(3) Per the Military Family Jobs Opportunity Act (Code of Ala. 1975, §31-1-6), temporary licenses shall be issued to applicants for a 180-day period, so that the applicant can begin practice while completing the requirements for full licensure.

(4) Per Code of Ala. 1975, §31-12A-1, et seq., the Board will accept from an applicant satisfactory evidence of education, training, or service, completed as a service member, toward qualification of a license or certification.

(5) An institution governed by the Board will award a veteran enrolled in the institution for courses that part of the veteran's military training or service and that meet the standards of the American Council on Education or equivalent academic credit based upon the institution's admission standards.

(6) An armed services member who is deployed shall not pay dues or fees for the renewal of his or her license or have to obtain continuing education credits when (1) circumstance associated with the military duty prevent obtaining the training and a waiver has been submitted to the Board, or (2) the service member performs the licensed or certified plumbing or gas fitting work as part of his or her military duties as annotated on the DD214, or (3) performing any other act typically required for the renewal of the license or certification.

The Board may require the licensee to receive additional continuing education credits within one (1) year for the end of deployment.

**Author:** James Morgan, Tara Hetzel

**Statutory Authority:** Code of Ala. 1975, 34-37-2, Act 2013-350

**History:** **New Rule:** Published June 28, 2024; effective August 12, 2024.

**Penalty:** N/A

ALABAMA PLUMBERS AND GAS FITTERS  
EXAMINING BOARD  
ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

CHAPTER 720-X-5  
WORK PERMITTED BY JOURNEYMAN PLUMBERS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

720-X-5-.01      Work Permitted By Journeyman Plumbers

720-X-5-.01      Work Permitted By Journeyman Plumbers.

(1) It shall be unlawful and a violation of Act No. 2015-496 as amended for a journeyman plumber, certified in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Alabama Plumbers and Gas Fitters Examining Board to perform any plumbing, as provided in Act No. 2015-496 as amended or as may be further defined by the Board in rules passed by the Board, unless said journeyman plumber performs said work for a company that is properly registered with the Board and under the general supervision of a certified master plumber.

**Author:** Ed Lawrence; David H. Wilcox

**Statutory Authority:** Code of Ala. 1975, §34-37-2.

**History:** Filed September 16, 1992. **Amended:** Filed February 5, 2016; effective March 21, 2016.

ALABAMA PLUMBERS AND GAS FITTERS  
EXAMINING BOARD  
ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

CHAPTER 720-X-6  
WORK PERMITTED BY JOURNEYMAN GAS FITTERS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

720-X-6-.01      Work Permitted By Journeyman Gas Fitters

720-X-6-.01      Work Permitted By Journeyman Gas Fitters.

(1) It shall be unlawful and a violation of Act No. 2015-496 as amended for a journeyman gas fitter, certified in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Alabama Plumbers & Gas Fitters Examining Board to perform any gas fitting work, as provided in Act No. 2015-496 as amended or as may be further defined by the Board in rules passed by the Board, unless said journeyman gas fitter performs said work for a company that is properly registered with the Board and under the general supervision of a certified master gas fitter.

**Author:** David H. Wilcox

**Statutory Authority:** Code of Ala. 1975, §34-37-2.

**History:** Filed September 16, 1992. **Amended:** Filed February 5, 2016; effective March 21, 2016.

ALABAMA PLUMBERS AND GAS FITTERS  
EXAMINING BOARD  
ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

CHAPTER 720-X-7  
ADMINISTRATION OF EXAMINATIONS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

720-X-7-.01      Administration Of Examinations

720-X-7-.01      Administration Of Examinations.

(1) All examinations for which the Board has authority to require shall be administered by an independent examining agency as selected by the Board.

(a) Examinations shall be based on the 2021 International Plumbing Code and the 2021 International Fuel Gas Code.

**Author:** James M. Morgan

**Statutory Authority:** Code of Ala. 1975, §34-37-2.

**History:** Filed September 16, 1992. **Amended:** Filed June 14, 2018; effective July 29, 2018. **Amended:** Published August 31, 2022; effective October 15, 2022.

ALABAMA PLUMBERS AND GAS FITTERS  
EXAMINING BOARD  
ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

CHAPTER 720-X-8  
VENTING OF GAS HEATING EQUIPMENT

TABLE OF CONTENTS

720-X-8-.01      Venting Of Gas Heating Equipment

720-X-8-.01      Venting Of Gas Heating Equipment.

Any contractor certified by the Alabama Board of Heating and Air Conditioning Contractors may install vents on natural gas burning heating equipment without certification by this Board.

**Author:** Ed Lawrence.

**Statutory Authority:** Code of Ala. 1975, § 34-37-2.

**History:** Filed September 16, 1992.

ALABAMA PLUMBERS AND GAS FITTERS  
EXAMINING BOARD  
ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

CHAPTER 720-X-9  
PENALTY FOR LATE RENEWAL OF CERTIFICATE

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

720-X-9-.01      **Penalty For Late Renewal Of Certificate  
Or Registration**

720-X-9-.01      **Penalty For Late Renewal Of Certificate Or  
Registration.**

(1) All certificates and registrations expire on December 31st of each year. Certificate and registration fees must be received in the Board office by the close of business that day or online by 11:59pm that night for a current certificate or registration to continue in effect for the following calendar year. Any renewal received in the Board office after the close of business on December 31st or received online after 11:59pm on December 31st will be considered a late renewal and shall be subject to a penalty equal to the renewal rate for the respective certificate or registration. The late renewal penalty is due and must be paid at the time the current year's certificate or registration fee is paid

(2) In accordance with Ala. Code §34-37-9, all unpaid certificate and registration fees for previous years shall be due and owing at the time of payment of the current year's fees and/or penalties.

**Author:** Kelly Butler, James M. Morgan

**Statutory Authority:** Code of Ala. 1975, §§34-37-2, 34-37-9.

**History:** Filed November 23, 1992. **Amended:** Filed September 18, 2002, effective October 23, 2002. **Amended:** Filed May 12, 2003; effective June 16, 2003. **Amended:** Filed July 21, 2004; effective August 25, 2004. **Amended:** Filed February 5, 2016; effective March 21, 2016. **Amended:** Filed June 14, 2018; effective July 29, 2018. **Amended:** Published June 30, 2020; effective August 14, 2020.

ALABAMA PLUMBERS AND GAS FITTERS  
EXAMINING BOARD  
ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

CHAPTER 720-X-10  
WAIVER OF FIRST YEAR CERTIFICATE FEE FOR JOURNEYMAN AND MASTER  
PLUMBERS AND GAS FITTERS (REPEALED 8/14/20)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

720-X-10-.01      Waiver Or Proration Of First Year  
Certificate Fee (Repealed 8/14/20)

720-X-10-.01      Waiver Or Proration Of First Year Certificate Fee  
(Repealed 8/14/20).

(REPEALED)

**Author:** David H. Wilcox.

**Statutory Authority:** Code of Ala. 1975, §34-37-2.

**History:** Filed November 23, 1992. **Amended:** Filed February 5,  
2016; effective March 21, 2016. **Repealed:** Published June 30,  
2020; effective August 14, 2020.

ALABAMA PLUMBERS AND GAS FITTERS EXAMINING BOARD  
ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

CHAPTER 720-X-11  
WORK PERMITTED BY APPRENTICE PLUMBER/GAS FITTERS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

720-X-11-.01      Work Permitted By Apprentice Plumber/Gas  
Fitters

720-X-11-.01      Work Permitted By Apprentice Plumber/Gas Fitters.

(1) It shall be unlawful and a violation of Code of Ala. 1975, §34-37-1, et seq., for an Apprentice Plumber/Gas Fitter ("Apprentice") to perform any plumbing or gas work (as defined in Code of Ala. 1975, §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 Code of Ala. 1975, §34-37-1, up to five (5) Apprentice Plumber/Gas Fitters may be supervised by a certified Journeyman Plumber, certified Master Gas Fitter.

(b) On jobsites not otherwise defined by Code of Ala. 1975, §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.

**Author:** David H. Wilcox; James M. Morgan; Kelly C. Butler

**Statutory Authority:** Code of Ala. 1975, §34-37-2

**History:** **New Rule:** Filed September 27, 1995; effective November 1, 1995. **Amended:** Filed November 15, 2007; effective December 20, 2007. **Amended:** Filed May 15, 2008; effective June 19, 2008.

**Amended:** Filed February 5, 2016; effective March 21, 2016; effective March 21, 2016. **Repealed and New Rule:** Published August 31, 2022; effective October 15, 2022.

ALABAMA PLUMBERS AND GAS FITTERS EXAMINING BOARD  
ADMINISTRATIVE CODECHAPTER 720-X-12  
RESPONSIBILITY OF MASTER PLUMBER

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

720-X-12-.01	Responsibility Of Master Plumber
720-X-12-.02	Registration As Principal Master Plumber
720-X-12-.03	Separation Or Death Of Principal Master Plumber Or Principal Master Gas Fitter

**720-X-12-.01      Responsibility Of Master Plumber.**

(1) It shall be unlawful and a violation of Act No. 2015-496, as amended, for a Master Plumber, certified in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Alabama Plumbers and Gas Fitters Examining Board as provided in Act No. 2015-496, as amended, or as may be further defined by the Board in rules passed by the Board, to supervise or direct any person in the performance of plumbing or gas fitting work as defined in Section 34-37-1 (Code of Ala. 1975, as amended) where the person performing such work does not hold current certification with the Alabama Plumbers and Gas Fitters Examining Board.

**Author:** David H. Wilcox

**Statutory Authority:** Code of Ala. 1975, §§34-37-2; 34-37-17, as amended.

**History:** **New Rule:** Filed September 27, 1995; effective November 1, 1995. **Amended:** Filed February 5, 2016; effective March 21, 2016.

**720-X-12-.02      Registration As Principal Master Plumber.**

(1) As defined in Code of Ala. 1975, §34-37-1(13), a "principal master plumber" is responsible for the business conducted by the legal entity with which he or she is "actively and continuously connected." In order to affirmatively establish these required parameters and to be registered as the principal for a legal entity, an individual must:

(a) be duly registered and certified by the State of Alabama as a master plumber;

(b) be an active employee of the legal entity and not an independent contractor; and

(c) provide verifiable documentation to substantiate the above as requested by the board or board staff.

(2) No individual shall be registered as the principal master plumber for more than one legal entity regulated by the board.

**Author:** Kelly Butler, James M. Morgan

**Statutory Authority:** Code of Ala. 1975, as amended, §34-37-2.

**History: New Rule:** Filed July 1, 2019; effective August 15, 2019.

### 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 forty-five (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.

**Author:** James Morgan

**Statutory Authority:** Code of Ala. 1975, §§34-37-2, 41-9A-3.

**History: New Rule:** Published August 31, 2022; effective October 15, 2022.

ALABAMA PLUMBERS AND GAS FITTERS EXAMINING BOARD  
ADMINISTRATIVE CODECHAPTER 720-X-13  
RESPONSIBILITY OF MASTER GAS FITTERS

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

720-X-13-.01	Responsibility Of Master Gas Fitter
720-X-13-.02	Registration As Principal Master Gas Fitter

**720-X-13-.01      Responsibility Of Master Gas Fitter.**

(1) It shall be unlawful and a violation of Act No. 2015-496, as amended, for a Master Gas Fitter, certified in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Alabama Plumbers and Gas Fitters Examining Board as provided in Act No. 2015-496, as amended, or as may be further defined by the Board in rules passed by the Board, to supervise or direct any person in the performance of plumbing or gas fitting work as defined in Section 34-37-1 Code of Ala. 1975, as amended, where the person performing such work does not hold current certification with the Alabama Plumbers & Gas Fitters Examining Board.

**Author:** David H. Wilcox

**Statutory Authority:** Code of Ala. 1975, §34-37-2

**History:** **New Rule:** Filed September 27, 1995; effective November 1, 1995. **Amended:** Filed February 5, 2016; effective March 21, 2016.

**720-X-13-.02      Registration As Principal Master Gas Fitter.**

(1) As defined in Code of Ala. 1975, §34-37-1(13), a "principal master gas fitter" is responsible for the business conducted by the legal entity with which he or she is "actively and continuously connected." In order to affirmatively establish these required parameters and to be registered as the principal for a legal entity, an individual must:

(a) be duly registered and certified by the State of Alabama as a master gas fitter;

(b) be an active employee of the legal entity and not an independent contractor; and

(c) provide verifiable documentation to substantiate the above as requested by the board or board staff.

(2) No individual shall be registered as the principal master gas fitter for more than one legal entity regulated by the board.

**Author:** Kelly Butler, James M. Morgan

**Statutory Authority:** Code of Ala. 1975, as amended, §34-37-2.

**History: New Rule:** Filed July 1, 2019; effective August 15, 2019.

**ALABAMA PLUMBERS AND GAS FITTERS  
EXAMINING BOARD  
ADMINISTRATIVE CODE**

**CHAPTER 720-X-14  
DEFINITION OF MEDICAL GAS PIPING SYSTEMS**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

**720-X-14-.01      Definition Of Medical Gas Piping Systems**

**720-X-14-.01      Definition Of Medical Gas Piping Systems.**

Due to the threat to human life, no one shall install any medical gas piping or breach the integrity of any medical gas piping system unless the person has first received an endorsement for medical gas piping from the Alabama Plumbers and Gas Fitters Examining Board and such endorsement is affixed to the current certificate for competency issued to said person and the certificate is in their possession. No endorsement from the Alabama Plumbers and Gas Fitters Examining Board shall be issued or shall be valid unless said certificate holder also holds a current National Inspection Testing Certification (NITC), or other board approved agency or entity in medical gas fitting and is in possession of a valid NITC card, or card from another board approved agency or entity evidencing current certification. Annual renewal of the medical gas fitter endorsement requires submission to the Board of the medical gas fitter's NITC, or other board approved agency or entity card evidencing a current, valid NITC certification, or other board approved agency or entity certification. Replacing cylinders and filters, and performing routine and preventive maintenance that does not breach the integrity of the medical gas piping system and does not constitute the installation, repair, or replacement of medical gas piping shall not require a medical gas piping endorsement.

**Author:** James M. Morgan

**Statutory Authority:** Code of Ala. 1975, §§34-37-2.

**History: New Rule:** Filed August 5, 1999; effective September 9, 1999. **Amended:** Filed July 21, 2004; effective August 25, 2004.

**Amended:** Filed June 14, 2018; effective July 29, 2018.

**ALABAMA PLUMBERS AND GAS FITTERS  
EXAMINING BOARD  
ADMINISTRATIVE CODE**

**CHAPTER 720-X-15**  
**DEFINITION OF MAINTENANCE ENGINEER (REPEALED 3/21/16)**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

720-X-15-.01	Definition Of Maintenance Engineer (Repealed 3/21/16)
720-X-15-.01	<u>Definition Of Maintenance Engineer (Repealed 3/21/16) .</u>

(REPEALED)

**Author:** Alfred P. Tunstall

**Statutory Authority:** Code of Ala. 1975, §§34-37-2.

**History:** **New Rule:** Filed July 21, 2004; effective August 25, 2004. **Repealed:** Filed February 5, 2016; effective March 21, 2016.

ALABAMA PLUMBERS AND GAS FITTERS  
EXAMINING BOARD  
ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

CHAPTER 720-X-16  
BAD CHECKS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

720-X-16-.01      **Bad Checks**

720-X-16-.01      **Bad Checks.**

If a check or negotiable instrument is dishonored, the writer of the check or instrument will be required to tender payment of the full amount of such check or instrument plus a service charge of \$30.00 as established by Section 8-8-15 of the Code of Ala. 1975.

(1) If the dishonored check or instrument was tendered for the purposes of sitting for an examination, payment of the full amount of such check or instrument plus a service charge of \$30.00 must be paid in full prior to the individual being allowed to take the said examination. If the individual has already taken the examination prior to the Board's office receiving notification of the dishonored instrument, the individual's results will be held until such time as payment is made in full including the service charge.

(2) If the dishonored check or instrument was tendered for the purposes of renewing an individual certification, registration, or payment of fines or penalties, the certification or registration shall be invalid and will not be considered in good standing unless the full amount of such check or instrument plus a service charge of \$30.00 is paid within thirty (30) days.

(3) If the dishonored check or instrument was tendered for the purposes of applying for a certification or registration, the application will not be processed until such time as the payment is made in full, including the applicable \$30.00 service charge.

**Author:** David H. Wilcox

**Statutory Authority:** Code of Ala. 1975, §§34-37-2

**History: New Rule:** Filed March 24, 2009; effective April 28, 2009. **Amended:** Filed June 6, 2014; effective July 11, 2014.

**Amended:** Filed February 5, 2016; effective March 21, 2016.

ALABAMA PLUMBERS AND GAS FITTERS  
EXAMINING BOARD  
ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

CHAPTER 720-X-17  
REGISTRATION OF LEGAL ENTITIES

TABLE OF CONTENTS

720-X-17-.01      Registration Of Legal Entities

720-X-17-.01      Registration Of Legal Entities.

Beginning October 1, 2016, all legal entities, as defined in Code of Ala. 1975, §34-37-1(14), engaging in the business of plumbing and/or gas fitting within the State of Alabama shall be required to register annually upon forms provided by the Board, upon first paying all prescribed fees.

**Author:** David H. Wilcox

**Statutory Authority:** Code of Ala. 1975, §§34-37-2

**History: New Rule:** Filed February 5, 2016; effective March 21, 2016.

ALABAMA PLUMBERS AND GAS FITTERS  
EXAMINING BOARD  
ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

CHAPTER 720-X-18  
REISSUING OF REVOKED CERTIFICATION OR REGISTRATION

TABLE OF CONTENTS

720-X-18-.01      Reissuing Of Revoked Certification Or  
Registration

720-X-18-.01      Reissuing Of Revoked Certification Or  
Registration.

(1) The Board, for reasons it may deem sufficient, may reissue a certification or registration to any person whose certification or registration has been revoked provided that a majority of the Board vote in favor or reissuing in accordance with Code of Ala. 1975, §34-37-12. The person requesting reissue must submit an application, pay all prescribed fees, and comply with the terms set forth by the Board.

**Author:** David H. Wilcox

**Statutory Authority:** Code of Ala. 1975, §§34-37-2

**History: New Rule:** Filed February 5, 2016; effective March 21, 2016.

PLUMBERS AND GAS FITTERS EXAMINING BOARD  
ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

CHAPTER 720-X-19  
CONDUCT

TABLE OF CONTENTS

720-X-19-.01      Conduct

720-X-19-.01      Conduct.

(1) A licensee shall be fair and impartial towards each participant in all aspects of services rendered or received related to their work as a plumber or gas fitter.

(2) A licensee, if requested, shall provide information regarding services to be rendered to all clients. All contracts/agreements must be in writing and signed by both parties prior to commencing work. The licensee must strive to meet contractual obligations.

(3) Licensees shall be alert to situations that are conflicts of interest or that may give the appearance of a conflict of interest. If a conflict arises, the licensee must disclose that conflict or potential conflict to the client.

(4) No licensee shall purposely make any misleading or untrue representations to any government official, current or former client/business partner, or potential client/business partner for the purpose of promoting or advancing business goals and interests, averting or subverting any local, county, or state rule, regulation, or law, or to create an unfair advantage in contractual negotiations or other business dealings and public statements as determined by the Board.

(5) A licensee who becomes impaired and unable to function per the standards of professional conduct should immediately refrain from providing any professional services. It is the licensee's responsibility to seek supervision and/or personal therapy for any problem that is interfering with the ability to perform professional services.

(6) Licensees shall not permit the use of his/her name or company's name, nor shall a licensee be associated in business ventures, with persons or companies that the licensee has reason to believe is engaging in fraudulent or dishonest business practices. Should a licensee discover or have reason to believe a current associate in business ventures is engaging in fraudulent or dishonest business practices, by this rule, that licensee is

obligated to report said fraudulent or dishonest business practice to the Board immediately. Failure to report may result in action taken by the Board.

(7) Licensees shall ensure all employees are properly educated and certified and shall maintain proper, complete, and up-to-date documentation verifying any and all formal training and hours employees have obtained that is directly related to the plumbing and gas fitting industries, including job-specific training and education, as well as general rules and regulations around workplace safety.

(8) All companies and licensees shall conduct all plumbing and gas fitting business in a professional and ethical manner and shall uphold these Standards of Professional Conduct.

**Author:** James M. Morgan, Tara Hetzel

**Statutory Authority:** Code of Ala. 1975, §34-37-2.

**History: New Rule:** Published June 28, 2024; effective August 12, 2024.

PLUMBERS AND GAS FITTERS EXAMINING BOARD  
ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

CHAPTER 720-X-20  
COMPLAINTS AGAINST LICENSEES

TABLE OF CONTENTS

720-X-20-.01      Consumer Complaint Procedure

720-X-20-.01      Consumer Complaint Procedure.

(1) In the event a consumer complaint is filed against a licensee, plumber, gas fitter, or any other person within the Board's jurisdiction, or the Board determines from other information that an investigation is necessary, the procedure for investigating a complaint shall be as follows:

(a) Upon undertaking an investigation of a licensee, the Board shall notify the licensee of the investigation and the specific charges being investigated. The notice shall include the applicable gas/plumbing code, Board rule or Statute for investigation purposes.

1. An investigation initiated against a licensee, plumber, gas fitter, or any other person within the Board's jurisdiction, where the construction activity has occurred in a local jurisdiction (county, municipality, or otherwise) with an adopted building, plumbing, or gas law or code, the Board shall apply the adopted building, plumbing, or gas law or code for determining probable cause if the licensee, plumber, gas fitter, or any other person within the Board's jurisdiction has violated the Act.

2. An investigation initiated against a licensee, plumber, gas fitter, or any other person within the Board's jurisdiction, where the construction activity has occurred in a local jurisdiction (county, municipality, or otherwise) that has not adopted a local building, plumbing, or gas law or code, the Board shall apply the 2021 International Plumbing Code (IPC), the 2021 International Fuel Gas Code (IFGC), or the 2021 International Residential Code (IRC) (whichever the Board deems appropriate), or any other Code the Board deems fit, for determining probable cause if the licensee, plumber, gas fitter, or any other person within the Board's jurisdiction has violated the Act.

(b) Bi-annually, the Board shall designate a member and one alternate member to serve on the investigative committee. The Board members designated to serve on the investigative committee must not be plumber or gas fitter members of the Board. This investigative committee shall consist of the designated Board member, or a designated alternate member, the Executive Director, and the Board's attorney and shall investigate the information or complaint to determine whether there is probable cause for disciplinary or enforcement proceedings, and shall, on behalf of the Board, direct the Board's counsel to initiate proceedings consistent with its finding(s). The Board member or the alternate member who participates on the investigative committee shall not participate in any disciplinary proceedings arising from the investigation.

(c) The investigative committee may enter into informal settlements with the licensee or residential plumber or gas fitter it is investigating, provided each informal settlement is ratified by the Board.

(d) At the end of the investigation, the investigative committee shall make a recommendation to the Board as to whether probable cause exists that a violation of the Act has occurred, and for the Board to initiate disciplinary proceedings and/or to forward any necessary information to the appropriate governmental authorities. If the investigative committee determines following its investigation that no probable cause exists, the proceedings will terminate.

1. In the case of complaints against licensees or entities holding a registration or certification:

(e) In the event the investigative committee recommends that probable cause exists that a violation of the Act has occurred, the investigative committee shall instruct Board counsel to prepare a summons and complaint or notice and opportunity for hearing, or to forward information to the appropriate governmental authorities. The Board shall schedule a hearing to be held by an administrative law judge.

(f) The summons and complaint or notice and opportunity for hearing shall be mailed certified mail, return receipt requested, or hand delivered to the most recent address of the licensee on file with the Board at least fifteen (15) days prior to the scheduled date of the hearing. In the event the summons and complaint or notice and opportunity for hearing is refused or the return receipt has not been received by the Board or its attorney at least ten (10) days before the scheduled hearing, the licensee may be served by mailing a copy of same first-class mail or by hand delivery at least seven (7) days before the hearing date.

(g) The summons and complaint or notice and opportunity for hearing shall give notice in substantial compliance with the Alabama Administrative Procedure Act, Code of Ala. 1975, §41-22-12(b).

(h) In the event the investigative committee instructs Board counsel to forward information to the appropriate governmental authorities, information concerning the essential facts constituting a violation and an allegation that a violation of the Act has been committed should be provided to a magistrate or official authorized by law to issue warrants of arrest.

(i) If the person complained of is a member of the Board, that member shall be notified and thereafter shall not participate in any matter related to the complaint.

(3) During the course of a consumer complaint investigation on a license holder, the consumer will be provided with notifications and information regarding their complaint in compliance with confidentiality requirements.

(a) The following notifications/documents/information will be provided to the consumer:

1. Initial notification of complaint
2. Notification of potential observed violations during initial compliance officer inspection when applicable
3. Notification of potential observed violations during subsequent compliance officer inspections when applicable
4. Notice of determination by the Board's Investigative Committee when a final action is taken
5. Any relative documents/information of like nature

(b) The following documents/notifications/information are not subject to open records requests and cannot be provided to a consumer during the course of the complaint investigation:

1. Confidential work reports prepared by compliance officers
2. Any attachments to confidential work reports including, but not limited to, on-site photographs, statements, etc.
3. Statements given to the Board by the license holder
4. Settlement offers that have not yet been ratified by the Board

5. Documents relating to pending disciplinary hearings

6. Any document of like nature

(c) Should a consumer retain legal counsel at any time during the complaint process, the consumer's attorney may officially request documents. Any requests for information will be reviewed by the Board's legal counsel to determine if the requested information is able to be provided.

(4) Upon completion of the disciplinary process, the consumer may request a copy of the formal settlement agreement or Board order through a public records request.

**Author:** James M. Morgan, Tara Hetzel

**Statutory Authority:** Code of Ala. 1975, §34-37-2.

**History: New Rule:** Published June 28, 2024; effective August 12, 2024.

ALABAMA PLUMBERS AND GAS FITTERS EXAMINING BOARD  
ADMINISTRATIVE CODECHAPTER 720-X-21  
CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTIFIED CONTRACTORS

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

720-X-21-.01	Definitions
720-X-21-.02	Continuing Education General Standards
720-X-21-.03	Deficiency
720-X-21-.04	Education Committee
720-X-21-.05	Qualifications And Standards For Board Approved Providers And Instructors
720-X-21-.06	Application For Continuing Education Course Standards
720-X-21-.07	Denial Of Application For Course Or Curricula
720-X-21-.08	Revocation, Suspension, Termination Of Course Or Curricula
720-X-21-.09	Over 65 Years Of Age Exemption From Continuing Education Requirements
720-X-21-.10	Initial Certification Continuing Education Exemption
720-X-21-.11	Continuing Education Provided By Governmental Agencies Or Governmental Associations
720-X-21-.12	Fees

720-X-21-.01      Definitions.

(1) Board Approved Continuing Education Provider: An individual; partnership; association; organization; educational institution; or governmental agency, offering continuing education for plumbing and gas fitting contractors that meets Board criteria for approval and that has been assigned and issued a Provider ID by the Board.

(2) Board Approved Continuing Education Instructor: May be a certified Master Plumber, certified Master Gas Fitter, industry expert professional, or otherwise qualified individual. When the instructor is not a certified contractor, there shall be evidence of knowledge, skill, and experience in the Plumbing or Gas Fitting industry.

(3) Board Approved Continuing Education Course: A course that meets the definition of continuing education and has been approved by the Board to be administered by a board approved provider. A course may be a program of multiple sessions or a single session lasting at least two hours one hour.

(4) Continuing Education (CE): Planned, organized learning experiences that do not contain a sales pitch and that are designed to augment the knowledge, skill, and ability to enhance the knowledge of a certified contractor and therefore improve the installation, service or repair of plumbing or gas fitting provided to the consumer.

(5) Continuing Education Hours: Unit of measurement of continuing education that meets Board criteria for approval and lasts at least one hour.

(6) Provider ID: A permanent, nontransferable number assigned by the Board to designate an approved provider.

(7) Education Committee: An annually designated committee consisting of at least one Board member and the executive director that assist in the review and continuation of the Board's continuing education program.

(8) Certified Contractor: A person who holds certification as a Journeyman Plumber, Master Plumber, Journeyman Gas Fitter, Master Gas Fitter, or any combination of these levels of certification.

**Author:** James M. Morgan

**Statutory Authority:** Code of Ala. 1975, §34-37-2.

**History: New Rule:** Published September 30, 2024; effective November 14, 2024, operative January 1, 2025.

**Penalty:** None

**720-X-21-.02****Continuing Education General Standards.**

(1) All certified contractors shall obtain a minimum of four (4) hours of CE annually, regardless of the number of certifications held. Individuals who hold two certifications must obtain two hours of CE per certification held.

(a) Example 1: If a certified contractor only holds certification as a Master Plumber, he/she is required to obtain 4-hours of plumbing CE annually.

(b) Example 2: If a certified contractor holds both Master Plumber and Master Gas Fitter certifications, he/she is required to obtain 2-hours of plumbing CE and 2-hours of gas fitting CE annually.

(2) All certified contractors shall be individually accountable for continued competence to renew annually.

(3) The Board may prescribe additional continuing education courses as disciplinary action.

(4) All certified contractors shall meet continuing education requirements as stated in Section 34-37-8, Code of Ala. 1975.

(5) Continuing education is not required for an individual who is acquiring and renewing their initial certification from the Plumbers and Gas Fitters Examining Board during the current calendar year.

(a) Continuing Education is not required for individuals who have applied for and been placed on inactive status. Inactive contractors who wish to become active again must complete all continuing education requirements as a prerequisite to being approved to be placed on active status.

(b) Individuals whose certification is delinquent must pay back fees and penalties, unless they qualify for a waiver of annual fees and penalties and complete the required 4 hours of CE prior to being made active again.

(6) Failure to complete the minimum continuing education requirements before November 1st annually will prevent the renewal of a certified contractor's license until proof of compliance is submitted to the Board.

(a) Example 1: A Master Gas Fitter who has obtained 4-hours of CE prior to October 1, 2026, may renew his/her certification as soon as renewal season (October 1-December 31) begins, but under any circumstance 4-hours of CE must be completed prior to November 1, 2026, to avoid a penalty.

(b) Example 2: A Master Gas Fitter wishes to renew his/her certification on or after November 1, 2026, but has not obtained 4-hours of CE. He/she will be required to submit a CE Deficiency Plan to the board that details how the licensee will obtain the required CE hours. He/she would then be required to pay the deficiency fee, then complete the CE and renew the certification prior to December 31, 2026, in order to avoid paying a late certification renewal penalty.

(7) Units of measure for continuing education in hours. One hour equals at least 50 minutes.

(8) Continuing education hours are awarded in increments of one hour not to exceed four hours.

(9) Certified contractors who obtain CE hours in excess of what is required for a specific year may NOT use those hours toward CE credit for the following year.

(10) The Board may accept continuing education earned from an alternative continuing education provider by submitting a request for approval of non-traditional continuing education and paying the prescribed fee.

(11) Continuing education courses and activities may not be repeated within the earning period for credit.

(12) Proof of compliance with the continuing education requirements must be submitted to the Board before November 1st annually.

**Author:** James M. Morgan

**Statutory Authority:** Code of Ala. 1975, §34-37-2.

**History: New Rule:** Published September 30, 2024; effective November 14, 2024, operative January 1, 2025.

**Penalty:** Non-compliance will prevent renewal of certification.

### **720-X-21-.03      Deficiency.**

(1) The Board may establish a policy for continuing education credit hour deficiency if a certified contractor fails to submit their required hours by November 1st each year. Contractors must submit a written appeal to the Board for an extension of the continuing education credit hour deficiency after November 1st and before January 1st annually. The appeal must provide a detailed plan of the contractor, including the projected date of completion, for the Board's consideration.

(2) All applications for an extension due to continuing education deficiency must be submitted to the Board before December 30 of the year in which the license was due for renewal. Late fees will be incurred if the deficiency is not resolved by December 31 each year.

**Author:** James M. Morgan

**Statutory Authority:** Code of Ala. 1975, §34-37-2.

**History: New Rule:** Published September 30, 2024; effective November 14, 2024, operative January 1, 2025.

**Penalty:** Non-compliance will prevent renewal of certification and result in a late fee.

### **720-X-21-.04      Education Committee.**

Annually, the Board may establish an Education Committee to aid in developing a curriculum. The Board is also authorized to levy fees for the evaluation of continuing education providers, courses, instructors, and applications for non-traditional courses. The Education Committee's responsibilities include: approving or rejecting curriculum applications; assessing course applications for adherence to Board-Approved Continuing Education Course standards; evaluating provider applications against Board-Approved Continuing Education Providers criteria; considering instructor applications based on Continuing Education Instructor

qualifications; and deciding on non-traditional continuing education applications.

**Author:** James M. Morgan

**Statutory Authority:** Code of Ala. 1975, §34-37-2.

**History: New Rule:** Published September 30, 2024; effective November 14, 2024, operative January 1, 2025.

**Penalty:** None.

**720-X-21-.05**

**Qualifications And Standards For Board Approved Providers And Instructors.**

(1) Providers are required to designate a specific company representative to manage all communications with the Board.

(2) To obtain approval as a Board-certified continuing education provider, an applicant is required to submit the appropriate fee and a comprehensive application. This application should contain: a detailed plan for high-quality continuing education designed specifically for plumbing and gas fitting contractors; the provider's mission statement and goals; thorough policies and procedures for the execution and evaluation of the educational programs and units; and a specialized educational unit staffed with competent personnel and equipped with the necessary resources to execute a well-organized plan for continuing education.

(3) Approved providers bear the responsibility for the quality, accuracy, and veracity of the continuing education programs they offer.

(4) Approved providers are required to verify that instructors possess the qualifications suitable for the content of the activity.

(5) Approved providers are required to submit electronic records of all contact hours awarded to certified contractors using the format and method prescribed by the Board.

(6) Records and reports must be preserved for a minimum of two years.

(7) Once approved, the entity will be assigned a provider number, recognizing it as an approved provider of continuing education.

(8) The Board Approved Provider ID remains valid indefinitely, provided that the standards for approval are upheld.

(9) The provider ID is required on course announcements, certificates, records, reports, and all correspondence with the Board.

(10) The entity's name associated with the Board-assigned provider number can be altered upon a written request from the designated contact person or the administrator.

(11) A provider's approval may be subject to revocation if the provider does not adhere to the requirements specified in this chapter.

**Author:** James M. Morgan

**Statutory Authority:** Code of Ala. 1975, §34-37-2.

**History: New Rule:** Published September 30, 2024; effective November 14, 2024, operative January 1, 2025.

**Penalty:** Non-compliance will result in a provider and/or class not being approved.

**720-X-21-.06****Application For Continuing Education Course Standards.**

(1) An application for course approval from an approved provider of continuing education shall be submitted to the Board with the required fee.

(2) The Board will only consider proposed courses and curricula for approval after the Board's Education Committee has reviewed the proposal. Requests for approval must include: detailed information about the instructors; the facilities or platform to be used, along with the equipment for instruction; a comprehensive course syllabus with a thorough description of the instruction, resources, and textbooks; and the number of contact and continuing education hours being sought.

(3) Acceptable content for continuing education courses shall include one or more of the following: Technology, procedures, and industry related applications; Specialty areas of plumbing or gas fitting practices; administration, management, and supervision in plumbing or gas fitting, or related trade; Plumbing and/or gas fitting education.

(4) Providers of online Continuing Education classes are required to allow the board to access each class free of charge for audit purposes.

**Author:** James M. Morgan

**Statutory Authority:** Code of Ala. 1975, §34-37-2.

**History: New Rule:** Published September 30, 2024; effective November 14, 2024, operative January 1, 2025.

**Penalty:** Non-compliance will result in a provider and/or class not being approved.

**720-X-21-.07      Denial Of Application For Course Or Curricula.**

(1) The Board may deny any education related application that fails to meet the established standards of the Board or which the Board considers inadequate to properly educate its certified contractors. The Board may consider requests for reconsideration for applications which have been denied upon a submission of written request to the Board.

(2) Upon approval of a proposed course or curriculum by the Board, the Board shall require the Board approved provider to execute a written agreement to conduct the Board approved course and curriculum in accordance with the terms of the Board's approval process. This agreement shall be signed by the applicant for course and curriculum approval.

**Author:** James M. Morgan

**Statutory Authority:** Code of Ala. 1975, §34-37-2.

**History: New Rule:** Published September 30, 2024; effective November 14, 2024, operative January 1, 2025.

**Penalty:** Non-compliance will result in disapproval of the application.

**720-X-21-.08      Revocation, Suspension, Termination Of Course Or Curricula.**

(1) The Board may revoke, suspend, or terminate any provider, course, instructor, or curriculum approval if the Board determines that a course provider or curriculum has failed to comply with the Rules of the Board or its education requirements or has failed to comply with its written agreement regarding conduct of the approved course or curriculum.

(2) The Board may request that a course provider reapply to the Board for approval if the provider has not held any classes for continuing education credit or submitted a roster to the Board for a period of four years. The provider will be required to submit a new application along with all appropriate fees to the Board for approval prior to holding a class for continuing education credit.

**Author:** James M. Morgan

**Statutory Authority:** Code of Ala. 1975, §34-37-2.

**History: New Rule:** Published September 30, 2024; effective November 14, 2024, operative January 1, 2025.

**Penalty:** None.

**720-X-21-.09      Over 65 Years Of Age Exemption From Continuing Education Requirements.**

(1) Any certified contractor who is 65 years of age or older is exempt from continuing education requirements. The contractor is not eligible for this exemption until the year after they turn 65 years old. This exemption does not apply for the year in which the contractor turns 65 years old. The certified contractor must provide documentation of his/her birth date in order to qualify for the exemption.

(a) Example 1: If the certified contractor is 64 on January 1, 2024 and turns 65 on January 2, 2024 the contractor does not qualify for the exemption for the 2024 licensing year, however the contractor will qualify for the exemption during the renewal period for the 2025 licensing year.

(b) Example 2: If the certified contractor turns 65 on December 31, 2023 they would qualify for the exemption and not be required to have 4 hours of continuing education to renew for 2024 licensing year because their birthday occurred prior to the 2024 licensing year.

(2) Individuals whose certification was delinquent prior to turning 65 years of age and who are attempting to become active again must complete the required CE prior to active status being granted. Exception: If the individual has submitted documentation that he/she was not engaged in the business of plumbing or gas fitting in Alabama and has been approved for a waiver of annual fees penalties for the years prior to he/she turning 65 years of age, the individual may still qualify for the exemption.

**Author:** James M. Morgan

**Statutory Authority:** Code of Ala. 1975, §34-37-2.

**History: New Rule:** Published September 30, 2024; effective November 14, 2024, operative January 1, 2025.

**Penalty:** None.

**720-X-21-.10      Initial Certification Continuing Education Exemption.**

1. A certified contractor is not required to obtain continuing education hours to acquire [or renew](#) their initial certification as a Journeyman Plumber or Journeyman Gas fitter [issued during the current calendar year](#).

2. [Certified contractors who are acquiring their initial certification as a Journeyman Plumber, Journeyman Gas Fitter,](#)

Master Plumber or Master Gas Fitter through reciprocity or eligibility based on holding a license or certification in another jurisdiction are not required to obtain CE in order to acquire or renew their initial certification issued during the current calendar year.

**Author:** James M. Morgan

**Statutory Authority:** 34-37-2

**History: New Rule:** Published September 30, 2024; effective November 14, 2024, operative January 1, 2025.

**Penalty:** None.

**720-X-21-.11      Continuing Education Provided By Governmental Agencies Or Governmental Associations.**

Approved continuing education classes provided by municipal, county, state and federal agencies or governmental associations shall not be subject to any prescribed fee related to providers, instructors, classes or penalty fees. All other requirements shall apply.

**Author:** James M. Morgan

**Statutory Authority:** Code of Ala. 1975, §34-37-2.

**History: New Rule:** Published September 30, 2024; effective November 14, 2024, operative January 1, 2025.

**Penalty:** None

**720-X-21-.12      Fees.**

- |  |          |
|--|----------|
| (1) Continuing Education Course Fee:     | \$25.00  |
| (2) Continuing Education Instructor Fee: | \$25.00  |
| (3) Non-Traditional CE Application:      | \$25.00  |
| (4) Continuing Education Deficiency Fee: | \$100.00 |
| (5) Continuing Education Provider Fee:   | \$75.00  |

**Author:** James M. Morgan

**Statutory Authority:** Code of Ala. 1975, §34-37-2.

**History: New Rule:** Published September 30, 2024; effective November 14, 2024, operative January 1, 2025.

**Penalty:** None.