



Minnesota Water Quality Association



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January 2012

Changes to License Exams in 2012

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Continuing Education Proposed for Water Conditioning Industry

The State Plumbing Board recently established continuing education requirements for those with Water Conditioning licenses. The Board asked the MWQA to recommend how many education hours the water conditioning industry should complete to maintain a license. The MWQA Board recommended 4 hours for each 2-year license cycle. Two of those hours would focus on the Plumbing Code and two hours would focus on industry or industry topics. The recommendation is among several proposals that would go into effect in 2012.

The Minnesota Department of Labor & Industry has made changes to the exam scheduling system that will affect anyone taking a water conditioning license exam this year. Registration for exams is now taking place online through the DLI's website at the following address:

www.dli.mn.gov/CCLD/Exam.asp

Several locations are now available for taking the test, including:

- Twin Cities (St. Paul location)
- Duluth
- Owatonna
- Detroit Lakes
- St. Cloud
- Granite Falls

Directions to all the sites, as well as detailed instructions on how to apply for exams, is available on the DLI website. Application forms can be downloaded, printed or completed online and include all information about required bonds, liability insurance, workers compensation forms and new requirements for the Water Conditioning Master or Master Plumber license.

There are several opportunities to take exams at all six locations, with some locations offering exams each month. You will no longer have to wait until March or September to get your license. The study guide for water conditioning exams is the State Plumbing Code, available at the Minnesota Bookstore by calling 651-297-3000. You can also access the Bookstore and order the Code online.

***MWQA Annual Meeting & Seminars coming soon!
Watch for details on our annual event. Plans will
be finalized once the State releases requirements
for continuing education. We want to make sure
any classes we offer to our members will qualify
as credit through the state's new requirements.***



Water Conditioning Licenses Impacted By New Numbering System



WQA Professional Certification Program

The Water Quality Association Professional Certification program helps consumers and employees identify individuals in the point-of-use/point-of-entry water quality improvement industry who have demonstrated a certified level of professional expertise and are dedicated to high professional standards.

WQA Certification is a voluntary credentialing process. To achieve a WQA-certified title, the candidate must pass a comprehensive exam and accept the WQA Code of Ethics for the Water Quality Improvement Industry.

- Benefits of certification include:
- Consumer confidence
- Certification patches and pins instantly identify certified personnel to consumers
- Credibility from a third-party organization
- Listed on WQA website as a certified individual

Visit the WQA website at www.wqa.org for more information.

In October 2011, a uniform license numbering system went into effect for all licenses, registrations and certifications administered by the Construction Codes and Licensing Division of the Minnesota Department of Labor & Industry.

Each license number now includes two alphabet characters (i.e., XX) to identify the license type and a unique six-digit number (i.e., 0123456) associated with the licensee. Every license type will be impacted by this change.

Why the change?

CCLD determined that a uniform license numbering system was necessary to efficiently implement the newly restructured licensing system and better manage a large number of license types. The main changes will include:

- All license numbers will be eight characters in length.
- License class-codes will be on all license types.
- License class-codes will be the first two characters.
- License numbers will include six numeric digits

Most licensees will see a significant change, including those who hold water conditioning and plumbing licenses. Under the restructured licensing system, a water conditioning contractor's license must be held by a business rather than an individual. A master-level personal license was established to replace the individual contractor license. And, the installer's license was renamed water conditioning journeyman.

Plumbing license changes include a master plumber who obtains a bond and insurance can now work as a business offering services to the public. Under the new law a business license is created to "house" these bonded and ensured entities.

Members, check out your listing on the MWQA website at: www.mwqa.com

To make changes, contact:
Minnesota Water Quality Association
PO Box 48452
Minneapolis, MN 55448
763.754.2123
info@mwqa.com





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Lori Jansen

Administrative Assistant
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763.754.2123
www.mwqa.com

Several board positions are available - call or email if interested!

MWQA New Members

MWQA welcomes the following new member to the Association:

Peterson Salt & Water Treatment Co.

1415 - 5th Street South
Suite E

Hopkins, MN 55343

Tom Peterson/Michelle LeGault

Phone: 952.929.0422

Email: sales@petersonsalt.com

Web: www.petersonsalt.com



Minnesota Water
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Find us on the Web at:
www.mwqa.com



MWQA Board Meetings Open to Members

MWQA Board meetings are open to any member and begin at 9:30 a.m., usually ending by 11:30 a.m. Meetings are held at Unco Data Systems in the Culligan Minnetonka building. If you are interested in updates on pending legislation affecting the water quality improvement industry, or just want to discuss industry issues, join us! Call the MWQA office at 763.754.2123 to verify meeting dates and locations, as they may change.

All 2012 meetings are on Fridays:

January 13
February 17
March 23
April 20
May 25

June 22
July 20
August 17
September 21
October 19
November 16
December 14

Plumbing Board Announces Proposals That Affect Water Conditioning Installers, Contractors

The Minnesota Plumbing Board intends to adopt rules relating to water conditioning licensing, certification, registration and continuing education. These proposals include:

- Definitions of a Water Conditioning Master (who must be employed by any person or company applying for a water conditioning contractor's license) as the person responsible for the water conditioning contractor's adherence to the Plumbing Code
- Requirements for a Water Conditioning Master giving notice of termination, as well as a 60-day time period in which to hire a new Water Conditioning Master. After 60 days, if no Master is hired, the contractor must cease doing any water conditioning installations
- Definition of a Water Conditioning Master and Water Conditioning Journeyman, as well as hours of experience and service work required in order to obtain a license. Water Conditioning Master requires 450 hours of installation, 300 hours service, 250 hours planning and 250 supervising, for example.

- Requirements for continuing education for those in the water conditioning industry. A total of four hours is proposed for water conditioning professionals and 16 is proposed for plumbers, per license cycle.

A draft of the proposed rules affecting the water conditioning and plumbing industry is available to view at the following website:

www.dli.mn.gov/PDF/docket/4716Draft.pdf

If 25 or more people submit valid written requests for a public hearing on the proposals, a hearing will be held at the DLI offices in March. Requests for a hearing or comments on the rules must be submitted prior to 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 26, 2012. Requests must be submitted to:

Department of Labor & Industry
443 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, MN 55155