



Plumbing Board Reviewing CEU Proposal

Education May Be Required For Registered Unlicensed Workers

The Plumbing Board, which is the arm of the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry that adopts and amends the plumbing code, regulates the licensing and registration of plumbing-related professions, and regulates continuing education, is reviewing a proposal that would require Continuing Education for registered, unlicensed water conditioning workers and registered unlicensed plumbers. The comment period for this proposal has passed as of February 7; those comments can be viewed via various links on the DOLI website: <http://www.doli.state.mn.us/about-department/rulemaking/rulemaking-docket-minnesota-rules-4716>

The proposed amendment to the Code includes the following language: "In addition to satisfying the requirements of Minnesota Statutes, chapter 326B, individuals who hold the following registration types are required to obtain continuing education instruction during the registration period before the registration can be renewed:

(1) registered unlicensed plumbers; and (2) registered unlicensed water conditioners.

The registered unlicensed plumber must obtain at least two hours of continuing education instruction that must pertain to the Plumbing Code. The registered unlicensed water conditioner must obtain at least two hours of continuing education instruction. At least one hour of instruction must pertain to the Plumbing Code, and the remainder must pertain to the Plumbing Code, technical topics related to water conditioning installation and servicing, this chapter, or Minnesota Statutes, sections 326B.50 to 326B.59. Continuing education hours obtained by any electronic media must comply with Minnesota Statutes, sections 326B.098 to 326B.099."

Anyone performing water conditioning work in Minnesota must be licensed by DOLI or be a registered unlicensed plumber or water conditioning installer. The fee for an initial registration as a registered unlicensed water conditioning installer is \$14. Registrations expire June 30 and must be renewed annually. A \$5 late fee is assessed on all late registrations.

A registered unlicensed water conditioning installer can take the journeyworker water conditioning license exam after completing 875 hours of practical water conditioning installing, servicing or training experience as a registered unlicensed water conditioning installer employed by a licensed plumbing contractor or water conditioning contractor. An individual may receive credit for up to 100 hours of work experience gained prior to becoming registered as long as the work experience occurred within 12 months of the individual becoming registered.

All water conditioning work performed by an unlicensed water conditioning installer must be performed under the direct on-site supervision of a licensed journey worker, master plumber, restricted journey worker, restricted master plumber, licensed journey worker or master water conditioning worker.

If you have workers at your business who are anticipating getting the journeyworker license, they must first be registered with the state as a registered, unlicensed worker. Only then can work hours be documented and used toward pursuing additional licenses. Complete information is available on the DOLI website, with the registered unlicensed application available here: https://www.dli.mn.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/plumbing_unl_installer_registration.pdf

The above information was obtained from the Minnesota Dept of Labor and Industry website.

Now Is A Great Time To Join The MWQA

By Scott Schiesser, MWQA President

Get involved and be informed!

Being a member of the Minnesota Water Quality Association makes you part of a trusted group of water treatment professionals committed to the citizens of Minnesota. MWQA is active in educating the public about the value of doing business with any of our trusted professionals. Our organization also is active in monitoring regulations that can affect our industry and MWQA members. MWQA and MPCA are working together in public events talking about the importance of working with professionals in the water treatment industry. MPCA recently asked us to participate in a community event in Rogers to talk about the importance of inspecting and optimizing residential water treatment equipment.

The world of water is ever changing, and sometimes not for the better. Almost daily I see boil alerts in my news feed from across the country. In our own backyard, Hastings and Dawson both have experienced boil water alerts to ensure the safety of the citizens. The water we drink, bathe in and cook our family's meals with is becoming more of a concern and less trustworthy. MWQA is a trusted source for Minnesota citizens to verify they are working with an industry professional that is experienced and licensed in the water treatment industry.

Thank you for being a part of this organization and bringing water treatment expertise to the citizens of Minnesota. If you still not a member, [email us today](#) to get started!

Check Your Licenses For 2019 Renewals

If you need credit to renew your water conditioning or plumbing license this year, plan to get it through the MWQA.

We will again offer several classes at our fall convention, allowing you to get both your code credit and technical/other credit to renew your license. We are hoping to offer more code courses this year, as we have several members with plumbing licenses who need additional code credits. We take care of submitting your credits online - all you need to do is register and show up for the class.

MWQA is in the process of planning an outstate meeting as well as a fall convention. Currently we are looking at the Alexandria area in early October for our annual event. If you have ideas for classes, suggestions for speakers, or other needs that we could address at our meetings, let us know! We're planning some changes to this year's event that would make it more attendee and vendor-friendly, so please plan to join us this fall. More info will be sent out as soon as we make a decision on location and date.

