

522 CMR: BOARD OF BOILER RULES

522 CMR 9.00: REFRIGERATION AND AIR CONDITIONING SYSTEMS

Section

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9.01: Scope

- (1) Scope. The application of 522 CMR 9.00 is intended to ensure the safe design, construction, installation, operation, and inspection of every refrigeration and air conditioning system that comes within scope of M.G.L. c. 146, § 45A.
- (2) Purpose. The purpose of 522 CMR 9.00 is to provide reasonable safety for life, limb, health, and property by adopting such rules and regulations in accordance with nationally recognized standards of engineering practice which will properly influence future progress and development in refrigeration and air conditioning systems.
- (3) Requirements. The requirements of 522 CMR 9.00 shall apply to all refrigeration and air conditioning systems and appurtenances that come within the scope of M.G.L. c. 146, § 45A excluding the following:
 - (a) Systems in railway trains;
 - (b) Systems in motor vehicles;
 - (c) Systems in private residences;
 - (d) Systems in apartment houses of less than five apartments;
 - (e) Systems under the jurisdiction of the United States;
 - (f) Agricultural, horticultural or floricultural purposes; and
 - (g) Systems having less than 20 tons capacity.
- (4) Existing Installations. 522 CMR 9.01(4) applies to all refrigeration and air conditioning systems which were in use or installed ready for use prior to September 9, 2016: All existing installations shall be equipped with pressure relief devices as are required by *ASHRAE 15-2013 Safety Standards for Refrigeration Systems* and any modifications made to existing systems shall be in accordance with the rules for new installations
- (5) Field Inspections. All First Inspections shall be performed by an Authorized Inspector or a District Engineering Inspector before the refrigeration and air conditioning systems are put into service. Field inspections of refrigeration and air conditioning systems in Massachusetts shall be made annually thereafter by a District Engineering Inspector or an Authorized Inspector.

9.02: Construction (Effective 2/25/17)

All Refrigeration Systems under the scope of 522 CMR 9.00 shall be initially constructed in accordance with *ASHRAE 15-2013 Safety Standards for Refrigeration Systems*.

9.03: Installation

In accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. c. 146, § 2, the Board adopts *ASHRAE 15 -2013 Safety Standards for Refrigeration Systems* and *ASHRAE 34-2013 Designation and Safety Classification of Refrigerants for the Installation of Refrigeration Systems*.

9.04: Inspection

(1) Requirements for Inspection. Whoever owns or uses or causes to be used a refrigeration or air conditioning system that comes within the scope of M.G.L. c. 146, § 45A shall make application for inspection to the Chief on forms furnished by the Department. The Owner/User shall give his or her name and address and the location of the refrigeration or air conditioning system, along with any other information required by the Department, and return same to the Department. The minimum fee for each inspection made by the Division under 522 CMR 9.01 shall be set according to the fee schedule as set forth by the Commissioner of Administration and Finance in 801 CMR 4.02: *Fees for Licenses, Permits, and Services to Be Charged by State Agencies.*

(2) Annual Inspections. When a refrigeration or air conditioning system is installed, a field inspection shall be made before it is put into service, and the refrigeration or air conditioning system shall be inspected annually thereafter by an Authorized Inspector or District Engineering Inspector.

Refrigerant detector(s), alarm(s) and the refrigeration mechanical room ventilating systems shall be tested annually and in accordance with manufacturer's specifications. Records supporting that such periodic testing was performed on refrigeration systems 20 tons capacity or greater shall be made available upon request by an Authorized Inspector or District Engineering Inspector during the annual inspection.

(3) Prescribed Pressure. A refrigeration or air conditioning system shall not be operated in excess of the prescribed pressure. If the refrigeration or air conditioning system is constructed and installed in accordance with 522 CMR prescribed by the Board, the District Engineering Inspector or Authorized Inspector shall issue a Certificate stating the maximum pressure at which the system will be permitted to operate.

(4) Certificate to Be Posted. The Certificate for a refrigeration or air conditioning system shall be posted and protected from dirt, water, and other deleterious effects in a conspicuous place near the compressor of the refrigeration or air conditioning system specified. It shall not be removed while the Certificate is in force, unless the system or its Appurtenances become defective, when it shall be removed by a District Engineering Inspector or Authorized Inspector.

(5) Report of Inspection by Insurancers. Every insurance company shall forward to the Chief within 14 days after each inspection reports of all refrigeration or air conditioning systems inspected by it. Such reports shall be made in a format approved by the Chief and shall contain all requirements made by the company regarding such systems.

Insurance companies shall report location and owner's information of all refrigeration systems which use anhydrous ammonia as the refrigerant to the Chief, detailing pounds of refrigerant per system.

(6) Welding. All welding done on any Refrigeration System or piping covered by 522 CMR 9.00 shall be performed by a welder qualified according to the 2015 *ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code Section IX, Welding and Brazing Qualifications.*

(7) Electrical. A person holding a license as a refrigeration technician may connect or disconnect for the purpose of installation, Alteration, Repair or replacement, any device or control required by rules and regulations of the Board to be a part of a refrigeration or air conditioning installation, or being an integral part of the refrigeration or air conditioning equipment at the connection on such device, control or part to be repaired or replaced, from the first disconnect in. The first disconnect is the wall plug or nearest electrical disconnect to the refrigeration or air conditioning equipment.

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9.04: continued

(8) Plumbing. An individual who is licensed in compliance with M.G.L. c. 146, § 85 as a refrigeration technician may connect or disconnect for the purpose of alteration, repair or replacement of controls downstream of the equipment gas shutoff valve any device or control that is regulated by 522 CMR or is an integral part of the refrigeration or air conditioning equipment.

REGULATORY AUTHORITY

522 CMR 9.00: M.G.L. c. 146, §§ 1 through 51, 56 through 64 and 66 through 80.