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BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL LICENSING

July 20, 2015

The Board of Examiners of Sheet Metal Workers
1000 Washington Street, Suite 710
Boston, MA 02118

Reference: Executive Order # 562

Attention: Board Members

As the former Chairman of the Sheet Metal Board I would like to share with you the history of the draft sheet metal code and the process the previous Board went through in deciding to create our own sheet metal code.

Back in 2009 the Board felt it was best to have its own code to edit, amend, revise and most importantly to further define and codify what is considered "sheet metal work" in Massachusetts. We wanted our licensees to only need one code book and not a costly book shelf full of various codes and other referenced standards, much of which does not even pertain to the sheet metal industry.

Our initial attempt to draft a code from scratch proved to be a difficult endeavor and with concerns of copyright violations the Board considered using a national code that could be modified to the standards we wanted to uphold in Massachusetts. The Board reviewed the Uniform Mechanical Code and the International Mechanical Code and allowed both code groups to present their products and services.

The Board chose to use International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO) and the Uniform Mechanical Code, published by IAPMO, for a number of reasons:

- IAPMO would allow the Board to edit, amend and revise the code without the need of front end amendments.
- IAPMO would publish a custom Massachusetts Sheet Metal Code with embedded revisions at no cost to the Commonwealth.
- IAPMO has two in-state representatives that have been attending Board meetings since the Board was established.



- IAPMO already has a statewide continuing education program for the Massachusetts plumbing industry which will be an added benefit to the Board once sheet metal continuing education is required.
- The UMC includes more specific sheet metal requirements including SMACNA Duct Construction Tables and also included the entire volume of NFPA 96 – Ventilation Control and Fire Protection of Commercial Cooking Operations.
- The UMC offers an Illustrated Manual and a Study Guide which would be beneficial to apprentice training programs.

Furthermore, for permitting, jurisdictional and inspectional purposes we felt it was best to clearly separate sheet metal work from other mechanical code requirements. This would eliminate the concerns of having two different Boards using the same code without any clear delineation of jurisdiction. Licensees would know which Board to contact for code interpretations and inspector appeals. If you have any questions or would like any additional information on this matter please contact me at 781-302-3300.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey S. Chase", written over a horizontal line.

Jeffrey S. Chase