

BUREAU OF PIPEFITTERS, REFRIGERATION TECHNICIANS, AND SPRINKLER FITTERS

DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY TO GRANT HARDSHIP WAIVER

INTRODUCTION

The Bureau of Pipefitters, Refrigeration Technicians, and Sprinkler Fitters (the "Bureau") promulgated amended regulations (528 CMR 2.00, 3.00, 11.00) on November 8, 2024. In these amended regulations, the minimum length of the required course of study for journeyman licensure was increased effective November 9, 2026, in the case of pipefitters from 350 hours to 450 hours pursuant to 528 CMR 11.02(2), and in the case of refrigeration technicians from 250 hours to 450 hours pursuant to 528 CMR 11.03(2).

Pursuant to 528 CMR 11.02(2) and 11.03(2), "the Bureau may, in its discretion, accept applications meeting requirements effective prior to November 9, 2026 for individuals who suffered from a relevant, documented hardship. However, no such waivers shall be granted on or after May 10, 2027."

The Bureau views it as a hardship to increase the education requirements for individuals who committed to a career and license preparation program by obtaining an apprentice license on or before November 8, 2024, in reliance on then-existing rules for obtaining licensure. Accordingly, the Bureau will treat as being under a relevant, documented hardship, those individuals who (1) were issued a pipefitter apprentice license or refrigeration apprentice license by the Division of Occupational Licensure on or before November 8, 2024; (2) meet all journeyman licensure requirements that were in effect prior to November 9, 2026; and (3) submit their application for examination no later than May 9, 2027.

Individuals satisfying conditions (2) and (3), but not condition (1), may apply to the Bureau for an individualized assessment of whether a waiver is appropriate due to a relevant, documented hardship, provided that their application for examination is submitted in time to agendaize consideration of such waiver request by the Bureau members at a Bureau meeting taking place prior to May 10, 2027.

DELEGATION

The Bureau hereby delegates authority to Bureau staff to approve properly submitted applications for examination, without a Bureau vote, which meet the following criteria:

The applicant (1) was issued a pipefitter apprentice license or refrigeration apprentice license by the Division of Occupational Licensure on or before November 8, 2024; (2) meets all journeyman licensure requirements that were in effect prior to November 9, 2026; and (3) submits their application for examination no later than May 9, 2027.

Unless revoked or superseded earlier by Bureau vote, this delegation shall remain valid through May 9, 2027, and be expired as of May 10, 2027.

This Delegation was duly adopted by the Bureau at its meeting held on March 18, 2026.



Yolanda Cole, Chair

Bureau of Pipefitters, Refrigeration Technicians, and Sprinkler Fitters