



CHARLES D. BAKER
GOVERNOR

KARYN E. POLITO
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

MIKE KENNEALY
SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Division of Professional Licensure
Office of Public Safety and Inspections
1000 Washington Street, Suite 710
Boston, Massachusetts 02118

EDWARD A. PALLESCHI
UNDERSECRETARY OF CONSUMER
AFFAIRS AND BUSINESS
REGULATION

LAYLA D'EMILIA
COMMISSIONER, DIVISION OF
PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE

BOARD OF BUILDING REGULATIONS AND STANDARDS
NOTICE OF MEETING

In accordance with the provisions of G.L. c. 30A § 20, notice is hereby given that the Board of Building Regulations and Standards (BBRS) HVAC Specialty License Working Group will convene a meeting on:

March 12, 2021 Meeting

This was a virtual Microsoft Teams meeting.

Roll Call, by HVAC License Working Group Chair:

Susan Gleason, Chair	✓ present <input type="checkbox"/> absent	Frank Norton	✓ present <input type="checkbox"/> absent
David Sullivan	✓ present <input type="checkbox"/> absent	Manny Chaves	✓ present <input type="checkbox"/> absent
John Annarelli	✓ present <input type="checkbox"/> absent	Edward Kawa	✓ present <input type="checkbox"/> absent
Joe McNamee	✓ present <input type="checkbox"/> absent	Ian Finlayson	✓ present <input type="checkbox"/> absent

General notes on format of these minutes

- *These minutes represent general points discussed by Board members and/or attendees. The minutes are not intended to be a verbatim account of discussions.*
- *Votes are noted as **MOTION** by, seconded by, and whether it was a unanimous or split vote.*
- *Agenda topics, as numbered, may/may not be in the same order as they appear on the meeting agenda.*
- *The meeting agenda is listed as **EXHIBIT A**; others are listed sequentially as addresses during the meeting.*

Regular Meeting Agenda

1. **Introductions.** Chairwoman Gleason had each member identify the entity they represent during roll call. John Annarelli, Board of Examiners of Sheet Metal Workers, Joe McNamee, Board of State Examiners of Plumbers and Gas Fitters, Frank Norton, Bureau of Pipefitters, Refrigeration Technicians, and Sprinklerfitters, Manny Chaves, Air Conditioning Association of New England, Edward Kawa, Board of Fire Prevention Regulations, Ian Finlayson, Department of Energy Recourse.
2. **Review the BBRS Charge.** Dan Walsh explained the code change proposal to create a Specialty License for HVAC work (**EXHIBIT B**) (the Proposal) already regulated in the state building code and two license categories cover this work; Unrestricted and 1&2 Family Dwellings. The building



code does not regulate construction work regulated by other boards and includes provisions to make clear, and some examples were displayed (**EXHIBIT C**). The Proposal was introduced to the Sheet Metal Board, Plumbing and Gas Board, Bureau of Pipefitters, Refrigeration Technicians, and Sprinklerfitters, and the initial indicators suggest each board has questions. This working group has been created to address each board's concerns and work through them and report back once the effort is complete. The discussions mainly centered on the Proposal's text under the Exceptions portions in the Qualifications section.

Candidates for an HVAC CSL who can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Board that they have, within the ten-year period before application, at least five years' experience completed in the supervision of individuals engaged in the construction, reconstruction, installation, maintenance, repair or removal of heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems of less than ten ton capacity, may elect to and if requested, shall receive a license in this category without being required to examine. This exception shall remain in effect until December 31, 2021, provided acceptable evidence is provided to the Board in the form of a letter attested to by the candidate indicating that he/she possesses the minimum qualifications and identifying specific projects, noting the owner and address and spanning a period of at least five years in which the candidate was involved.

Edward Kawa spoke about the code sections displayed did not include the oil burner regulations, and the Proposal appears to allow oil burner work such as installing heating systems. Ian Finlayson spoke about furnace and boiler installations and said he is unsure if the Proposal will impact this work.

Manny Chaves spoke about the Proposal does not infringe on any other board's authority. He talked about how HVAC work did not require a license until a few years ago. Now municipal building departments are asking for permits and information regulated in the energy code. The Proposal intends to allow HVAC contractors to apply for a building permit. Manny Chaves said some of the work's license would include; heating and cooling load calculations, duct design, duct leak tests, duct insulation, dryer vents, and installing condensing drains.

Joe McNamee asked if the proposal were to be approved, would an Unrestricted Construction Supervisor License include the work the new license. Dan Walsh said the Unrestricted Construction Supervisor License includes HVAC work.

Frank Norton spoke about the 10-ton designation in the Proposal refers to refrigeration systems. The work involved with putting refrigeration into mechanical systems has gotten more complicated, and the system pressures in modern systems bring more risks to technicians performing this work. He thinks the proposal steps on the Bureau of Pipefitters, Refrigeration Technicians, and Sprinklerfitters authority. Brian Kelly also spoke about the dangers of refrigeration systems, and the Bureau of Pipefitters, Refrigeration Technicians, and Sprinklerfitters is responsible for putting refrigerants into mechanical systems. He thinks the technicians performing this work need training.

John Annarelli asked if the Proposal regulates MVZ Multi-Position Air Handler Mitsubishi ductless air distribution systems. Manny Chaves responded it does not.

Ian Finlayson spoke about the energy code includes a requirement that HERS Raters perform duct testing. Manny Chaves responded that he believes that is a different issue from what the Proposal intends to resolve.

The group decided to have the Proposal proponents provide a range of functions that narrowly identify the work the HVAC license would include. Manny Chaves agreed to do this and give that information a week before the next meeting.

3. **Adjourn Session.** On a **MOTION** by John Annarelli, seconded by Frank Norton, it was unanimously **VOTED** by **ROLL CALL** to adjourn the meeting @ approximately 2:16 p.m.

EXHIBITS:

- A. Meeting Agenda.
- B. 05-01-2020 HVAC Specialty License 110.R5 2019
- C. Code Sections Used During 3-12-2021 Meeting.