



**INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
PLUMBING AND MECHANICAL OFFICIALS**

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Paul F. Moran, Chair
Russell Bartash, Vice-chair
Peter Kelly, Executive Director
Board of Sheet Metal
1000 Washington St.
Boston, MA 02125

Dear members of the Board and Staff:

I'm sorry I wasn't able to attend the July 20th public listening session, but I was away on a family vacation that week. I appreciate the opportunity to submit this letter.

As you may know, the Uniform Mechanical Code (UMC), published by IAPMO, was selected by the Sheet Metal Board as the base document for 271.CMR, the Massachusetts Sheet Metal Code, following their November 15, 2010 meeting. For the benefit of the current board members who were not on the Sheet Metal Board at that time, I wanted to briefly recap the process.

Both IAPMO and the ICC were given the opportunity to make presentations to the Sheet Metal Board on the benefits of their respective mechanical codes. Following those presentations and after careful consideration, the Board voted overwhelmingly (5-1) to adopt the UMC as the base document for the Massachusetts Sheet Metal Code.

In the years that followed, IAPMO worked hand-in-hand with the Board to develop 271.CMR, both at the public meetings and the many code sub-committee meetings.

There were numerous reasons the Sheet Metal Board selected the UMC. These included:

1. The finished product is a customized version of the UMC. It is not a national mechanical code with separate Massachusetts amendments, but rather 271.CMR: the Massachusetts Sheet Metal Code.
2. IAPMO, as is our company policy, will provide complimentary training on the code to all municipal sheet metal inspectors.
3. IAPMO will also provide complimentary copies of the Sheet Metal Code to all inspectors who attend the training.
4. There are several support documents that accompany the UMC, including:
 - a. Illustrated Training Manual
 - b. UMC Study Guide (for exam prep and students/apprentices)
 - c. UMC Cumulative Analysis



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several times, there are hundreds of individual sections that relate to sheet metal - from metal roofing system materials, slopes and fastening to maintaining the proper fire and smoke ratings of corridors through proper damper placement and installation to the many product and system standards that are fully addressed in the building code.

It is critical to bring up the abovementioned information since the past direction of the Board has been to adopt a separate code with conflicting provisions to the State Building Code. Therefore I recommend that the Board review the codes based on 9th Edition of the State Building Code found at: <http://codes.iccsafe.org/I-Codes.html> and see what modifications might be needed. The timing is perfect for the Board to get involved with the process before the 9th Edition of the State Building Code becomes effective. Whether a separate sheet metal code or modifications to the IMC, or even the other MA adopted codes is needed, the current process allows for that.

Lastly, I wanted to be sure you are aware that technical assistance, product evaluation reports, training, certification, and other support materials are available to you. The International Code Council is honored to partner with the Board to serve your needs. Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today and I am pleased to answer any questions or provide you with any additional documentation.



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5. IAPMO has two full-time staff who live in Massachusetts and will work with the Sheet Metal Board during the entire process, just as they have been the past six years.
6. IAPMO offers a toll-free code support "help line" which is available to everyone.
7. IAPMO is currently the sole administrator for the continuing education program for all Massachusetts municipal plumbing and gas inspectors and has been for the past 14 years. IAPMO is also one of the approved administrators for the Massachusetts plumbing and gasfitting licensee continuing education program, which began eight years ago. Because of these two programs, we are ideally suited to offer similar training on 271.CMR.
8. IAPMO's Uniform Mechanical Code is supported by several industry trade associations, including the National PHCC, American Society of Sanitary Engineering (ASSE), the Sheet Metal Workers International Association (SMWIA) and the Mechanical Contractors Association of America (MCAA).
9. Lastly, the UMC is the industry's only national mechanical code that has been accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI).

Attached is a comparison chart that itemizes all of the above benefits.

IAPMO looks forward to continuing the excellent working relationship with the Sheet Metal Board that we have enjoyed since it was established. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. Thank you!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gordon B. MacEwan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gordon B. MacEwan
New England Regional Manager

Attachment

Mechanical Code Comparison

Benefit	Uniform Mechanical Code	Other national code(s)
Custom printed state-specific code book	✓	
Green Mechanical Supplement	✓	
NFPA 54 Requirements include in the body of the code	✓	
Support documents including: Study Guide, Illustrated Training Manual, and Cumulative Analysis	✓	
In-state support representatives (2)	✓	
Free inspector training upon adoption	✓	
Free code books for all inspectors upon adoption	✓	
Toll-free code support for anyone	✓	
ANSI approved document	✓	
Complimentary newsletter for inspectors	✓	