

Kelly, Peter B (DPL)

From: John Annarelli
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2015 2:22 PM
To: Kelly, Peter B (DPL)
Subject: Open Forum

Good afternoon Peter,

I am sending you some observations for the new board and yourself. Thank you.

I would like to take the time to thank this new board for giving people in the industry time to comment on the regulations and proposed code for the newly formed sheet metal licensure. I know that all of us in the industry welcome the new license requirements. These new regulations have been put in place by the legislature for one reason only – to protect the taxpayers of the Commonwealth, whether it is in the public sector or the private sector. This is carried on by the department of professional licensure and the department of the public safety with all the licensing trades. DPS and DPH cannot let any special interest group dictate their own special policies and impose them on the entire industry.

I would like to point out some observations that I feel should be looked at by this new board. I have made a list of requirements needed to obtain a Journeyman's license and some of the related license trades.

- In order to receive a refrigeration technician license (journey person), it would take an apprentice 600 hours, which is three years of field hours, and 250 hours of classroom training by a certified school.
- A pipe fitter does 600 field hours, which is three years, and 350 hours of classroom training by a certified school.
- A sprinkler fitter does 8000 field hours, which is four years, and 576 hours of classroom.
- A plumber does 850 field hours, which is four and a half years, with 550 hours of classroom training.
- A gas fitter does 510 field hours, which is two and a half years, with 330 classroom hours.
- An electrician has to have 8000 hours of field training and 600 hours of education.
- A sheet metal worker (J1 unrestricted) does 8000 field hours, which is four years, and 750 hours of education.
- I not believe that the J2 restricted license should even be mentioned, because I do not know of any sheet metal worker that does strictly residential and residential only.

Out of all of these trades, in my estimation, the most difficult one, which requires not just pipe fitting skills, not just electrical skills, but a combination of many skills, is the refrigeration technician's license and it has the least amount of classroom hours. I am commenting on this because I have been examined and licensed and hold a master sheet metal license (unrestricted) a refrigeration contractor's license and a master electricians. I would recommend to the board that a review of the educational and field requirements for a journey sheet metal worker be reviewed. I also believe that the J2 restricted license should be removed. Simplification of these licenses will be beneficial to the industry. A young person coming into the trades, looking at some of these requirements, would find it a rather daunting task to achieve a Journeyman's position.

Over the past few years, I have attended many of the board meetings, especially during the initial phases approximately seven years ago. Within the rules and regulations in the proposed code, which I understand has not been completely adopted, I believe that there are many overlapping requirements and at this time I am only going to give you a few examples which I feel should be looked at. These requirements can be confusing to local municipality departments because at this time there are no sheet metal inspectors. It is the responsibility of the building inspector to sign-off on sheet metal.

You have to be a licensed sheet metal worker and have a permit to install a walk-in freezer, a walk-in cooler or a clean room. These are snapped together panel systems produced by companies such a Kold Pack, Norlake, etc. Space Building Products is a pre-engineered steel building. It has a structural steel roof so the iron worker assembling the building has

to have a sheet metal license to install the roof. Belts, sheeves and air handling units are repaired and serviced by refrigeration technicians, but now they also have to have a sheet metal license in order to maintain those repairs. Some of these rules, regulations and proposed code present a tremendous amount of confusion for people in the inspectional departments of the local municipalities. There is a tremendous overlap going on throughout the trades. Plumbers do HVAC work. HVAC contractors do service work. Service contractors do controls work. In order for any young individual to succeed and flourish in this industry, multiple licenses are required. My concern is not just for the taxpayers of the Commonwealth, but also for the youth who are going to carry on in our industry, and at this time we have a tremendous shortage of licensed, talented tradesmen.

I thank the Board for letting me submit this to you.

John Annarelli, Jr.
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