

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
 Executive Office of Public Safety and
 Security
 Board of Boiler Rules



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EDWARD S. KAWA JR
 CHAIRMAN

Minutes
 Board of Boiler Rules
 Department of Fire Services
 One State Road, Stow, MA 01775
 Meeting of October 02, 2025

***Prior to opening this meeting, the Chairman reminded attendees that recording the meeting without prior permission of the Board is strictly prohibited. This meeting is being recorded by DFS staff for the purpose of generating meeting minutes. ***

Meeting called to order by the Chairman, Edward Kawa, at 10:05 A.M. The Chairman opened this meeting of the Board of Boiler Rules, explaining that in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 146 Section 3, the Board is conducting a regular meeting. Please note, in accordance with the Massachusetts Open Meeting Law, this public meeting is being recorded for purpose of generating meeting minutes. By continuing to participate in or attend this meeting, you consent to the recording. If you do not wish to be recorded, please exit the meeting now.

1) Attendance

Board Members Present:

- Edward Kawa, Chairman
- Charles Perry, Boiler Manufacturers
- Anthony Lucia, Operating Engineers
- Douglas Smiley, Insurance Companies
- Max Greig, User Group

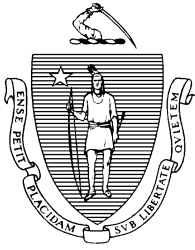
Board Members Not Present:

None

DFS Staff Present:

- Sonya Frade, DFS
- Dan Laperle, DFS

- Kevin Bush, DFS
- Allen Boston, DFS



CHARLES D. BAKER
GOVERNOR

KARYN E. POLITO
LT. GOVERNOR

TERENCE M. REIDY
SECRETARY

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PETER J. OSTROSKY
STATE FIRE MARSHAL

EDWARD S. KAWA JR
CHAIRMAN

Attendees Present:

Larry Berger
Trey J Guerrini, Chubb
Scott Bancroft
Christopher L Hastings, Chubb
Kayla Inouye, CINFIN

Mike Whitlock, Hartford
Benjamin McKay, CNA
James Stiefel, Hartford
Stephen Kapnis, CNA
Erik Newhouse, Hartford

- 2) Minutes from previous meetings: The minutes from the previous meeting held on September 04, 2025, were reviewed. ***Motion to approve the minutes from the meeting on September 04, 2025, made by Charles Perry, seconded by Doug Smiley; motion passed by unanimous vote.***
- 3) Petitions for inspectional considerations: The following requests for extension of the inspectional requirement received since the last regular meeting in September were entered into record:

The Chairman stated there were no petitions submitted for inspectional consideration.
- 4) Boston Public Schools-Henderson School: Discussion regarding combustion and ventilation air requirements for the Henderson School.

District Engineering Inspector Supervisor Daniel Laperle opened the discussion with a PowerPoint presentation detailing the replacement of two existing steam boilers with four HB Smith steam boilers having a total maximum input of 22,212,000 BTU/hr at the Henderson School. Mr. Laperle informed the Board that, following an inspection, Notices of Violation were issued by District Engineering Inspector Kevin Busch. The combustion/ventilation air system, as installed, does not meet the requirements of the 2024 Edition of NFPA 54, as referenced by Shekar & Associates, Inc.

Scott Bancroft of Habeeb & Associates Architects then presented on behalf of Boston Public Schools, providing background and explanation regarding the boiler replacement project. Mr. Bancroft subsequently introduced Seshappa Chandrashekar (Shekar) of Shekar & Associates, who explained the design basis of the combustion air system for the project.

Following both presentations, the Board engaged in a question-and-answer discussion with the presenters:

Board Member Max Greig requested clarification regarding the installed interlocks. Mr. Chandrashekar responded that the combustion air dampers include interlocks requiring the louvers to be open for boiler operation. He further noted that carbon monoxide detection is installed in the room but is not interlocked with the boilers. Mr. Laperle added that under the NFPA 54 Two Permanent Opening System, the ventilation opening louvers would require the same interlock arrangement as the combustion air louvers.

Board Member Doug Smiley commented that, based on the drawings and photographs presented, and considering the large size of the room and the amount of insulated piping, there did not appear to be a freezing concern. He further emphasized that the purpose of NFPA 54 is to ensure adequate combustion air to prevent the production of carbon monoxide.

Board Member Charlie Perry inquired about the discrepancy between the code requirement that openings “commence within 12 inches” of the ceiling and the as-installed opening located 14 inches from the ceiling. Mr. Laperle explained that in a Two Permanent Opening System, openings must commence within 12 inches of both the floor and the ceiling. Therefore, a modification would be required for the upper opening, while the lower opening original installation was subsequently modified and is now compliance with the NFPA 54 code requirement, commencing 12 inches from the floor.

Following discussion, a Motion was made to deny the request from Boston Public School for a variance of the combustion air requirements of NFPA 54, made by Anthony Lucia, seconded by Doug Smiley; motion passed by unanimous vote.

A copy of both presentations is filed with the official Board’s meeting records.

5) Updates from DFS Staff:

The Chairman stated there were no updates from DFS staff.

6) Matters not reasonably anticipated: None

7) Adjournment of Meeting: The next meeting will be on Thursday, November 04, 2025. ***Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Anthony Lucia, seconded by Doug Smiley; motion passed by majority vote, regular meeting adjourned at 11:02AM.***

List of Documents/Exhibits Used at this Meeting

- i) Minutes from meeting on September 04, 2025
- ii) Documents related to City of Boston, Henderson School
 - (1) Presentation by DFS District Engineering Supervisor Daniel Laperle
 - (2) Presentation by Seshappa Chandrashekar (Shekar) of Shekar & Associates
 - (3) Notice of Violations