

July 23, 2015

The Board of Examiners of Sheet Metal Workers  
1000 Washington Street, Suite 710  
Boston, MA 02118


Attention: Board Members

Reference: 271 CMR Review

I'd like to see the Board complete and publish their own sheet metal code similar to the plumbing and electrical industry. Having a separate code will allow licensees, inspectors, and general contractors to have a better understanding of the scope of sheet metal work and help clear up job site confusion. Having a separate code will allow the Board to consider including or excluding certain products from being used in Massachusetts (fiber board, phenolic board, anchors and hangers, etc.) It will allow the Board to apply limits to the use of flexible duct to something more reasonable than unlimited lengths of 25' - 0" or more.

I think enforcement could be improved and similar to plumbing and electrical, cities and towns should consider hiring full or part time sheet metal licensees to perform inspections under 271 CMR. Too many cities and towns don't use sheet metal permits, don't check licenses on job sites, don't issue permits for metal roofing, don't perform on-site inspections for jobs under controlled construction per 780 CMR - please note there is no mention of controlled construction in 271 CMR. Having a Massachusetts sheet metal code separate from 780 CMR and having licensed sheet metal inspectors in cities and towns would eliminate most of these issues and clearly identify what work is covered under 271 CMR.

Sincerely,



Robert O'Brien  
Sheet Metal Worker's  
License # 2143 exp. 5/28/16

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BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL LICENSING