

## Chapter H 61

PLUMBING APPRENTICESHIP AND LICENSING  
OF PLUMBERS

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**H 61.01 Apprenticeship.** (1) **REGISTRATION.** Every plumbing apprentice shall within 30 days after beginning apprenticeship register with the board on a blank furnished by it, showing date of beginning apprenticeship, date of indenture, age, employer, preliminary schooling, and such other information as the board may require. The board may accept voluntary registration of persons beginning an accredited trade school course.

(2) **QUALIFICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION.** All applicants for registration as apprentices must have reached the age of 16 years and have completed the tenth grade in school or its equivalent. In places where part-time schools are available applicants who have not completed the tenth grade or its equivalent shall be required to attend part-time school four hours per week during the entire period of their apprenticeship. In each case where the applicant seeks to establish the equivalency of completion of the tenth grade the matter shall be referred to the state board of vocational and adult education for decision. Applicants may also appear before the local plumbers joint apprenticeship and training committee in places where there is such a committee before the board takes final action.

(3) **RESPONSIBILITY OF EMPLOYER.** Registration as an apprentice shall not be accepted by the board unless the particular shop in which the apprentice is to work and the employing master plumber are equipped and qualified to have an apprentice and that the requirements as to both shop and school training will be complied with. Master plumbers employing registered apprentices shall report to the board any changes made in relation to the continued employment of such apprentices. Such changes shall be subject to the joint approval of the board and the industrial commission of Wisconsin. Licensed master plumbers in the employ of state agencies are to be considered employing master plumbers for the purposes of this section.

(4) **SUSPENSION OF REGISTRATION.** (a) Whenever an apprenticeship ceases to exist or whenever a registration has been accepted under such conditions as would not have warranted an acceptance if the true facts had been presented, or when there has been wilful non-compliance with the shop and school training requirements, the board shall suspend such registration until the conditions causing such suspension shall have been remedied or cancel such registration if that be deemed expedient.

(b) A registration which has lapsed either through suspension or cancellation may be renewed in the same manner as new registrations and the board may grant such credit toward completion of the 5-year apprenticeship as it may deem proper in each case.

**History:** 1-2-56; am. (3), Register, February, 1958, No. 26; eff. 3-1-58.

Register, February, 1958, No. 26.

**H 61.02 Term of apprenticeship.** The term of plumbing apprenticeship shall be five years. A 5-year term of apprenticeship is defined as not less than 1,900 hours per year, with a total of not less than 9,500 hours for the 5-year term.

**H 61.03 Practical training.** (1) During his apprenticeship the apprentice shall receive instruction and experience in all branches of plumbing, including the preparation of material for installation, as is necessary to develop a practical and skilled mechanic, versed in the theory and practice of plumbing.

(2) During the first three years the apprentice shall be given opportunity to and shall assist in and install plumbing material as his skill will permit under the immediate supervision of a journeyman or master plumber.

(3) During the fourth and fifth years any apprentice who is meeting the related instruction requirement may under general supervision of a master plumber make plumbing installations as his acquired skill will permit. A graduate of a plumbing course of an accredited trade school having at least a 2-year course in plumbing upon registration as an apprentice, may perform the same class of work as a fourth and fifth year apprentice.

(4) Apprentice applicants who have attended the plumbing course in a recognized trade school in Wisconsin but who are not graduates of such school will be given credit for the work done in the trade school as a part of the required five years of experience. Any attendance of less than three months shall not receive recognition.

**H 61.04 Related instruction.** (1) An apprentice who is not a graduate of an accredited trade school shall complete during the first three years an approved day school course in plumbing of not less than 400 hours when opportunity for such instruction exists in the city in which employed or in a city within a reasonable distance of the place of employment. Where vocational schools are not available the apprentice, subject to approval by the board shall enroll in the plumbers home study course given by the Wisconsin schools of vocational and adult education, or take a correspondence course in plumbing approved by the board. In addition, a fourth and fifth year apprentice, including graduates of a trade school shall complete a trade extension course of 120 hours in night school in the city in which he resides or an equivalent and approved correspondence course when available.

(2) An indentured apprentice who fails to complete his contract or who was not transferred with the approval of the industrial commission to another shop shall not be entitled to continue his vocational school plumbing course except with the approval of the industrial commission.

**H 61.05 Engineering training.** Graduates of a college engineering course related to plumbing and those completing not less than one year of such a course who have had in addition plumbing installation experience shall receive such credit up to one year for each year of college as may be determined by the board. Each such applicant shall be considered as a separate case.

**H 61.06 Journeyman plumber licenses.** (1) **PROOF OF FITNESS REQUIRED.** Proof of experience, skill, fitness, and related instruction shall be provided by all applicants for journeyman's licenses and be found acceptable to the committee of examiners.

(2) **QUALIFICATIONS OF APPLICANTS FOR JOURNEYMAN'S LICENSE.** Persons who have met one of the following qualifications may make application for a journeyman plumber's examination and license:

(a) *Apprentices.* Apprentices who have served a 5-year apprenticeship and who have complied with all the requirements as to shop training and related instruction.

(b) *Trade school graduates.* Apprentices who are graduates of an accredited trade school and who in addition have completed two years of shop training and related instruction.

(c) *Persons working at trade.* Persons who have worked for five or more years as journeyman plumbers in localities where a license is not required, who are sufficiently experienced and skilled, and who have completed a vocational school or correspondence course of related instruction acceptable to the board.

(3) **NONRESIDENT PERSONS.** Persons from other states who present sufficient proof that they have the necessary experience and qualifications.

*W.S. O.A.C. 2703/45.01 Std.*  
 H 61.07 **Master plumber licenses.** Persons who have worked three or more years as licensed journeyman plumbers, or for five or more years as master plumbers in localities in this state where a license is not required, may make application for a master plumber's examination and license. A 3-year term of journeymanship is defined as not less than 1,000 hours per year, with a total of at least 3,000 hours. Applicants from other states shall present sufficient proof that their qualifications and experience conform to this rule.

**H 61.08 Examinations.** (1) **WHEN HELD.** Regular examinations for the licensing of journeyman and master plumbers will be held during the months of February and August of each year, and special examinations at such time as the board may direct. The place of all regular and special examinations shall be determined by the board. Application blanks for examination for licenses and renewal of licenses for master and journeyman plumbers may be obtained from the board.

(2) **DATE OF FILING APPLICATION.** All applications for examination shall be on file in the office of the board at least two weeks prior to the date of the examination. Failure to have the application on file within the required time shall necessitate postponement of the applicant's appearance to the next regular examination. All applications shall expire and be cancelled after a period of one year if the applicant fails to appear for examination within such period.

(3) **FEES.** Fees for the examinations and licenses for master and journeyman are regulated by section 145.08, Wis. Stats. No fees shall be returned after an applicant has appeared for examination.

(4) **OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER NOTICE.** Notice of the time and place of each examination shall be published in the official state paper at least 20 days prior to such examination.

(5) **NOTICE OF EXAMINATION TO APPLICANTS.** Notice of the time and place of examination shall be sent to those who have approved applications on file in the office of the board. Such notice shall be mailed to the address given on the application blank and shall be presented by the applicant to gain admittance to the examination room. Failure to receive the notice on account of change in address shall not be accepted as an excuse.

(6) CHARACTER OF EXAMINATIONS. (a) The examinations shall be conducted by the committee of examiners. They shall consist of written and practical tests, and may in part be oral. The examination will cover the theory and practice of plumbing, the interpretation of charts and blueprints and plans of plumbing installations, and such other tests as the committee may deem necessary to properly pass upon the qualifications of the candidate. The character, experience and fitness of the applicant shall also be taken in consideration.

(b) Credit on examination shall be given as follows:

- 1. Experience paper ----- 10 per cent
- 2. Written work based on code ----- 50 per cent
- 3. Chart work based on code ----- 30 per cent
- 4. Practical work ----- 10 per cent

(7) MATERIALS USED IN EXAMINATION. Applicants shall furnish the necessary tools and material for the examination as requested by the examiners.

*Note:* Applicants must participate in all phases of the examination to qualify for a passing grade.

(8) RE-EXAMINATION. Applicants failing an initial examination may be re-examined within three months. Applicants shall not be eligible for a second re-examination until the expiration of six months after the first re-examination, and not for the third and subsequent re-examinations until the expiration of one year after the re-examination which results in failure.

H 61.09 Temporary permits. Temporary permits to engage in business as a master plumber shall not be issued except in especially urgent cases. When deemed necessary the board may require a special examination to determine the qualifications of an applicant before a temporary permit is issued. Temporary permits shall become void upon the date of the first examination following issuance of permit and shall be surrendered to the board.

H 61.10 License renewal. (1) ANNUAL NOTICE FOR RENEWAL OF LICENSES. Notice for the annual renewal of licenses shall be sent to all plumbers whose licenses were in force during the previous year to the address given on the latest license renewal blank on file in the office of the board unless notice of another address is given. Failure to receive the notice for renewal of licenses shall not be accepted as an excuse for failure to renew.

(2) DELINQUENT OR ELAPSED LICENSES. Whenever a master or journeyman plumber fails to renew his license for a period of five years the board shall require evidence to show that he is competent to perform the work of either a master or journeyman plumber before such license is renewed.

H 61.11 Exchange of licenses without examination. All master plumbers in good standing and licensed by the board who desire to engage in the plumbing business solely as a journeyman plumber, shall, upon application and upon payment of the initial license fee of \$5.00 be issued a journeyman plumber's license. A journeyman plumber who holds an unrenewed master plumber's license shall, upon application, be re-licensed as a master plumber upon the payment of the \$25.00 renewal and \$5.00 revival fee as provided by law for the renewal of such license.

