



State Plumbing Board

John W. Hickenlooper

Governor

Barbara J. Kelley

Executive

Director

Mark Browne

Program

Director

STATUTORY CHANGES

ENACTED BY SB 13-162 CONTINUING THE PLUMBERS ACT

Colorado Revised Statute Title 12 – Article 58 – Plumbers creates the Plumbing Board and the Plumbers Practice Act regulating the adoption of a model plumbing code and provides for plumbing licenses. The Act went through a Sunset Review this legislative session as [Senate Bill 13-162](#) and was continued until 2024. While under review, several statutory requirements were added, deleted or reworded as a result of work by: Colorado counties, Colorado Municipal League, Colorado Association of Contractors, Plumbers Local 3, the Department of Regulatory Agencies and other stakeholders. Below are the significant changes and how they affect consumers, homeowners, plumbers, plumbing contractors and local jurisdictional authorities.

Colorado Fuel Gas code

The fuel gas code is now defined in statute and set out as its own code instead of being part of the plumbing code. The intent is to help to clarify that a plumbing license is not required to install fuel gas piping.

Clarification of the definition of plumbing

The plumbing definition was revised by removing the "plumbing does not include" list. The list was moved into the statutory exemptions in section 12-58-113. The list of statutory exemptions specifies when no permit or plumbing license is required. These amendments serve to clarify the statute definition of plumbing and to place the list of exemptions in a central statutory location.

Continued page 3

Contact us:

State Plumbing Board

1560 Broadway, Suite 1350
Denver, Colorado 80202
Tel: 303.894.7800

Website:

www.dora.colorado.gov/professions/plumbing

Inside This Issue...

Plumbing Program Changes	4
Authority Over Multi-Purpose Residential Sprinklers	6
Gray Water Use: HB 13-1044	8

DORA'S NEW AND IMPROVED WEBSITE

DORA launched our new website! You will see many changes to the Division of Professions and Occupations web pages. Bookmark these new web pages:

Division's Homepage: www.dora.colorado.gov/professions

Renewals: www.dora.colorado.gov/professions/renewal

Online Services: www.dora.colorado.gov/professions/onlineservices

State Plumbing Board: www.dora.colorado.gov/professions/plumbing



**Consumer protection
is our mission**

SIGN UP FOR E-UPDATES!

The Division wants to keep you informed of upcoming renewal, legislation, events and other information that impacts your profession. In order to do this more efficiently we have implemented "DORA eUpdates" and we look forward to providing more of these in the future. These eUpdates are sent to the email address in our licensing system for each active licensee. To update or add your email address, log into [Online Services](#).

TAX ID NUMBERS NEEDED FOR PLUMBING CONTRACTORS

Online Services requires licensees to enter the 9 digit FEIN (Tax ID number) and the license number of the contractor to gain account access. If the Division does not have an accurate Tax ID number on file, you will receive an error message stating "No match found." *If this occurs, please DO NOT register a new account.* Contact us at [DORA DPO OnlineLicenses@state.co.us](mailto:DORA_DPO_OnlineLicenses@state.co.us) or 303-894-2421 so that we may ensure information accuracy in our system.

PROOF OF LAWFUL PRESENCE

All persons requesting original licensure or registration, renewal of an active license or registration or reinstatement of an expired license or registration must verify lawful presence in the United States based on the passage of House Bill 06S-1009. This bill applies to all applicants and licensees in the Division of Professions and Occupations, with the exception of apprentices, interns, and businesses.

Licenses and registrations will not be issued or renewed without completing the Affidavit of Eligibility form.

The good news is that you can complete this affidavit online when you renew using Online Services!

You must possess at least one secure and verifiable document and include information about that document on the Affidavit itself (or provide the information during online renewal).

More information regarding this law is available on our website [here](#).

RENEW YOUR LICENSE OR REGISTRATION ON TIME

You may renew your license or registration online using Online Services. Renewals are generally made available approximately 6 weeks prior to the license expiration date. After that there is a 60 day grace period. That means you typically have a time frame of about 3 months to renew your license.

Any license or registration not renewed prior to the end of the grace period will be considered expired. Once a license or registration is in expired status, a reinstatement application must be completed and returned to our office with the appropriate fee listed on the form.

If you do not renew your license or registration prior to the end of the grace period and continue to practice, you will be practicing on an expired license or registration and may be subject to disciplinary action. The Division sees a number of situations every year of individuals who have failed to renew their license on time and practiced without one. The reasons that are offered boil down to some common themes: I forgot; I moved and I forgot to notify the Office so I never got the renewal notice; I thought that my assistant/secretary/spouse/boyfriend, et cetera, handled it; it's the Office's fault because I *did* renew my license...or I *thought* I renewed my license. The result is that depending on how long it takes for the individual to "remember" to renew, the Division often takes disciplinary action against the individual because it is against the law to practice without an active license or registration. So, here's where we need your help:

1. Note the expiration date in your calendar to remind yourself of when it is time to renew your license or registration the next time.
2. Make sure that the address listed on your record is accurate. If it is not, then update your address with the Division. Remember to update your address any time that you move so that you do not miss out on any important notices from the Division.

Remember, it is each licensee's or registrant's responsibility to renew on time. With our online system, you can handle all of this yourself, any time, day or night. *When you complete the renewal process, check your account for a new expiration date in the "Current Information" tab of your Online Services account. If your dates did not update, return to the "Cart" in the upper right hand corner of your account to complete payment.*

RENEWAL INSTRUCTIONS

For detailed renewal instructions, click on your profession at www.dora.colorado.gov/professions/renewal.

STATUTORY CHANGES

ENACTED BY SB-1362 CONTINUING THE PLUMBERS ACT

Continued from page 1

Deletion of section 12-58-104 (k) Establish minimum requirements for the inspection of residential fire sprinklers.

This section was not needed, residential multipurpose fire sprinklers were already covered by the Colorado plumbing code and defined as plumbing allowing plumbing inspectors to inspect the systems.

All local jurisdictional authorities are required to “adhere” to the adopted plumbing code within 12 months of adoption by the Board.

Existing statutory language made the Colorado Plumbing Code the minimum standard for all plumbing installations throughout the state upon adoption by the board.

The new language grants local jurisdictional authorities one year to “adhere” to the minimum requirements of the Colorado Plumbing Code after formal adoption by the Plumbing Board.

The word “adhere” was used specifically so local jurisdictions that prefer to enforce a less current cycle of codes will not have to adopt a new code. By “adhering,” a jurisdiction only needs to enforce any new code sections that are more stringent than the code they have adopted as a family for building, mechanical, energy, etc. The intent was to keep the plumbing industry as consistent as possible throughout the state for design professionals and plumbers in general without placing an undue burden on local jurisdictions.

Changes in areas inspected by the Plumbing Board.

The Colorado Revised Statute Title 12 – Article 58 – Plumbers provides for the requirement of the Colorado Plumbing Code regarding safe and sanitary plumbing to be installed in all areas of the state by licensed plumbers. Prior to the Sunset Review and subsequent recommendations the statutes lacked a requirement for those installations to be inspected by a state plumbing inspector or a local jurisdictional authority plumbing inspector. The rewritten statute section requires all plumbing installations to be inspected by a state plumbing inspector except where a local jurisdiction provides a permitting and inspection program and has notified the board of their intent to do inspections. All local jurisdictions are required to inform the board in writing by October of a given year if they intend to commence or cease inspections in their area the following July first.

New requirement for plumbing inspectors employed by local jurisdictional authorities to be a state licensed plumber or a certified plumbing inspector.

Beginning July 1, 2014, individuals employed as plumbing inspectors for local jurisdictions are required to be journeyman or master plumbers licensed under article 58 of Title 12 or certified as a residential (or commercial) plumbing inspector by a nationally recognized model code organization to inspect residential (or commercial) plumbing. Any newly hired inspectors not licensed under this article or certified by a nationally recognized model code organization have one year from the date of hire to acquire the necessary license or certification or meet the hiring requirements of the hiring authority, whichever is more stringent. The residential and/or commercial certifications are separate and respective. To inspect both residential and commercial plumbing installations, both certifications, or a dual certification is required.

The Examining Board of Plumbers is now called the *State Plumbing Board*.

PLUMBING PROGRAM CHANGES

Non- licensed contractor permits are being eliminated. Beginning July 1, 2013, the online permit system will no longer have a means to register as a non- licensed contractor or purchase a permit as a non -licensed contractor. The three entry points to the online system will be for:

1. Plumbing contractors doing plumbing and gas pipe installations.
2. Homeowners doing plumbing and gas piping installations on their own home.
3. Gas piping installers.

Changes to the permitting system and inspection process include:

1. Shower pan liners will become the responsibility of the holder of the plumbing permit and are required to be installed, tested and accepted at the time of the rough plumbing inspection.

Due to the large number of failed inspections, additional trips for inspectors, increased variance requests and lack of a responsible regulated installers, the responsibility for the installation and inspection of site built shower compartments will belong to the homeowner or plumbing contractor per the requirements of the Colorado plumbing code.

2. Mobile and modular home plumbing connections must be permitted and installed by either a registered plumbing contractor or homeowner. Gas pipe testing will continue as before.

Mobile home set up installers are not allowed to make plumbing connections by either the Colorado plumbing code or the Department of Housing Regulations.

3. Separate permits will be issued for plumbing and gas piping installations (only one base fee for both will be charged when issued to the same company).

Homeowners and plumbing contractors purchasing permits for the installation of plumbing and gas piping systems will be issued a separate permit number for each trade.

This newsletter was created by the Division of Professions and Occupations to improve communications between the Division and its licensees and registrants

UPDATES FROM THE PROGRAM DIRECTOR by Mark Browne

I wanted to take this opportunity and welcome our new Enforcement Unit Supervisor, Dennis Larson, to the Electrical and Plumbing boards. His work unit exists to provide support to the Electrical and Plumbing Boards by assisting the Boards in fulfilling their statutory mandates to protect the public health, safety and welfare of the consumers of electrical and plumbing services in Colorado. By fulfilling this mandate the electrical and plumbing industries also benefit by consumers viewing these industries as the professional entities they are.

Dennis Larson has a combined background in education services and finance. He comes to us from the Society of Certified Senior Advisors (SCSA), an educational organization providing NACCA-approved courses related to aging. For the last 10 years, he managed technology enhancements, procedure development, board support, and general operations for SCSA. Prior to that, Dennis spent five years managing regulatory matters for OppenheimerFunds. We are excited to have Dennis on board and feel his most immediate benefit to electrical and plumbing will be in the area of process development. Through training, procedure review, and technology, we hope to develop more efficiencies that will allow his staff and the program area as a whole to find new and better ways to provide consumer protection. *Continued page 8*

INTRODUCING THE DIVISION OF PROFESSIONS AND OCCUPATIONS!

After 44 years, the Division of Registrations got a new name on August 8, 2012, that better reflects its mission. The regulator of 50 professions, occupations, and businesses in the state is now the **Division of Professions and Occupations**. The Division is responsible for the licensure and enforcement of nearly 350,000 people in the state. It preserves the integrity of the marketplace through the consistent and fair pursuit of consumer protection. The work of the Division facilitates a labor force that is a critical driver of the state's economy, and touches all Coloradans in their personal, daily lives.

ONLINE SERVICES HAS A NEW LOOK

The new Online Services is faster, more user-friendly and more compatible with browsers such as Safari, Mozilla Firefox and Google Chrome. **Go to www.colorado.gov/professions/online-services to renew your license or change your address.** *If you have not logged into the system since July 1, 2012, you must register to create a new account.*

GREETINGS FROM THE PLUMBING INSPECTOR SUPERVISOR

by Kye Lehr

This legislative session has certainly been a busy one for the plumbing industry. The Plumbers Practice Act was due to sunset on July 1, 2013 unless the state legislature was willing to continue the act. Had the act not been continued by Senate Bill 13-162, plumbing licenses, the *State Plumbing Board, a state plumbing code and state plumbing inspections would have ceased to exist. I am happy to report the bill passed through both houses and was signed by the governor so we are set until September 1, 2024 when the process will begin again. Some changes will be occurring on July first this year; some others will not go into effect until later. *Please note that the board name changed from the Examining Board of Plumbers to the State Plumbing Board on July 1, 2013.



THE DIVISION OF PROFESSIONS AND OCCUPATIONS WELCOMES OUR NEW DIVISION DIRECTOR!

Lauren Larson became the Director of the Division of Professions and Occupations in August 2012. Ms. Larson comes to DORA from Washington, DC, where she was a senior executive at the Executive Office of the President, Office of Management and Budget (OMB). As Chief of the Treasury Branch at OMB, she negotiated billions of dollars in spending and numerous industry regulations. Her experience includes budget, legislative and general management oversight for federal regulatory agencies such as the Department of the Treasury, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the Securities and Exchange Commission. Ms. Larson also served as a senior advisor at the Internal Revenue Service. Prior to her government service, Ms. Larson was an economic consultant with PricewaterhouseCoopers, and a manager at a nonprofit. She holds a Master of Public Policy from the University of Michigan, and a Bachelor's degree in Political Science from Syracuse University.

AUTHORITY OVER MULTI-PURPOSE RESIDENTIAL FIRE SPRINKLERS

There appears to be some confusion in the field about the requirements for, installation of, and inspection of the residential fire sprinkler systems from the International Residential Code. Below is a short summary followed by more analysis of the information.

- Who requires the system?
The authority to require residential fire sprinklers in townhouses and one- and two- family residences belongs to the local AHJ (Building Department)
- Who can install the system?
A plumbing license is required for legal installations of fire sprinkler systems in townhouses and one- and two- family residences
- Who can inspect the system?
Plumbing inspectors employed by the local AHJ are responsible for inspecting multipurpose residential fire sprinkler systems in townhomes and one- and two- family residences

Requirement for installation:

Section R313 of the 2009, and 2012 International Residential Codes require “automatic fire sprinkler systems” to be installed in townhouses and one- and two- family dwellings and that they be installed in accordance with P2904 or NFPA 13D.

There still is confusion in the industry as to whether this is a Plumbing Board or even a Department of Fire Safety requirement. The answer is neither; the requirement for installation of residential fire sprinklers is in Section R313 of the IRC, authority to enforce requirements from the IRC rest solely with the local Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) over construction of townhouses and one- and two- family dwellings. The local AHJ must adopt the 2009 or later version IRC with section R313 intact.

Installation requirements:

Water distribution systems by code, as established by legislative declaration, require a plumbing license to install. Section R313.2.1 states “Automatic residential fire sprinkler systems shall be designed and installed in accordance with Section P2904 or NFPA 13D.” This is where it can get confusing. The general section of P2904 repeats the verbiage from R313.2.1; residential fire sprinklers shall be installed in accordance with either P2904 or NFPA 13D. As NFPA is a standalone document, one might first assume systems designed to 13D would not require a plumbing license to install. That would be incorrect as the deciding criteria is back-flow protection. Section P2904.1 states “A backflow preventer shall not be required to separate a stand-alone sprinkler system from the water distribution system.” Both the multipurpose system and the standalone system designed to either P2904 or NFPA 13D are part of the water distribution piping.

Inspection requirements:

12-58-114.5. Inspection - application - standards. (As revised 7.1.2013)

(1) Any plumbing or gas piping installation in any new construction or remodeling or repair, other than manufactured units inspected in accordance with the provisions of part 7 of article 32 of title 24, C.R.S., except in any incorporated town or city, any county, or any city and county that conducts inspections and issues permits, must be inspected by a state plumbing inspector.

**THANK YOU
STATE PLUMBING BOARD MEMBERS!**

Steven J. Callahan	Master
Donald P. Crandell	Plumbing Contractor
Jorge Delgado	Ex-Officio
Bruce T. Schneider	General Contractor
Anthony J. Shaffer	Plumbing Contractor
Janice K. Snidow	Journeyman
James Vernon	Plumbing Inspector

HOW ARE RENEWAL FEES SET?

By law, the program must operate strictly with funds collected from the persons it regulates, with no support from the state's General Fund. The Colorado Legislature determines the budget for the program. Once the Legislature sets the budget, the money must be raised through fees. These fees are evaluated each year. Therefore, they are modified depending on how much money is anticipated to be received through the licensing and renewal processes and what the anticipated expenditures are expected to be. The primary obligation is to protect consumers and the operations of the program are focused to ensure it can work diligently to do so. The Division of Professions and Occupations works hard to contain program costs and to keep fees for regulated professionals as low as possible.



VIEW DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS ONLINE

The Division of Professions and Occupations allows anyone to view images of scanned disciplinary documents online. In reviewing an individual's information, it is important to know what is and is not available from the agency about Colorado professionals.

The following information would appear on a record under Board or Program Actions if applicable to the professional:

1. If a professional had been disciplined or formally accused of wrongdoing by the Board or Program.
2. If the Board or Program has taken some other non-disciplinary action against the professional that restricts or limits the individual's practice.

Board/Program Action Documents available:

- All Stipulations, Final Agency Orders, and Suspensions that were in effect in February 2000 plus any that became effective since that date. Child support suspensions are not available online but may be obtained by contacting the appropriate Board or Program.
- Any document Revoking or agreeing to a Voluntary Relinquishment/Surrender of a license, registration or certificate, Cease and Desist Orders and Letters of Admonition from January 1, 1999 to the present.
- All Injunctions.

**To view disciplinary action documents, please visit
www.dora.colorado.gov/professions
 Click on "Licensing" and then "Disciplinary Actions"
 or click [here](#)**

HAVE YOU CHANGED YOUR MAILING ADDRESS ?

It is imperative that you keep your contact information updated with the Division. The Division mails renewal notices and other information to you at the last address furnished to us. Failure to receive a renewal notice does not relieve you of your obligation to timely renew. Once you have logged into Online Services, check your mailing address and update it if it is not correct. If you received your renewal notice due to a forwarding order it is important that you change your address on file with us, since we cannot change the information based on the forwarding order.

UPDATES FROM THE PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Continued from page 4

The plumbing program area has been busy this past year helping to create the plumbing sunset recommendations. Plumbing Inspector Supervisor Kye Lehr, along with the program director and other staff, worked with numerous plumbing associations, consumers, industry leaders and the board members to gain their insights and questions/concerns. After a lengthy process of analyzing both quantitative and qualitative data, recommendations were discussed with the Office of Policy Research and Regulatory Reform. During the legislative session the plumbing sunset became SB 13-162. During this time multiple associations and industry leaders were able to testify and work on amendments to make sure the final sunset bill was focused on consumer protection while still encouraging business growth. I also want to thank Kye Lehr for his tireless work on the plumbing sunset. His passion and loyalty for the program area is shown daily.

Due to the statutory changes in the Plumbing Practice Act, the Plumbing Board will also be involved in rulemaking this year. One focus during rulemaking will be to adopt the IPC 2012 with amendments as the Colorado Plumbing Code. The current code is on the IPC 2009. This process is transparent and the rulemaking will be open to the public for any public testimony. The Plumbing Board continually strives to increase customer satisfaction while keeping with our mission of consumer protection.



GRAY WATER USE: HOUSE BILL 13-1044

House Bill 13-1044 concerning the authorization of the use of gray water provides a local city, city and county, or county, the authority to allow the use of gray water in accordance with federal, state, and local requirements by adopting an ordinance in consultation with the local health board, water and waste water service providers, and well use provisions.

There are two separate and distinct situations where gray water is used. Unfortunately the new house bill does not indicate the differences. The single term “Gray Water” is often used alternately for both types of uses. The two use types are:

- Gray water where used for sub-soil irrigation of outdoor plants that are not vegetable gardens or fruit trees. It is not allowed to be sprayed.
- Gray water where used for the flushing of plumbing fixtures (water closets and urinals).

Western states, other than Colorado, that allow “gray water use”, only allow it to be used as sub-soil irrigation, not for the flushing of plumbing fixtures. State statutes allowing the use of gray water in Texas and Arizona not only indicate its use to be per item one above but specifically state gray water is not to be used for any other purpose (as in flushing of fixtures).

The plumbing board has sole authoritative power over plumbing fixtures located within the building by statute. HB13-1044 does not override that authority. *Continued next page*

GRAY WATER USE: HOUSE BILL 13-1044*Continued from page 8*

The use of gray water for sub-soil irrigation is outside the board's authority to regulate. The authority to regulate the gray water use beyond the board's jurisdiction then falls to the authority granted by HB13-1044.

Summary:

With the additional authority granted by HB 13-1044, the use of gray water for the flushing of plumbing fixtures is contingent on permission from the following:

- **City and/or County municipality**
- **Water and waste water service provider**-Where private wells are involved, the provisions for use from the well drilling permit are the deciding factor.
- **The State Plumbing Board**-Under the currently adopted Colorado plumbing code, a variance from the board is required for any type of water other than potable to be supplied to plumbing fixtures requiring water for their operation.

NOTES FROM THE CHIEF INSPECTOR

by Stephen Conrad, Chief Inspector

The Plumbing Board Sunset Bill was passed by the legislature and signed by the Governor continuing the State Plumbing Board and programs through 2024. There are several major new items in the law that will enhance consumer protection and the health and safety of the citizens of Colorado.

Renewal notices should be in the mail by the middle of July 2013. Remember, per statute, a plumbing contractor is responsible for registering and terminating registration of plumbing apprentices. When a plumbing contractor registration is renewed the contractor must attest that plumbing apprentice registration(s) assigned to the company are current and correct. Apprentice registrations can now be created or terminated through the online system at www.dora.state.co.us/plumbing.

The final point I want to make is regarding the duties and responsibilities of licensees and contractors. The license each of you has earned through years of work and experience is more than just a way to make a living. That license says you are a professional at your trade and you understand your responsibility of protecting the health and safety of anyone who may be affected by your actions. You should be proud to have achieved your professional status and strive to always do what is right. Installations you are doing now will be in use for generations to come so leave everyone safe. Thanks for your efforts!

ONLINE APPRENTICE REGISTRATION NOW AVAILABLE!

The Board is pleased to announce online apprentice registration! Contractors can now register apprentices when hired or remove their registration upon separation online. You will find instructions for using this new tool [here](#).