



# THE VOICE OF THE LICENSED MASTER PLUMBER



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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As you may recall, in the last few editions of *The Voice of the Licensed Master Plumber*, we discussed the frustration of the industry's inability to obtain LAA's in a timely fashion, which in turn was causing legitimate Licensed Master Plumbers to appear inept, lose business and actually increase illegal plumbing activities, as property owners turned to unlicensed persons to perform their work in a timely fashion. At one point, backlogs were reported to have been causing delays of up to five (5) months. Clearly, a 5-month backlog was unacceptable, even as DOB struggled to do their best in the face of cutbacks and staffing.

The industry took assertive action by reaching out to several City Councilmen and Commissioner Robert LiMandri. With a very dedicated staff, a solution was reached by creating the Limited Alteration Express Application process. The new procedure allows for same day processing on specific applications, thereby providing the Licensed Master Plumber the ability to perform work within a reasonable time frame. More information concerning this procedure can be found on Page 3 of this newsletter.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Commissioner LiMandri, Deputy Commissioner Fatma Amer, Associate Commissioner Kanda Gordon, Assistant Commissioner Laura V. Osario, Director of LAA/Permit Renewals Gathfeny Sanders and the LAA Unit staff, for their hard work, dedication and cooperation in resolving this matter.

This new process is the first step in creating a streamlined system to allow the industry to perform work to code. I am hopeful that the Department and the industry will continue to work together, creating even more processes designed to streamline systems and procedures, while enhancing safety through stringent code compliance efforts.

Sincerely,  
*Robert J. Bellini*

## Save the Date

**2010 Education and Energy Efficiency Expo at Russo's on the Bay,  
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More info to follow**

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## DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS

### Limited Alteration Express Application (LAA1E)

The Limited Alteration Express Application was the Department's response to a much needed change to reduce the time it was taking plumbers to get an LAA issued. As you may recall, backlogs were reportedly as high as 5-months at one point this spring. The backlog was making it impossible for plumbers to perform work in an already depressed economy.

The new LAA1E form will allow for same day approval. No applications may be submitted after 11:00 AM. Approvals will be posted online. It is to be used as follows:

*Applicants seeking same day authorization for Limited Alteration Application (LAA) plumbing work must use the new LAA1E form. This form must be completed by a Licensed Master Plumber. Plumbing work eligible for same day authorization is **limited** to new installation, replacement or repair of: bathtubs, bidets, dish washers, drinking fountains, floor drains, grease traps, lavatories, roof drains, RPZ/Backflow Prevention, sanitary piping, sewer connections, sinks (residential), stall showers, storm drain pipes, sump pumps, toilets (water closet), urinals, washing machines, and/ or water piping.*

**Note:** *Work must be limited to a maximum of two new plumbing fixtures, with estimated costs limited to \$25,000 per building in any twelve months period.*

As mentioned in the President's Message, the Department of Buildings and the plumbing industry have been working together to try and alleviate some of the problems and backlogs that exist with current practices. As with all works in progress, there is a learning curve.

The Department has reported that they will allow minor corrections to a rejected LAA1E form at the counter. Please see the list below for corrections an applicant can make at the counter:

- Provide license seal
- Number of fixtures installed/replaced
- Fee payment due
- Provide licensee signature
- Estimated cost
- Missing license number
- Missing owner name or phone number
- Floor/apartment information

The Department would like to avoid extensive hand written corrections on the LAA1E forms, but will allow two or three word corrections if necessary. Please note that they are unable to process an invalid address and no information can be displayed on the BIS network of the job submission. Only the applicant (the LMP) can make these changes at the counter.

### Limited Alteration Application (LAA):

Similarly, DOB is experiencing some recurring problems with the regular LAA's. These problems are the following:

- Insufficient funds submitted
- Failing to return the BIS labels on jobs that require them (withdrawals, resubmissions and Post Approval Amendments). This results in duplicate jobs being filed which creates more delays.
- Failing to complete the ASB4 asbestos form or providing the incorrect asbestos application
- Failure to indicate riser replacement location and the associated fire stoppage information
- Gas usage information does not agree with job description
- Failure to provide sketch required for direct vent equipment

Be sure to verify all information prior to submitting. This will result in quicker turn around and more approvals.



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The Master Plumber's Council would like to recognize our affiliate members who continue to support the Council and the plumbing industry. Thank You!

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## DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS UPDATE

### Code Requirements for Quick Closing Valves

Robert Daly, Boiler Technical Director

Please be advised that the new Code defines the following:

**Quick-Closing Valve.** A valve or faucet that closes automatically when released manually or that is controlled by a mechanical means for fast-action closing.

**604.9 Water hammer.** The flow velocity of the water distribution system shall be controlled to reduce the possibility of water hammer. A water-hammer arrestor shall be installed where quick closing valves are utilized. Water-hammer arrestors shall be installed in accordance with manufacturer's specifications. Water-hammer arrestors shall conform to ASSE 1010 and PDI WH 201.

The Department of Buildings has determined that washing machines, dishwashers, ice makers or any solenoid valves require a water-hammer arrestor. The installation is to be performed as per manufacturer's specifications.

Today we failed a Plumbing inspection on a STEAM boiler job because the inspector wanted an anti hammer device for the automatic water feed valve as he said under the new code any quick closing valve requires it and this is a quick closing valve, please notify all contractors so that they can install this valve and not fail a Plumbing inspection.

### OP-128 vs. the LAA

Despite the fact that the OP-128 form, Ordinary Plumbing Work Report, has been around since September 2008, many Licensed Master Plumbers are not using them for the minor work you are allowed to file on them. In fact, many plumbers are using the Limited Alteration Application as a means to file this minor work. With long backlogs and higher fees, there is no need.

If you are not using the OP-128 form, please familiarize yourself with the type of work you are allowed to file on it. The following instances are the **ONLY** types of work to be filed. You may not exceed the scope of this work or use the OP-128 to fix violations.

1. *Removal of a domestic plumbing system not connected to a fire suppression system, or the removal of a portion of such system*
2. *Relocation of up to two plumbing fixtures within the same room to maximum of 10 feet from original location, except healthcare facilities*
3.
  - a) *Installation, replacement or repair of food waste grinder*
  - b) *Installation, replacement or repair of internal (Secondary) backflow prevention (Test Letter Required - Department of Buildings)*
  - c) *Replacement or repair of sump pump*
4. *Replacement of closet bend(s)*
5.
  - a) *For fewer than six families: replacement of gas fired boiler with a capacity of or under 350,000 BTU's*
  - b) *For fewer than six families: replacement of gas water heater with a capacity of or under 350,000 BTU's*
6. *Repair or replacement of non-gas, non fire suppression piping not longer than 10 feet inside a building or connected piping previously repaired or replaced under the provisions of Administrative Code 28-105.4.4*
7. *Repair or replacement of non-fire suppression branch piping after the riser shut-off valve, including the replacement of fixtures, limited to two bathrooms and one kitchen per building per each monthly reporting period*

**Please Note that Primary Backflow Prevention must be filed as an Limited Alteration Application. No gas piping is allowed on the OP-128.**

The OP-128 is to be filed monthly. It must be submitted to DOB by the 15th of the following month. Forms (available on DOB's website) allow for you to file up to 20 locations per form. You may file more than one sheet per month to allot for the appropriate work you performed in that month. The fee to submit is \$100 per page (does not matter if you have one job listed or all 20).

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION CONCERNING GREASE INTERCEPTOR SIZING COMPLIANCE FROM NYCDEP

The New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is in the process of initiating promulgation in 2010 of a regulatory amendment to section §19-11 of Chapter 19 of Title 15 of the Rules of the City of New York: **“Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Non-Residential and Indirect Dischargers of Grease to the Public Sewer System.”** This proposed technical amendment will reflect changes in the referenced standards concerning grease interceptors and eliminates the reference to the New York City Department of Buildings (DOB) Materials & Equipment Acceptance Division (MEA), which no longer exists, and has been absorbed into DOB’s Office of Technical Certification and Research (OTCR).

### **Note: Existing Requirements for the Proper Sizing of Grease Interceptors Installed in New York City**

Sizing of grease interceptors must comply with criteria in Title 15 RCNY §19-11, including applicable DEP Tables I and/or II, as shown below.

DEP’s specific sizing criteria go beyond DOB’s requirements, and are currently not included in the new Plumbing Code. However, failure to install properly sized grease interceptors, as per the tables below, can result in violations and fines when DEP inspectors check businesses’ grease interceptors and find they are not in compliance. Before purchasing a grease interceptor, check that it has certification with Plumbing and Drainage Institute (PDI) or American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) standards and conforms to DEP sizing requirements.

<b>Table I</b> Aggregate* volume in cubic inches of all fixtures listed in this table	Minimum grease interceptor retaining capacity for: pot sinks, food prep. Sinks, scullery sinks and floor drains which are used for washdown purposes only.	<b>Table II</b> Aggregate* volume in cubic inches of all fixtures, vessels and receptacles listed in this table.	Minimum grease interceptor retaining capacity for: scraper sinks, woks, automatic dishwashers and any fixture receiving discharge from soup and stock kettles. purposes only.
up to 2,462	8 (lb)	up to 1,231	8 (lb)
2,463 to 4,312	14 (lb)	1,232 to 2,156	14 (lb)
4,313 to 6,160	20 (lb)	2,157 to 3,080	20 (lb)
6,161 to 9,240	30 (lb)	3,081 to 4,620	30 (lb)
9,241 to 12,320	40 (lb)	4,621 to 6,160	40 (lb)
12,321 to 15,400	50 (lb)	6,161 to 7,700	50 (lb)
15,401 to 21,560	70 (lb)	7,701 to 10,780	70 (lb)
21,561 to 30,800	100 (lb)	10,781 to 15,400	100 (lb)
30,801 to 46,200	150 (lb)	15,401 to 23,100	150 (lb)
46,201 to 61,600	200 (lb)	23,101 to 30,800	200 (lb)
61,601 to 92,400	300 (lb)	30,801 to 46,200	300 (lb)
92,401 to 123,000	400 (lb)	46,201 to 61,600	400 (lb)

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION CONCERNING GREASE INTERCEPTOR SIZING COMPLIANCE FROM NYCDEP (CONTINUED)

**Note:** \*Aggregate volume is the maximum volume (e.g. length times width times height to the overflow if rectangular) in cubic inches of all fixtures, vessels and receptacles that may flow simultaneously through the interceptor.

Staff from the DEP's Bureau of Wastewater Treatment (BWT) and Economic Development Unit (EDU) have been invited to speak at the Master Plumbers Council Annual Membership Meeting in September. They will discuss DEP's proposed regulatory amendment, the importance of DEP's grease interceptor sizing requirements, vis à vis DOB's, and will follow with a Question & Answer session.

*For further information, please visit DEP's website [www.nyc.gov/dep](http://www.nyc.gov/dep): click on A-Z; then click on "Grease, Preventing Discharges into Sewers (for businesses)." For a copy of the grease regulations, call DEP's Economic Development Unit at 718-595- 4436, or call 311.*

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Master Plumbers Council  
of the City of New York  
104-09 Metropolitan Avenue  
Forest Hills, NY 11375  
(718) 793-6300



THE VOICE OF THE LICENSED MASTER PLUMBER

# Gregory T. Chillino

*Attorney at Law*

**FORMER DIRECTOR OF PROSECUTIONS AND INVESTIGATIVE  
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