



# THE VOICE OF THE LICENSED MASTER PLUMBER



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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is no secret that the current economic situation has finally caught up with our industry. Even those who are fortunate enough to find their shops currently busy with work, are expressing concern about where tomorrow's work will come from. However, when giving consideration to the fact that the majority of plumbing work currently being performed within New York City is being done illegally: i.e. work being performed by non-classified plumbers that is permitted, inspected and signed-off by cover up plumbers; by building superintendents and maintenance men, by non-New York City licensed plumbers, licensed from municipalities other than New York City, or even our own employees busy moonlighting with side jobs, it requires us to ask the question: How much more work would we have if these illegal, unlicensed activities weren't ongoing? Couldn't we all benefit from doubling our workload? The answer is, undoubtedly, "YES!"

For far too long, these activities have continued and our industry has been unable to stop it, despite the tactics employed to do so. In fact, one could easily argue that the amount of unlicensed illegal plumbing work being performed in New York City is continuing to increase. I am pleased to announce that the New York City Master Plumbers Council, working in cooperation with the Plumbing Foundation, is employing new and unique tactics to combat this problem. Working together as an industry, against those who are destroying it, utilizing these never before used -tactics, encourages me into believing that we finally have a chance to stem the tide and reverse the trend. We will no doubt achieve immediate results, but the tide has been flowing for so long in the wrong direction, that it will surely take years to bring it under control and reverse.

In the meantime, we all need to promote the reasons for our clients to use New York City Licensed Master Plumbers and highlight the benefits that will be achieved in doing so; and, as equally important, the risks and downside of employing plumbing work, utilizing non-duly licensed Master Plumbers.

We must find a way to hang in there during these tough economic times, and if ever there were a time to unite as an industry, the time is now!

Sincerely,  
*Robert J. Bellini*



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## STANDPIPE & SPRINKLER PAINTING RULES

Several Local Laws have been passed. These include Local Law 58/09, 60/09, 63/09 and 64/09. They relate to the requirement to have specified equipment painted for identification purposes.

Melissa Barbour, Executive Director of the New York Fire Sprinkler Contractors Association, Inc. has prepared the following chart. For more information, she can be reached at 800.699.9107 or via email at [execdirector@nyfsca.org](mailto:execdirector@nyfsca.org).

	<b>New</b>	<b>Alterations</b>	<b>Existing</b>	<b>Under Construction</b>
<b>Paint Color:</b>	(as of March 2, 2010)	(After March 2, 2010)	(As of June 2, 2010)	Work not signed off by June 2, 2010 and started prior to March 2, 2010
<b>Red</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stand alone sprinkler cross connections and risers</li> <li>All portions of standpipe system including valve handles</li> <li>Combination systems risers and cross connections</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Existing handles of valves serving standpipe systems and existing standpipe risers that are exposed during alterations</li> <li>Cross connections and risers for stand alone sprinkler systems that are exposed during alterations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exposed portions of stand alone sprinkler system risers and cross connections</li> <li>All portions of exposed standpipe systems</li> <li>Exposed valve handles serving the standpipe system</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All exposed portions of the standpipe system.</li> <li>Exposed handles of valves serving the standpipe system</li> <li>Exposed Sprinkler risers and cross connections that are also used for standpipe system</li> </ul>
<b>Green</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>all handles of valves serving dedicated sprinklers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>all handles of valves serving dedicated sprinklers that are exposed during alterations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>all handles of valves serving sprinkler system</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>all handles of valves serving sprinkler system</li> </ul>
<b>Yellow</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>handles of valves serving combination systems</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>all handles of valves serving combination systems</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>all handles of valves serving combination systems</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>handles of valves serving combination systems</li> </ul>

For more information, visit the Department of Buildings Home Page: [www.nyc.gov/buildings](http://www.nyc.gov/buildings)

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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 UPDATES:

The Department of Buildings issued ***Buildings Bulletin 2009-031*** on December 30, 2009. The following is an excerpt:

Effective January 13, 2010, pursuant to the new rules of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), applications for construction document approval shall comply with the following procedures with respect to the asbestos certification requirements.

1. **Work exempt from asbestos certification requirements of the DEP.** In accordance with new rules of the DEP, applicants may submit an Asbestos Exemption Certification form (ASB4) to the Department of Buildings (DOB) when:
  - a. the DOB permit sought does not involve any physical work, such as permits for zoning lot subdivisions, zoning lot reapportionment, or changes in the certificate of occupancy; or
  - b. no existing building materials are to be disturbed by the proposed work.

For more information, see 15 RCNY section 1-23(b), available online at the DEP website at the following link: [http://www.nyc.gov/html/dep/pdf/asbestos\\_rules\\_11\\_16\\_2009.pdf](http://www.nyc.gov/html/dep/pdf/asbestos_rules_11_16_2009.pdf)

2. **Alterations to buildings constructed after April 1, 1987 exempt from asbestos certification requirements of the DEP.** Section 28-106.1 of the Administrative Code exempts buildings constructed after April 1, 1987 from DEP requirements related to asbestos certification. Therefore, an Asbestos Exemption Certification form (ASB4) may be submitted to obtain construction document approval for alterations to buildings constructed after April 1, 1987. Please note that although an ASB4 form may be submitted to the DOB for alterations in such buildings, if there exists any Asbestos Containing Material (ACM) that will be disturbed by the proposed work, the ACM is nonetheless required to be abated in accordance with DEP rules.
3. **Work subject to asbestos certification requirements of the DEP.** For applications for construction document approval that do not satisfy the conditions of the Asbestos Exemption Certification (see sections 1 and 2 of this document), asbestos investigations shall be conducted in accordance with DEP rules.
  - a. Where the scope of work constitutes "Not an Asbestos Project," an Asbestos Assessment Report form (ACP-5) shall be submitted to the DOB to proceed with the permit process.
  - b. Where the scope of work constitutes an asbestos project as determined by an asbestos investigator, an Asbestos Project Notification form (ACP-7) shall be submitted to the DEP. Upon completion of the asbestos work, the DEP shall issue an Asbestos Project Completion form (ACP-21) or an Asbestos Project Conditional Completion form (ACP-20) which may be submitted to the DOB to proceed with the permit process.

For more information, please refer to the Asbestos Technical Review Guidance Document available online at the DEP website:

[http://www.nyc.gov/html/dep/pdf/cda/atru\\_guidance\\_document.pdf](http://www.nyc.gov/html/dep/pdf/cda/atru_guidance_document.pdf)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### MPC CHAPTER MEETING:

The next membership meeting will be held on March 3, 2010 at Lenny's Clam Bar in Howard Beach. This meeting is only open to members in good standing.

### CONTINUING EDUCATION:

The next Construction Trades License Training Corp. continuing education class will be held May 11, 2010 at the LaGuardia Marriott. Advance registration is required. To register, visit: [www.nyconstructiontrades.org](http://www.nyconstructiontrades.org).

### HIGH EFFICIENCY EXPO IN LONG ISLAND:

National Grid and LIPA are proud to announce the National Grid and LIPA Educational and Energy Efficiency Trade Expo event on May 19, 2010.

The Expo will have nine educational seminars and feature speakers from nationally recognized organizations:

- Building Efficiencies for New Construction
- Myths and Facts About High Efficiency Heating
- How to Sell High Efficiency Technologies in Today's Market
- Improving Your Bottom Line: Basics of Business Accounting
- Home Performance for Existing Homes
- ECM Motor
- Geothermal
- Photovoltaic's
- Safe Installation of High Efficiency Equipment

The Expo trade show will feature the latest energy efficiency and ENERGY STAR® products in the heating, lighting and building industries.

Event Date: Wednesday May 19, 2010  
 Event Time: 1:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.  
 Location: Hilton Long Island, Melville, NY 11747  
 Cost: \$25 Per Attendee - Includes: Trade Show, Educational Workshops and Buffet Dinner  
 Event: Registration - Will begin on April 1, 2010  
 Contact: Louis Rizzo, Lead Program Manager, National Grid, Energy Efficiency  
 Tel: (718) 403-3336  
 Email: [Louis.Rizzo@us.ngrid.com](mailto:Louis.Rizzo@us.ngrid.com)

### 2010 HIGH EFFICIENCY EXPO & EDUCATIONAL EVENT:

The Master Plumbers Council, National Grid and Con Edison are proud to announce the the 2010 High Efficiency Expo & Educational event has been scheduled at Russo's on the Bay for September 23, 2010.

The Expo will have nine educational seminars and feature speakers from nationally recognized organizations.

## LIMITED ALTERATION APPLICATIONS:

### Backlogs/Staffing:

As you may be aware the Limited Alteration Application division has been experiencing major delays. We have received reports that delays extend as much as 60 business days. The Master Plumbers Council expressed our frustration to the Commissioner of DOB, Robert LiMandri. These backlogs have crippled the plumbing industry as well as stifled customers.

The City is experiencing major staffing issues across the board. There has been a hiring freeze for quite some time whereby slots are unable to be filled when people leave. In fact, there have been reports that staffing matters are only going to get worse in the coming weeks.

Commissioner LiMandri was able to add four temporary staff members to the LAA division in hopes of alleviating some of the backlogs. We should see some relief within the next few weeks.

### Top Rejection Reasons:

The top reasons for rejected LAA's is as follows:

- Expired licenses and insurances
- Incorrect filing fees being submitted
- Inaccurate or incomplete job description
- Submission of LAA's that should be filed as a PW1 (based on contractor's description)

You need to use DOB records accessible through BIS online ([www.nyc.gov/buildings](http://www.nyc.gov/buildings) - BIS System) to research prior to submitting forms. This will help streamline submissions so that the process runs smoother.

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THE VOICE OF THE LICENSED MASTER PLUMBER

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