

Plumber and Mechanical Professional Licensing

March, 2011

The Iowa Legislature passed and the Governor signed a bill that requires certain contractors to be licensed to operate in Iowa. This law, passed in 2007, requires ALL contractors that do plumbing, HVAC, refrigeration, and hydronic (boilers) systems to be licensed.

The Dept. of Public Health is responsible for this law, which is Chapter 105 of the Code of Iowa. The law stipulates an eleven-member Board to oversee this law. The law can be read by going to the Public Health Dept. website at <http://www.idph.state.ia.us/PMSB/Default.aspx>. It's a pretty long law! You can also see a summary of FAQs at the site. The pertinent Chapters of the Iowa Administrative Code are Chapters 27, 28, 29, 30, and 31, which can also be found at the site.

During the 2008 session of the Legislature, there were changes made to the law to make implementation simpler. The law was fully implemented July 1, 2009. The Iowa Dept. of Public Health has hired an Executive Officer to work for the licensing board. The Board members are appointed by the Governor.

Some points to consider: (1) all local license programs became null and void on July 1, 2009, (2) exam requirements, licensing requirements, renewal requirements, etc. took effect July 1, 2008, and (3) enforcement provisions are now in place. The "grandfathering" process ended Dec. 31, 2009. Any new applicants must meet qualifications and take a test.

As a local Environmental Health Dept., we will have little to do with this. But, since we work with many of you on a regular basis, we wanted to make you aware of this major change in the way you do business. We will be referring any complaints about non-licensed people to the State Dept. of Public Health and do encourage all contractors to comply with this law.