

**July 2001**



**District of  
Columbia**

**Department of  
Consumer and  
Regulatory  
Affairs**

**OCCUPATIONAL &  
PROFESSIONAL  
LICENSING  
ADMINISTRATION**

# **PLUMBING REGULATIONS**

## DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS

### SECTION 124.0 ADMINISTRATIVE PLUMBING PROVISIONS

#### 124.1 LICENSURE AND REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

Except as otherwise provided in Sections 124.1.1 through 124.1.2, applications for plumbing permit shall comply with this section. Each application for plumbing permit shall be filed by the plumbing contractor responsible for the work to be done. Each application shall show the name and signature of the master plumber employed to actually supervise the work. Said plumbing contractor and master plumber shall be registered and bonded in accordance with the applicable District of Columbia licensing and bonding regulations.

##### 124.1.1 Work in Firm's Premises

A firm or corporation that regularly employs a licensed master plumber shall be authorized to apply to obtain a permit for the performance of plumbing work in existing buildings or premises under its ownership or occupancy. Each application shall show the name and signature of the master plumber employed to actually supervise the work. Said master plumber shall be registered and bonded in accordance with the applicable District of Columbia licensing and bonding regulations.

##### 124.1.2 Work on D.C. Owned Properties Located Outside of D.C.

Plumbing contractors licensed by the District of Columbia, or by other Government agencies having jurisdiction over the area adjoining any reservation under the control of the District of Columbia, located outside the District of Columbia, shall be allowed to apply for and obtain plumbing permits for work on or within such reservation.

#### 124.2 COVENANTS FOR WATER OR SEWER UTILITY SERVICE

Before a permit shall be issued to install water or sewer utility services to a lot from an adjacent lot, or to extend such services to a lot or premises from a building, as permitted by the exception of Section 301.5 of the Plumbing Code, a covenant shall be approved in accordance with Sections 124.2.1 and 124.2.2.

##### 124.2.1 Documents Filed in Office of Recorder of Deeds

Two copies of the instrument shall be filed in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds. One copy, duly noted, shall be filed with the code official. If there are other parties in interest, they shall be made parties to the covenant in a manner satisfactory to the Corporation Counsel.

#### 124.3 PLUMBING BOARD

The Director is authorized to appoint a plumbing board composed of two master plumbers and one employee of the District of Columbia having a knowledge of plumbing, gasfitting, and sanitary work. One of the three shall be the chief, or acting chief, plumbing inspector who shall be the ex-officio chairman of the plumbing board. Compensation for these persons shall be determined by the Council of the District of Columbia.

##### 124.3.1 Duties of the Plumbing Board

In addition to duties assigned to them by the Director, the plumbing board shall examine all applicants for license as master plumbers or gasfitters and be satisfied that such applicant is a fit person to engage in the business of plumbing or gasfitting, or both, and recommend that a license shall be issued to this person to engage in such business of plumbing or gasfitting, or both, provided he or she shall meet and abide by all other requirements of such license.

##### 124.3.2 Licensing Regulations

The administration and enforcement of the licensing function shall be governed by DCMR 17 Chapter 1.

124.4 LICENSING REQUIREMENTS: LICENSING OF MASTER PLUMBERS SHALL BE GOVERNED BY SECTIONS 124.4.1 THROUGH 124.4.6.

124.4.1 **Applications**

Applications for licenses as master plumber shall be made by the applicant on a form supplied by the board. The applicant shall state the number of years worked as a journeyman (a minimum of 4 years is required). The application shall be accompanied by one or more letters from former employers certifying to the applicant's character, qualifications, length of employment, and fitness to receive such license.

124.4.2 **Examination**

The examination shall be in writing unless the board shall direct otherwise. The examination shall be designed to test the applicant's knowledge of the proper construction of practical plumbing, ventilation and drainage, hydraulics, sizing of pipes, fixtures and appliances generally used in plumbing, ventilating, and drainage work, and the proper and safe methods of supplying water to buildings and removing water and sewage therefrom. The applicant shall demonstrate his or her ability to comprehend and interpret plans and drawings relating to the plumbing trade.

124.4.3 **Re-Examination of Rejected Applicants**

Any applicant whose application for a master plumber's license has been denied shall not make a new application until after six months from the date of such denial.

124.4.4 **Responsibilities of Licensed Master Plumbers**

It shall be unlawful for any person to engage in plumbing or gasfitting work in the District of Columbia unless licensed and bonded as prescribed in this code.

124.4.4.1 **Bond**

Any person granted a license to practice as a master plumber or gasfitter in the District of Columbia shall post a \$5,000 bond before engaging in this trade. The bond shall identify and save harmless the District of Columbia Government and any person who may be aggrieved against all damages, injuries, loss, expenses and costs which may be sustained from any wrongdoing, misconduct, want of care or skill, negligence, or default on the part of the master plumber or gasfitter, their employees or agents. The bond shall be posted and approved before the license shall be issued.

124.4.4.2 **Annual Fee**

Before issuance of the license, the master plumber shall pay the annual fee set by the Department and present a Certificate of Public Liability and Property Damage Insurance for at least \$40,000 for each accident. Such a certificate of insurance shall accompany the license application every year.

124.4.4.3 **Display of Registration**

Before engaging in the plumbing or gasfitting business in the District of Columbia, the licensee shall display a sign on his or her place of business bearing his or her name or business name, with the words "Registered Plumber D.C. Number [License No.]" in letters not less than 3 inches high, unless a smaller sign is required by zoning regulations. The form and location of the sign shall be plainly visible and readable from a public thoroughfare or entrance. Any truck or vehicle used for plumbing business in the District of Columbia shall display in letters not less than 2 inches high the words "Registered Plumber D.C. Number". All master plumbers shall show their registration numbers on all public advertising such as stationery, bill heads, business cards, telephone book yellow pages.

124.4.4.4 **Use By Others**

No master plumber shall allow his or her name or registration to be used by any other person for obtaining permits, doing work, or for any other purpose whatsoever. Any licensed plumber may apply for and receive a license for and on behalf of any firm, co-partnership, or corporation of which he is a bona fide member or substantial stockholder; however, all plumbing or gasfitting work under such license shall be supervised or done by the licensed plumber.

## **District of Columbia Municipal Regulations**

### **124.4.5 Unlicensed Plumbing Prohibited**

It shall be unlawful for the owner or lessee of any building in the District of Columbia, or their agents, to employ or contract for an unlicensed person to do plumbing or gasfitting in or about such building.

### **124.4.6 Suspension or Revocation of License**

The code official is authorized to suspend or revoke any plumber's or gasfitter's license after public hearing for violation of this code.

## **124.5 INSPECTIONS**

The code official shall inspect or cause to be inspected all houses when in the course of construction, alteration, or repair in the District to assure compliance with the plumbing, drainage, and ventilation requirements of this code. On application of the owner or occupant, or on the complaint under oath of any reputable citizen, the code official shall inspect or cause to be inspected any house in the District to examine the plumbing, drainage, and ventilation of the plumbing system thereof.

### **124.5.1 Notices and Certificates of Inspection**

The code official shall sign all notices and certificates of inspection and approval required by this Chapter, except such permits and notices as shall be issued by other District agencies or officials.

### **124.5.2 Periodic Inspections**

The code official may periodically inspect the plumbing every building or premises in the District to ensure that such plumbing has been installed in such a manner as to prevent the reasonable likelihood of pollution of the water supply of the District by such plumbing. The code official shall notify the owner or owner's authorized agent to correct any plumbing installed or existing contrary to or in violation of this code. Consent to inspect any single family dwelling shall first be obtained from a person of suitable age and discretion therein or in control thereof.