

# **RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE LICENSING OF PLUMBERS (RIGL 5-20)**

**State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations**

**Department of Labor & Training**

**Division of Professional Regulation**

## INTRODUCTION

These amended *Rules and Regulations For The Licensure Of Plumbers (RIGL 5-20)* are promulgated pursuant to the authority conferred under Chapter 5-20 of the General Laws of Rhode Island, as amended, and are established for the purpose of adopting minimum requirements for the licensure of plumbers in this state.

In accordance with the provisions of section 42-35-3I of the General Laws of Rhode Island, as amended, consideration was given to: (1) alternative approaches to the regulations; (2) duplication or overlap with other state regulations; and (3) any significant economic impact on small business as defined in Chapter 42-35 of the General Laws. Based on the available information, no known alternative approach or duplication or overlap were identified, nor any significant economic impact.

These amended rules and regulations shall supersede all previous rules and regulations for the licensing of plumbers promulgated by the Rhode Island Department of Labor & Training and filed with the Rhode Island Secretary of State.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

PART I DEFINITIONS		Page
	1.0 Definitions	4
PART II LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS		
	2.0 General Requirements	5
	3.0 Qualifications For Licensure	5
	4.0 Application for licensure and fee	8
	5.0 Application Fees	9
	6.0 Examination	9
	7.0 Issuance and renewal of license / registration	10
	8.0 Posting licenses in place of business	10
PART III VIOLATIONS / SANCTIONS / SEVERABILITY		
	9.0 Violations/Sanctions	11
	10.0 Practices and Procedures	11
	11.0 Severability	11

## **PART I                      DEFINITIONS**

### **Section 1.0        Definitions**

Wherever used in these rules and regulations, the terms listed below shall be construed in the following manner:

- 1.1 "Accredited Program" means a training program approved by the Office of Higher Education, or the Division of Vocational and Adult Education of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, and the State Board of Plumbing Examiners.
- 1.2 "Act" refers to Chapter 5-20 of the General Laws of Rhode Island, as amended, entitled "Plumbers."
- 1.3 "Apprentice plumber". as used herein, means and shall include any employee whose principal occupation is service with a master plumber with a view to learning the art or trade of maintenance, installation, or repair of plumbing.
- 1.4 "Board" refers to the State Board of Plumbing Examiners established pursuant to the provisions of section 5-20-6 of the Act.
- 1.5 "Continuously engaged in the supervision", means supervision that is provided by a master or journeyperson plumber that involves monitoring at the job site throughout the duration of the plumbing work being performed.
- 1.6 "Department" refers to the Rhode Island Department of Labor & Training.
- 1.7 "Director" refers to the Director of the Rhode Island Department of Labor & Training.
- 1.8 "Division " refers to the Division of Professional Regulation of the Rhode Island Department of Labor & Training.
- 1.9 "Journeyman plumber" said herein, means and shall include any employee except an apprentice plumber or a master plumber, as herein defined, whose principal occupation is the installation, maintenance or repair of plumbing."
- 1.10 Master plumber" as used herein, means and shall include:
  - a. any person who as an independent contractor engages in this state in the business of installation, maintenance or repair of plumbing in the building or upon premises that plumbing is or is to be located, either by contract or agreement with the owner, lessee, tenant or agent of those premises or building;
  - b. any person who employs one or more journeymen plumbers, one or more plumber's apprentices or other persons to assist in that installation, maintenance, or repair work; or
  - c. any person who performs any acts specified herein for performance by a "master plumber."
- 1.11 Plumbing".. as used herein, means and shall include:
  - a. All fittings, fixtures, appliances and connections, connecting buildings or premises where a person or persons, live, work or assemble, with the source of public or private water supply used or intended for domestic or personal use.
  - b. All piping, fittings, fixtures, and appliances for a sanitary drainage and related, ventilation system, direct or indirect, within that building.
  - c. Air piping, medical and laboratory gas systems, including but not limited to, oxygen and nitrous oxide.
- 1. 12 "Source of private water supply" shall be deemed and construed to mean the water connection located at the mean water level.
- 1. 13 "Source of public water supply" shall be deemed and construed to mean the water connection located at the curb line of any actual or platted public highway.

## **PART 11 LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS RIGL 5-20**

### **Section 2.0 General Requirements**

- 2.1 Pursuant to section 5-20-8 of the Rhode Island General Laws, as amended, no person shall engage in this state in the business of plumbing, employ a journeyman plumber or plumber's apprentice, enter into contracts or agreements for the installation, maintenance or repair of plumbing, perform any of the acts specified in the Act for performance by a master plumber, or shall advertise or represent in any form or manner that he or she is a master plumber or that he or she will install plumbing unless such a person possesses a certificate of license in accordance with the provisions of the Act and the rules and regulations herein.
- 2.2 Furthermore, any individual licensed as a master plumber, journeyman, or registered as an apprentice plumber shall carry his or her license or registration certificate at all times on his or her person while engaged in plumbing activities and shall affix his or her plumber's license number to any contract he or she executes or any bid filed with any person for their professional services and to any applicable permit required for the performance of those services.
- 2.3 Nothing in the Act or the regulations herein shall prohibit any city or town from granting a license to any person as a drainlayer to engage in the laying of drains outside buildings, making connections with the public sewers, private drains and cesspools: provided that the holder of a certificate or license issued hereunder shall not be required by any city or town to obtain any other license for the installation, maintenance, or repair of plumbing or the laying of drains. Also,
- 2.4 Persons licensed as master plumbers pursuant to the provisions herein shall not be required to obtain an installer's license as required by Chapter 5-56 of the Rhode Island General Laws, as amended; provided however, master plumbers shall be required to comply with the performance and conduct requirements of section 5-56-7 of the General Laws of Rhode Island, as amended.
- 2.5 No corporation, firm, association or partnership shall engage in business as a master plumber or represent itself as a plumbing contractor unless a licensed master plumber shall be continuously engaged in the supervision of its plumbing installation, maintenance and repair work and provided further that said master plumber is a partner or an officer in the firm or corporation pursuant to section 5-20-12 of the Act.
- 2.6 Supervision: Apprentice plumbers shall be under the direct supervision of a licensed journeyman and/or master plumber; that is, the licensed journeyman and/or master plumber must be on the premises with the apprentice plumber. The number of apprentice plumbers which a licensed journeyman and/or master plumber may supervise shall be based on the size and workload of the shop; that is the corporation, the firm, or partnership. In no case, however, shall a licensed journeyman and/or master plumber supervise more than one (1) apprentice plumber on a given job.
- 2.7 No Licensee shall engage in business under any other name than that stated on his/her license.

### **Section 3.0 Qualifications for Licensure**

#### **3.1 Master Plumbers**

An applicant seeking licensure to practice as a master plumber must:

- a. Have completed one (1) year of experience as a licensed journeyman, employed by a master plumber licensed in this state;
- b. have satisfactorily passed a written examination approved by the Director.
- c. meet such other requirements as set forth by regulations or as may be established by the Board.

#### **3.2 Journeyman Plumbers**

An applicant seeking licensure to practice as a journeyman plumber must:

- a. Have held a Rhode Island certificate of registration as an apprentice plumber for the appropriate number of years in accordance with section below
- b. Have completed the required education, training and experience as follows:

3.3 For those applicants registering as an apprentice on and after January 1, 1999:

Either:

- a. Have been employed by a master plumber(s) (licensed in this state) as an apprentice plumber in the state of Rhode Island and have been actually engaged in plumbing work as an apprentice plumber in the state of Rhode Island for eight thousand (8,000) hours of on the job training during a five (5) year period, and in accordance with the requirements herein; and
- b. Have successfully completed five hundred seventy-six (576) hours of related instruction at a training program recognized by the Department Of Labor & Training;
- c. Have been registered as a student in a recognized college, university or trade school and have successfully completed a course of study in plumbing or sanitary engineering requiring at least two (2) academic years or be the recipient of an associate degree in either plumbing or sanitary engineering, and have thereafter been registered in this state as an apprentice plumber and employed as a registered apprentice plumber by a duly licensed master plumber in this state for a period of at least two (2) years;

3.4 For those applicants registering as an apprentice on and after Jan. 1, 1998 but before Jan. 1, 1999:

Either:

- a. Have been employed by a master plumber(s) (licensed in this state) as an apprentice plumber in the state of Rhode Island and have been actually engaged in plumbing work as an apprentice plumber in the state of Rhode Island for eight thousand (8,000) hours of on the job training during a five (5) year period, and in accordance with the requirements herein; and
- b. Have successfully completed three hundred (300) hours of related instruction as set forth in Appendix I at a training program accredited by the Department Of Labor & Training; Or:
- c. Have been registered as a student in a recognized college university or trade school and have successfully completed a course of study in plumbing or sanitary engineering requiring at least two (2) academic years or be the recipient of an associate degree in either plumbing or sanitary engineering, and have thereafter been registered in this state as an apprentice plumber and employed as a registered apprentice plumber by a duly licensed master plumber in this state for a period of at least two (2) years;

3.5 For those applicants registered as an apprentice on and after July 1, 1989 but before January 1, 1998:

Either:

- a. Have been employed by a master plumber(s) (licensed in this state) as an apprentice plumber in the State of Rhode Island and
- b. have been actually engaged in plumbing work as an apprentice plumber in the State of Rhode Island during four (4) years of apprenticeship, and in accordance with the requirements herein; and
- c. Have successfully completed one hundred forty-four (144) hours per year throughout the four (4) year apprenticeship related instruction at an accredited training program;

Or:

- e. Have been employed by a master plumber(s) (licensed in this state) as an apprentice plumber in the state of Rhode Island and have been actually engaged in plumbing work as an apprentice plumber in the state of Rhode Island for eight thousand (8,000) hours of on the job training during a five (5) year period, and in accordance with the requirements herein; and
- f. have successfully completed three hundred (300) hours of related instruction as set forth in Appendix I at a training program accredited by the Department Of Labor & Training;

Or:

- g. Have been registered as a student in a recognized college, university or trade school and have successfully completed a course of study in plumbing or sanitary engineering requiring at least two (2) academic years or be the recipient of an associate degree in either plumbing or sanitary engineering, and
- h. have thereafter been registered in this state as an apprentice plumber and employed as a registered apprentice plumber by a duly licensed master plumber in this state for a period of at least two (2) years;

3.6 For those applicants registered as an apprentice on and after June 3, 1986 but before July 1, 1989:

Either:

- a. Have been employed by a master plumber(s) (licensed in this state) as an apprentice plumber in the State of Rhode Island and have been actually engaged in plumbing work as an apprentice plumber in the State of Rhode Island during four (4) years of apprenticeship, and in accordance with the requirements herein; and
- b. have successfully completed three hundred (300) hours of related instruction as set forth in Appendix I at a training program accredited by the Department Of Labor & Training;

Or:

- c. Have been registered as a student in a recognized college, university or trade school and have successfully completed a course of study in plumbing or sanitary engineering requiring at least two (2) academic years or be the recipient of an associate degree in either plumbing or sanitary engineering, and have thereafter been registered in this state as an apprentice plumber and employed as a registered apprentice plumber by a duly licensed master plumber in this state for a period of at least two (2) years;

3.7 For those applicants registered as an apprentice before June 3, 1986:

Either:

- a. Have been employed by a master plumber(s) (licensed in this state) as an apprentice plumber in the state of Rhode Island and
- b. have been actually engaged in plumbing work as an apprentice plumber in the state of Rhode Island during four (4) years of apprenticeship, and in accordance with the requirements herein;

Or:

- c. Have been registered as a student in a recognized college, university or trade school and have successfully completed a course of study in plumbing or sanitary engineering requiring at least two (2) academic years or be the recipient of an associate degree in either plumbing or sanitary engineering, and
- d. have thereafter been registered in this state as an apprentice plumber and employed as a registered apprentice plumber by a duly licensed master plumber in this state for a period of at least two (2) years.
- e. There is no requirement to submit supportive certified transcripts of successful completion of related instruction at an accredited training program.
- f. The records of the hours of on-the-job training and the hours of related instruction should be maintained in a mutually responsible manner, through a joint effort on the part of the master plumber and the apprentice.

And:

Meet such other requirements as set forth by regulation or as may be established by the Board.

**Plumbing apprentice educational hours & on the job training breakdown**

<b>Plumbing Apprenticeship Dates</b>	<b>Total Educational Hours</b>	<b>Total OJT *</b>
<b>6/3/1986 thru 6/30/1989</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>8000</b>
<b>7/1/1989 thru 12/31/1997</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>8000</b>
<b>1/1/1998 thru 12/31/1998</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>8000</b>
<b>1/1/1999 thru Present</b>	<b>576</b>	<b>8000</b>

\* On the job training is a registered plumbing apprentice performing work under a registered master plumber for approximately 4 years of employment in which they work approximately 2000 hours each year.

## Section 4.0 Application for Licensure and Fee

4.1 Application for licensure/registration shall be made on forms provided by the Division which shall be completed, notarized and submitted to the Department. For licensure as a master plumber or a journeyman, such application and supporting materials shall be submitted not less than 15 days prior to the scheduled date of examination. Such application shall be accompanied by the following documents:

4.2 For Apprentice Plumber:

- a. Completion of application form provided by the Division, signed by the master plumber employer(s) and accompanied by a statement from the master plumber attesting that the number of students under his supervision meets the requirements;
- b. proof of US citizenship or legal residency;
- c. for US citizen applicants: a certified or notarized copy of his or her birth certificate, or if a naturalized citizen, proof of naturalization;
- d. non-citizen applicants: proof of lawful eligibility for employment in the United States;
- e. a recent identification photograph of the applicant (head and shoulder front view) approximately 2 x 3 inches in size;
- f. the fee as required;
- g. a copy of a current apprenticeship card from the state in which the applicant has held or holds licensure, to be submitted to the Board of this state attesting to the licensure status of the applicant during the time period applicants held licensure in said state.

4.3 For Journeyman Plumber:

Completion of application form provided by the Division and accompanied by the following documents:

- a. proof of US citizenship or legal residency;
- b. for US citizen applicants: a certified or notarized copy of his or her birth certificate, or if a naturalized citizen, proof of naturalization;
- c. for non-citizen applicants: proof of lawful eligibility for employment in the United States;
- d. a recent identification photograph of the applicant (head and shoulder front view) approximately 2 x 3 inches in size;
- e. a chronological resume of experience from the time of completion of academic requirements and/or registration as an apprentice plumber;
- f. the fee as required;
- g. A copy of licensure in each state in which the applicant has held or holds licensure, to be submitted to the Board of this state attesting to the licensure status of the applicant during the time period applicants held licensure in said state.
- h. Evidence of education, training and experience as required, including:

Either:

- i. An affidavit(s) from the applicant's employer(s) or former employer(s) or other evidence satisfactory to the Board, showing the applicant to have been actually engaged in plumbing work as an apprentice plumber in the state of Rhode Island in accordance with the requirements herein; and
- j. Supportive certified transcripts of successful completion of related instruction in accordance with the requirements herein at a training -program recognized and/or accredited by the Department Of Labor & Training, signed by the dean and/or principal of the education facility and/or institution and bearing the imprint of the education facility and/or institution;
- k. Exemption: For those applicants registering as an apprentice before June 3, 1986, there is no requirement to submit supportive certified transcripts - of successful completion of related instruction at an accredited training program.

Or:



- l. Supporting certified transcripts of education credentials as required herein, and signed by the dean or registrar of the educational institution. Such documents must consist of original statements or photocopies bearing the signature of the dean or registrar and the imprint of the school, and
- m. Satisfactory evidence of successful completion of two (2) years as apprentice plumber as required herein.

#### 4.4 For Master Plumber:

Completion of application form provided by the Division and accompanied by the following as required herein:

- a. the fee as required herein;
- b. Supporting documentation of successful completion of requirements for licensure as journeyman in accordance herein and supporting affidavit(s) certifying that the applicant was employed by a master plumber licensed in Rhode Island for one (1) year as a journeyman licensed in this state.
- c. A statement from the Board of Plumbing Examiners in each state in which the applicant has held or holds licensure, to be submitted to the Board of this state attesting to the licensure status of the applicant during the time period applicants held licensure in said state.

## 5.0 Application Fees

- 5.1 Such application shall also be accompanied by the appropriate application fee (non-refundable and non-returnable) made payable to the General Treasurer, State of Rhode Island.

#### Other Requirements;

- 5.2 The Board at its discretion reserves the right to require any or all applicants to appear before the Board for an interview.
- 5.3 The Board at its discretion reserves the right to require any such other information as may be deemed necessary and appropriate by the Board.

## 6.0 Examination

#### 6.1 Examination

Applicants shall be required to pass such examination as the Board deems necessary to test the applicant's knowledge and skills to engage in this state in the practice of plumbing either as a master plumber or a journeyman pursuant to the statutory and regulatory provisions herein.

- a. For written examinations, the Board requires applicants to successfully pass such examination for master plumber or journeyman as approved by the Board.
- b. The Board shall determine the passing score of each written examination administered.
- c. Confidential identification numbers shall be assigned to each applicant by the Administrator of the Division and the names shall not be made known to the Board until the scores have been recorded.
- d. Examinations shall be given at least three (3) times a year at such time and place as designated by the Director.

#### Re-examination

- a. In case of failure of any applicant to satisfactorily pass an examination, such applicant shall be entitled to take further examination upon payment for each examination of the prescribed fee.
- b. Any applicant who has failed to qualify may, within thirty (30) days after notification of failure, appeal to the Board in writing requesting a review of the decision to the Administrator of the Division. A further appeal may then be taken pursuant to section 5-20-22 of the Act.

#### Out-Of-State Licensed Plumbers

A master plumber or a journeyman plumber duly licensed by examination in a state(s) other than Rhode Island, may be issued a license in this state provided that the requirements are the same as this state specifying that person as a journeyman plumber. Provided, further that:

- a. the applicant submits a copy of his or her current license;
- b. the Board of Plumbing in each state in which the applicant holds or has held licensure submits to the Board of this State a statement attesting to the licensure status of the applicant during the time period the applicant held licensure in said state(s);
- c. the applicant submits affidavits of having successfully passed a written examination for licensure in the state in which he or she holds current licensure and that such examination was for the classification for which the applicant is seeking licensure in this state; and
- d. the applicant has successfully passed in this state a written examination approved by the Board in the classification for which the applicant is seeking licensure.

## **Section 7.0 Issuance and Renewal of License / Registration**

- 7.1 Upon completion of the aforementioned requirements, the Director may issue a license to those applicants found to have satisfactorily met all the requirements herein. Said license unless sooner suspended or revoked shall expire annually on the last day of the applicants birth month following the date of issuance.
- 7.2 On or before the, last day of the applicants birth month in each year, the Administrator of the Division shall mail an application for renewal of license to every person to whom a license has been issued or renewed during the current year. Every person licensed who intends to engage in plumbing as a master plumber or journeyman during the ensuing year shall file a renewal application duly executed together with the renewal fee made payable to the General Treasurer, state of Rhode Island on or before the last day of the applicants birth month in each year.
- 7.3 Upon receipt of a renewal application and payment of fee, the accuracy of the application shall be verified and a license renewal shall be granted for one (1) year expiring on the last day of the applicants birth month following the date of issuance.
- 7.4 Any contractor, master plumber or journeyman who fails to renew his or her license on or before the last day of assessment fee for the first two (2) years of delinquency, plus outstanding license fees. If a license is not renewed within two (2) years of its expiration it shall result in a forfeiture of the license. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this chapter. In the case of forfeiture, a license may only be reinstated by the person taking a test for a new license
- 7.5 Checks shall be made payable to the General Treasurer, State of Rhode Island

## **Section 8.0 Posting License in Place of Business**

- 8.1 Pursuant to section 5-20-24 of the Act, in every place in this state within and from which a plumbing business is conducted as specified for a contractor or master plumber, there shall be on display at all times a certificate of license. Furthermore, any sign listing or advertisement of any type of a contractor or master plumber shall contain his or her name, address and license number. This information shall be included on all trucks used by a master plumber in connection with his or her business.

## **PART III VIOLATIONS/ SANCTIONS/ SEVERABILITY**

### **Section 9.0 Violations / Sanctions**

- 9.1 Any person violating any provision of the Act or the regulations herein shall be subject to the penalties as follows, Any person, firm, or corporation licensed or unlicensed by the Dept of Labor and Training, Division of Professional Regulation is subject to a fine of (\$500.00) Five Hundred dollars for a first offense and for a second or subsequent violation of this chapter to be subject to a fine of (\$750.00) Seven Hundred Fifty Dollars.
- 9.2 All hearings and reviews required under the provisions of the Act and the rules and regulations herein shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

## **Section 10.0 Rules Governing Practices and Procedures**

- 10.1 All hearings and reviews conducted under the provisions of Chapter 5-20 of the General Laws of Rhode Island, as amended, shall be held in accordance with the provisions of the Rules and Regulations of the Rhode Island Department Of Labor & Training regarding practices and procedures before the Department of Labor & Training and access to public records of the Department of Labor & Training.

## **Section 11.0 Severability**

- 11.1 If any provision of the rules and regulations herein on the application to any facility or circumstances shall be held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect the provisions or application of the rules and regulations which can be given effect, and to this end the provisions of the rules and regulations are declared to be severable.

These rules and regulations constitute the entire rules and regulations under Title 5, Chapter 20 of the Rhode Island General Laws. All prior rules and regulations are hereby rescinded

Adopted by the Bureau of Plumbers as formal rules and regulations pursuant to R.I.G.L. 5-20 and 45-35-3

Approved, as required by R.I.G.L. 5-20

Dr. Lee Arnold  
Director, Dept. of Labor and Training