



CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

Section 11 of the Massachusetts State Plumbing and Gas Code contains information that is very important to all of us. If you are interested in viewing the updated ruling, visit the Consumer Affairs and Business Regulation section of the Mass.gov website and type in 248 CMR 11.04 in the search box. In the meantime, allow us to share the main points of the regulation with you.

Section 11.04 designates the Board of Examiners as the entity responsible for approving all continuing education requirements including the course provider better known as Provider.

The number of required course hours one must complete is dictated by the license held:

- Licensed plumbers and gasfitters are required to complete specific continuing education classes every renewal cycle;
- Plumbers must acquire 12 hours per renewal cycle;
- Gas fitters and undiluted liquefied petroleum gas installers must obtain 6 hours per renewal cycle;

Online and correspondence courses

- Licensees shall only be allowed to take Board approved online or correspondence courses. The Board may deny the right to take online or correspondence courses to individuals whose licenses have lapsed or have been subject to discipline

Section 11 also outlines the license renewal requirement stating licensees must:

- Retain all continuing education documentation for 3 licensing renewal cycles or 6 years. If certificate is lost, licensee must submit a written request and required fee to the Provider for a duplicate certificate.
- Be prepared to submit to the Board documented evidence indicating course completion with an approved provider;

Attendees will receive certificate of completion for each course attended from their course provider.

The regulation accounts for exemptions and waivers:

- A master plumber or gas fitter who is approved as an instructor or Provider and conducts a minimum of the two required 6-hour classes per renewal cycle is exempt;
- A licensed inspector as noted in M.G.L. c. 142 11b is exempt;
- State Inspectors/Investigators or Associate Executive Director for the Board of Examiners employed by the Commonwealth or an appointed Member of the Board are exempt;
- A licensee was issued their journeyman license for the first time during the current renewal cycle.
- A licensee who is 65 years or older may petition the Board for an exemption and must complete the continuing education requirements in the renewal cycle in which licensee turns 65.
- A licensee may present a written request for waiver in the event the licensee or immediate family member has an illness, disability or other medically related condition.

Failure by a Licensee to Complete (MCE) Mandatory Continuing Education Requirement.

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- Any licensee who does not complete the required clock hours of continuing education within the license renewal cycle shall be responsible for completing makeup classes covering the Board approved material for the continuing education missed.
- In addition to any makeup classes, all licensees who fail to complete continuing education requirements for any renewal cycle shall be subject to Board review and disciplinary action that may include, but not be limited to the issuance of fines, denial of a request for renewal, re-examination, suspension or revocation of existing licenses, and denial of applications for additional licenses. The Board is under no obligation to warn a licensee of non-compliance with continuing education requirements prior to commencing disciplinary action

Reinstatement of lapsed/expired/suspended licenses

- If license expired for 4 years or less, licensee must complete all continuing education hours prior to applying for reinstatement.
- If license expired for more than 4 years, licensee must retake the Board exam or he may complete all continuing education courses missed.

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