

VOLUME 47, ISSUE 24
ISSUE DATE: **DECEMBER 21, 2015**
RULE ADOPTIONS

LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS OF MASTER PLUMBERS

Adopted Amendment: N.J.A.C. 13:32-2.2

Experience Requirements

Proposed: June 1, 2015, at 47 N.J.R. 1239(a). (see also 47 N.J.R. 2244(a)).

Adopted: September 24, 2015, by the State Board of Examiners of Master Plumbers, Peter Voros, Chairman.

Filed: November 23, 2015, as R.2015 d.205, **with a non-substantial change** not requiring additional public notice and comments (see N.J.A.C. 1:30-6.3).

Authority: N.J.S.A. 45:14C-7.

Effective Date: December 21, 2015.

Expiration Date: May 21, 2022.

Summary of Public Comment and Agency Response:

The official comment period ended September 8, 2015. The Board received one comment from Dan O’Gorman.

COMMENT: The commenter asks how many other Boards require practical experience in New Jersey in order to obtain a license.

RESPONSE: Four Boards within the **Division of Consumer Affairs** require that practical experience be completed under the supervision of an individual licensed to practice in New Jersey. The amendments to N.J.A.C. 13:32-2.2 address Board concerns as to the validity of the experience completed by some applicants and to help ensure that all applicants have obtained the appropriate experience to provide plumbing services in a safe and effective manner.

COMMENT: The commenter contends that the plumbing licensing law allows experience to be completed by working under a licensed master plumber. The commenter contends that the amendments to N.J.A.C. 13:32-2.2 contradict the law.

RESPONSE: N.J.S.A. 45:14C-15 requires that an applicant for licensure complete one year engaged or employed as a journeyman plumber. This year of experience as a journeyman plumber must be supervised by a licensed master plumber as every journeyman plumber must work under a licensed master plumber. The Board has amended N.J.A.C. 13:32-2.2 to address concerns with the experience completed by some applicants and to ensure that every applicant receives the appropriate experience to provide plumbing services in a safe

and effective manner.

Federal Standards Statement

A Federal standards analysis is not required because there are no Federal laws or standards applicable to the adopted amendment.

Full text of the adoption follows (addition to proposal indicated in boldface with asterisks ***thus***; deletions from proposal indicated in brackets with asterisks *[thus]*):

SUBCHAPTER 2. APPLICATION, EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS, EXAMINATION

13:32-2.2 Experience requirements

(a) For purposes of this section, "practical hands-on experience" means experience in the installation, maintenance, extension, alteration, repair, and removal of piping, plumbing fixtures, plumbing appliances, and plumbing apparatus that, commencing ***[(one year from the effective date of this amendment)]*** ***December 21, 2016***, is performed pursuant to the plumbing subcode, N.J.A.C. 5:23-3.15, and is inspected by a licensed New Jersey plumbing inspector. Practical hands-on experience does not include time spent in performing managerial tasks, such as supervising, engineering, estimating, or time spent performing tasks, which do not constitute the practice of plumbing as defined in N.J.A.C. 13:32-1.3.

(b) Applicants for examination for a license as a master plumber shall present proof to the Board that he or she:

1. Has completed a four-year apprenticeship program approved by the United States Department of Labor and has completed, after the end of the apprenticeship, one year of practical hands-on experience as a journeyman plumber in New Jersey, consisting of at least 1,200 hours of practical hands-on experience; or
2. Has been awarded a bachelor's degree in mechanical, plumbing, or sanitary engineering from a college or university accredited by a regional accreditation agency recognized by the Council on Post-Secondary Accreditation or the United States Department of Education, and has completed, after completion of the bachelor's degree, one year of practical hands-on experience as a journeyman plumber in New Jersey, consisting of at least 1,200 hours of practical hands-on experience.