

# Meeting Minutes: 2024 UPC ad hoc Rulemaking Committee of the Plumbing Board

Date: April 3, 2024  
Time: 9:00 a.m.  
Minutes by: Lyndy Logan  
Location: **Minnesota Room**, DLI, 443 Lafayette Rd. No., St. Paul, MN 55155

## Committee Members

1. Karl Abrahamson (Committee Secretary)
2. Richard Becker
3. Justin Parizek
4. Mike Westemeier (DLI CO's Designee)

## Committee Members Absent

None

## DLI Staff & Visitors

Adam Case (Board. Counsel, DLI)  
Lyndy Logan (DLI)  
Brad Jensen (DLI)  
Thomas Eisert (DLI) – WebEx  
Matt Flier (DLI) – WebEx  
Steve Neubel (DLI)  
John Roehl (DLI) – WebEx  
Jake Brunoehler (Adspipe) – WebEx

## DLI Staff & Visitors continued...

Kyle Dimler (City of Hutchinson) – WebEx  
Nick Erickson (Housing First MN)  
Steve Fernlund (City of St. Paul)  
Jeff Hill (MNWQA)  
Rick Jacobs (Local 34)  
Lori Jansen (MNWQA) – WebEx  
Tyson Jenkins (City of Plymouth) – WebEx  
Mike Johnson (J Berd Mech)  
Stephanie Menning (MUCA) – WebEx  
Pete Moreau (Adspipe) – WebEx  
Tom Pahkala (Local 15)  
Bradley Peters (Rochester Comm. Dev.)  
Jim Peterson (MN PHCC)  
Mark Scholle (Prinsco) – WebEx  
Brian Soderholm (MNWQA)  
Katy Thompson (Stantec) – WebEx  
Ruth Thompson (My Plumbing Training) – WebEx  
Charlie Wilson (MNUE) – WebEx

## 1. **Call to Order**

- A. The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Becker at 9:01 a.m. Roll call was taken Committee Secretary Abrahamson and a quorum was declared with 4 of 4 Committee members present in person.
- B. Announcements/Introductions by Board Chair Becker
  - Everyone present in person and remotely are able to hear all discussions.
  - All votes will be taken by roll call if any member is attending remotely.
  - All handouts discussed and WebEx instructions are posted on the Committee's website.

## 2. **Approval of meeting agenda**

A motion was made by Westemeier, seconded by Becker, to approve the agenda as presented. The vote was unanimous with 4 votes in favor; the motion carried.

## 3. **Approval of previous meeting minutes**

A motion was made by Westemeier, seconded by Abrahamson, to approve the March 6, 2024, minutes as presented. The vote was unanimous with 4 votes in favor; the motion carried.

**4. Regular Business**  
No expense reports.

**5. Special Business**

- A. Continue review/discussion beginning with chapter 5 of the 2024 Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC), and any tangential sections, and as time permits, chapters 6 & 7; discuss possible rulemaking recommendation to the Plumbing Board.

**Chapter 5**

**501.0 General**

- 501.1 Applicability. The regulations of this chapter shall govern the construction, location, and installation of fuel-burning and other types of water heaters heating potable water, ~~together with chimneys, vents, and their connectors. The minimum capacity for storage water heaters shall be in accordance with the first hour rating listed in Table 501.1(2).~~ A list of accepted water heater appliance standards is referenced in Table 501.1(1). Listed appliances shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's installation instructions. Unlisted water heaters shall be permitted in accordance with Section 504.3.2. Water heaters shall be installed and sized in accordance with the manufacturer's installation instructions. The final installation shall be approved by the Authority Having Jurisdiction.
- 501.1(1) Table – Water Heaters – keep as shown in the 2024 UPC

**502.0 Permits**

- 502.1 General – keep as shown in the 2024 UPC
- Table 501.1(2) First Hour Rating – Delete in its entirety

**503.0 Inspection**

- 503.1 Inspection of Chimneys or Vents – leave as amended in the 2020 MN Plumbing Code
- 503.2 Final Water Heater Inspection – leave as amended in the 2020 MN Plumbing Code

**504.0 Water Heater Requirements**

- 504.1 Location – leave as amended in the 2020 MN Plumbing Code
- 504.1.1 Self-Closing Doors – leave as amended in the 2020 MN Plumbing Code
- 504.1.2 Gasketing – leave as amended in the 2020 MN Plumbing Code
- 504.2 Vent – leave as amended in the 2020 MN Plumbing Code
- 504.3 Clearance – leave as amended in the 2020 MN Plumbing Code
- 504.3.1 Listed Water Heaters – leave as amended in the 2020 MN Plumbing Code
- 504.3.2 Unlisted Water Heaters – keep as shown in the 2024 UPC
- 504.4 Pressure-Limiting Devices – keep as shown in the 2024 UPC
- 504.5 Temperature-Linting Devices – keep as shown in the 2024 UPC
- 504.6 Temperature, Pressure, and Vacuum Relief Devices – leave as amended in the 2020 MN Plumbing Code

- 504.7 – Lead Content – keep as shown in the 2024 UPC

## 505.0 Oil-Burning and Other Water Heaters

- 505.1 Water Heaters – keep as shown in the 2024 UPC
- Table 501.1(2) First Hour Rating – keep as shown in the 2024 UPC
- 505.2 to 505.5 – keep as shown in the 2024 UPC
- 505.4.1 Single-Wall Heat Exchanger – keep as shown in the 2024 UPC
- 506 to 506.9 – leave as amended in 2020 MN Plumbing Code

## 507.0 Appliance and Equipment Installation Requirements

- 507.1 Dielectric Insulator – keep as shown in the 2024 UPC
- 507.2 Seismic Provisions. In seismic design categories C, D, E, and F, wWater heaters shall be anchored or strapped to resist horizontal displacement due to earthquake motion. Strapping shall be at points within the upper one-third and lower one-third of its vertical dimensions. At the lower point, a distance of not less than 4 inches (102 mm) shall be maintained from the controls with the strapping.
- 507.3 Appliance Support – keep as shown in the 2024 UPC
- 507.3.1 Structural Capacity – keep as shown in the 2024 UPC
- 507.4 Ground Support – keep as shown in the 2024 UPC
- 507.5 Drainage Pan – keep as shown in the 2024 UPC
- 507.6 Added or Converted Equipment or Appliances – leave as amended in the 2020 MN Plumbing Code
- 507.7 Type of Gas(es) – leave as amended in the 2020 MN Plumbing Code
- 507.8 Safety Shutoff Devices for Unlisted LP-Gas Appliance Used Indoors – leave as amended in the 2020 MN Plumbing Code
- 507.9 Use of Air or Oxygen Under Pressure – leave as amended in the 2020 MN Plumbing Code
- 507.10 Protection of Gas Appliances from Fumes or Gases other than Products of Combustion – leave as amended in the 2020 MN Plumbing Code
- 507.11 Process Air – leave as amended in the 2020 MN Plumbing Code
- 507.12 – keep as shown in the 2024 UPC with the following revisions: Flammable Vapors. Appliances shall not be installed in areas where the open use, handling, or dispensing of flammable liquids occurs, unless the design, operation, or installation reduces the potential of ignition of the flammable vapors. Appliances installed in compliance with Section 507.13 through Section 507.15 shall be considered to comply with the intent of this provision. [NFPA 54:9.1.9]
- 507.13 Installation in Residential Garages – keep as shown in the 2024 UPC
- 507.13.1 Physical Damage – keep as shown in the 2024 UPC
- 507.13.2 Access from the Outside – keep as shown in the 2024 UPC
- 507.14 – 507.22 – delete in its entirety
- 507.23 – Installation Instructions – keep as shown in the 2024 UPC
- 507.24 Protection of Outdoor Appliances – Protection of Outdoor Appliances – keep as shown in the 2024 UPC

- 507.25 Accessibility for Service – keep as shown in the 2024 UPC
- 507.26 Clearance to Combustible Materials – keep as shown in the 2024 UPC with the following revisions: Appliances and their vent connectors shall be installed with clearances from combustible material so their operation does not create a hazard to persons or property. Minimum clearances between combustible walls and the back and sides of various conventional types of appliances and their vent connectors are specified in the Minnesota Fuel Gas Code Section 509.0. [NFPA 54:9.2.2]

## 508.0 Appliances on Roofs, in Attics or Under-Floor Spaces

- 508.0 to 508.3.3 – delete in its entirety
- 508.4 to 508.4.4 – keep as shown in the 2024 UPC

## 509.0 Venting of Appliances

- 509.0 to 510 – delete in its entirety

## Chapter 6

### 601.0 General

- 601.1 Applicability – keep as shown in the 2024 UPC
- 601.2 Water Supply and Flushing – keep as shown in the 2024 UPC
- 601.2.1 Hot and Cold Water Required – keep as shown in the 2024 UPC
- 601.2.2 Hot Water Recirculation – **circle back after an RFA is received – this was an amendment from the 2020 MN Plumbing Code**
- 601.3 Identification of a Potable and Nonpotable Water System – keep as shown in the 2024 UPC
- 601.3.1 Potable Water – keep as shown in the 2024 UPC
- 601.3.2 Color and Information – keep as shown in the 2024 UPC
- Table 601.3.2 Minimum Length of Color Field and Size of Letters – keep as shown in the 2024 UPC
- 601.3.3 Alternate Water Sources – keep as shown in the 2024 UPC
- 601.3.4 Fixtures – keep as shown in the 2024 UPC
- 601.3.5 Outlets – keep as shown in the 2024 UPC

### 602.0 Unlawful Connections

- 602.1 Prohibited Installation – keep as shown in the 2024 UPC
- 602.2 Cross-Contamination – leave as amended in the 2020 MN Plumbing Code
- 602.3 Backflow Prevention – keep as shown in the 2024 UPC
- 602.4 Approval by Authority – leave as amended in the 2020 MN Plumbing Code

### 603.0 Cross-Connection Control

- 603.1 General – keep as shown in the 2024 UPC
- 603.2 Approval of Devices or Assemblies – leave as amended in the 2020 MN Plumbing Code
- Table 603.2 Backflow Prevention Devices, Assemblies, and Methods – keep as shown in the 2024 UPC

- 603.3 to 603.12 – keep as shown in the 2024 UPC in its entirety
- 603.4 to 603.4.9 – keep as shown in the 2024 UPC
- 603.5 to 603.5.3 – keep as shown in the 2024 UPC
- **603.5.4 to 603.5.4.2 – circle back, Westemeier will submit an RFA**
- 603.5.5 Water Supply Inlets – keep as shown in the 2024 UPC
- **603.5.6 Protection from Lawn Sprinklers and Irrigation Systems – circle back, review Standard**
- 603.5.7 to 603.5.11 – keep as shown in the 2024 UPC
- 603.5.12 Beverage Dispensers – keep as shown in the 2024 UPC
- 603.5.13 Deck-Mounted and Equipment Mounted Vacuum Breakers – keep as shown in the 2024 UPC
- 603.5.14 Protection from Fire Systems – keep as shown in the 2024 UPC
- 603.5.14.1 Fire Department Connection – keep as shown in the 2024 UPC
- 603.5.15 Health Care or Laboratory Areas – keep as shown in the 2024 UPC
- 603.5.16 Special Equipment – keep as shown in the 2024 UPC
- 603.5.17 Potable Water Outlets and Valves – leave as amended in the 2020 MN Plumbing Code
- **603.5.18 to 603.5.18.1 – circle back, review RFI PB0152**
- 603.5.19 Garbage Can Washers – keep as shown in the 2024 UPC
- 603.5.20 Plumbing Fixture Fittings – keep as shown in the 2024 UPC
- 603.5.21 Swimming Pools, Spas, and Hot Tubs – keep as shown in the 2024 UPC
- 603.5.22 Chemical Dispensers – keep as shown in the 2024 UPC
- 603.5.22 from the 2020MPC – keep the barometric loop as amendment 2020 MN Plumbing Code and renumber.
- 4714.603.5.23.1, 2, 3, 4 – keep as amended in 2020 MN Plumbing Code with renumbering.

The next meeting will begin at Chapter 6, section 604.0.

- B. [Review/discuss RFA's submitted to date](#), if applicable
- a. RFA PB0161 – Karl Abrahamson
    - **At the Feb. 7, 2024, meeting Abrahamson pulled his RFA – he will research and re-submit a revised RFA.**
  - b. RFA PB0163 – Scott Thompson (Section 420.4)
    - **At the March 6, 2024, meeting the Committee unanimously agreed to leave as amended in the 2020 MN Plumbing Code.**
  - c. RFA PB0164 – Lew Anderson (Section 407.3)
    - **Will be addressed at the April 30, 2024, meeting**
  - d. RFA PB0165 – Lew Anderson (Section 311.1)
    - **At the Feb. 7, 2024, meeting Nick Erickson and Lew Anderson addressed the Committee; the RFA was tabled until a later date.**
  - e. RFA PB0166 – Lowry Engineering (Chapter 11)
    - **Will review with Chapter 11**
  - f. RFA PB0167 – Kyle Dimler (Section 310.5)
    - **Will review with Chapter 11**

g. RFA PB0168 – Jeffrey Hill (Section 611.0)

- **Hill summarized his RFA regarding section 611.0. The Committee asked Hill to re-submit his RFA with stricken and underlined language revisions.**

C. Discuss legislation that could impact the Plumbing Code

- Mr. Erickson (Housing First MN)
  - Two bills have been submitted, House file 4009 and Senate file 1370, both bills are land use focused so far and currently staying away from the building codes. The intent of this legislation is if there is a barrier blocking that housing or adding to the cost of housing, those barriers would be lifted. Mr. Erickson stated that obviously the discussion of sewer lines and how those mains are coming off the front of the property to the ADU, whether it's directly through the main home, would be an example of a barrier that the legislature would take interest in. Right now, they've not gone into the code aspect. Mr. Erickson fielded questions.
- Mr. Abrahamson (Ad Hoc committee member)
  - Didn't have a specific question but cautioned to "just be careful when you talk about lifting barriers, because there are certain barriers set in place for health reason. There's a reason why the code has a requirement for an independent sewer going to each building, protection of the main house from having sewage backing up into the interior of the basement in the event of a sewer block age. These installations must be on a case-by-case basis and not just a rubber stamp, the property can file for a deviation to the code so that these issues can be vetted out properly."
- Mr. Erickson:
  - Nothing in this bill address the plumbing lines. my experience on the land use side, these barriers are not imposed for health and safety reasons. That is the conversation that the legislature wants to have. So, discussing it with them, they're very careful when looking at these barriers. They're not lifting anything on the code side specific to plumbing, but they are also very aware that policies can be used with alternate intentions. So, they want to be very careful. And as we've kind of reconfiguring our housing regulatory framework in the state to be very aware of how these policies can be used for good, but also for maybe a not so noble purpose.
- Mr. Becker (Ad Hoc Committee Chair)
  - Agreed, we've got to maintain our safety, But also keep in mind as we're going through this, are there provisions or things we can add that keeps that level of safety but helps work with these issues and that sort of thing.

## 6. Announcements

The following Committee meetings have been scheduled and notices will be sent to the Plumbing Board's interested parties distribution list one week prior. Meetings will be in person at DLI with a WebEx and phone options. Meetings begin at 9 a.m. and are expected to last 2-3 hours.

- April 30, 2024, Minnesota Room

- June 5, 2024, Washington Room
- July 3, 2024, Minnesota Room
- August 7, 2024, Minnesota Room
- September 4, 2024, Minnesota Room
- October 2, 2024, Minnesota Room
- November 6, 2024, Minnesota Room
- December 4, 2024, Minnesota Room
- January 2, 2025, Minnesota Room

## **7. Adjournment**

A motion was made by Westemeier, seconded by Parizek, to adjourn the meeting at 11:52 a.m. The vote was unanimous with 4 votes in favor of the motion; the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

*Karl Abrahamson*

Karl Abrahamson  
Committee Secretary

### **Green meeting practices**

The State of Minnesota is committed to minimizing in-person environmental impacts by following green meeting practices. DLI is minimizing the environmental impact of its events by following green meeting practices. DLI encourages you to use electronic copies of handouts or to print them on 100% post-consumer processed chlorine-free paper, double-sided.