

CCLD REVIEW

Construction Codes and Licensing Division • Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry • Winter 2022

Celebrating 50 years of the State Building Code

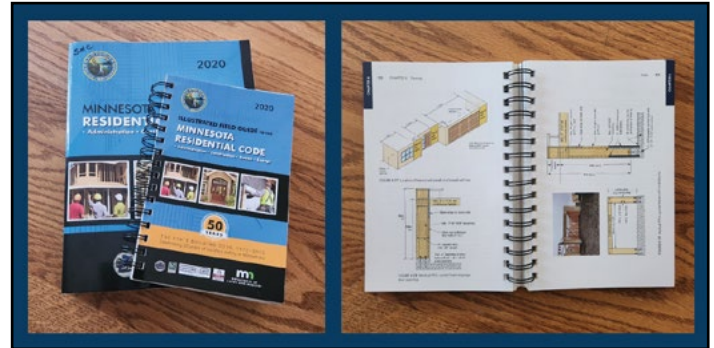
July 1, 2022, was the 50-year anniversary of the State Building Code, when in 1972 every city and county that had a building code was required to begin enforcing the same code: the State Building Code.

To mark this milestone, the Construction Codes and Licensing Division (CCLD) is doing several things, the most notable being the creation of a first-of-its-kind *Illustrated Field Guide to the Minnesota Residential Code*. Another is a special presentation at the building official institutes.

Annual Institute for Building Officials

The culmination of this 50-year anniversary will occur Jan. 23, 2023, at the [Annual Institute for Building Officials at the Heritage Center of Brooklyn Center](#).

In the opening session from 8 to 9:30 a.m., State Building Official Scott McLellan will present *50-years of the State Building Code, Past- Present- and Future*. Among various features, a video production describing these 50-years will be premiered. Nicole Blissenbach, Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) temporary commissioner, will provide opening remarks and others from the industry will speak about the changes they've seen throughout the years.



The *Illustrated Field Guide to the Minnesota Residential Building Code* (pictured) is a custom 300-page publication made specifically for Minnesota as a collaborative effort with the International Code Council. The goal of this project is to create something useful that will simplify code compliance and minimize misunderstandings for both builders and building inspectors. The guide is illustrated sufficiently to eliminate many common code controversies and is detailed enough to design footings, foundation walls and beams.

Attendees at the opening session of the Annual Institute for Building Officials will receive a free copy. Additionally, those who attend the State of the State, [Region III Institute](#) at the Minneapolis Marriott Northwest on Feb. 13, 2023, will also receive a copy.

New launch date for web-based licensing system

As reported in the previous CCLD Review, Construction Codes and Licensing will replace its aging licensing system with a new platform that will allow for easier and more accessible interaction with DLI's construction licensing system. However, due to the complexity of the conversion, the new system is now scheduled to launch in April 2023, following the residential building contractor license renewal cycle.

The new system is part of the existing iMS program used for DLI's administration of its permitting, inspections, plan review and enforcement functions. The new web-based system will make it easier for users to access and update their information. It will also send email reminders about expiration dates and the need for other updates, in addition to the postcards currently sent prior to license renewal deadlines.

Schedule of board and council meetings

Below is a schedule of meetings for boards and council supported by CCLD.

Visit dli.mn.gov/about-department/boards-and-councils to view meeting minutes, agendas, rulemaking documents and schedules for these meetings and additional boards and councils.

Board of Electricity

- Jan. 10, 2023
- April 11, 2023
- July 11, 2023
- Oct. 10, 2023

Plumbing Board

- Jan. 17, 2023
- April 18, 2023
- July 18, 2023
- Oct. 17, 2023

Board of High Pressure Piping

- Jan. 12, 2023
- April 13, 2023
- July 13, 2023
- Oct. 12, 2023

Construction Codes Advisory Council

- TBD

Interested in serving on a board or council?

Minnesotans are encouraged to apply for positions on state councils, boards, task forces and commissions through the Secretary of State's Open Commissions and Appointments process. Visit dli.mn.gov/about-department/boards-and-councils for more information about how to apply.

Plan review, permit fee reduction period ending

During the last biennium, DLI and the Construction Codes and Licensing Division sought legislation to continue temporary lower building permit and plan review fees previously approved in 2017. However, as this reduction was not approved, fees will be returning to the pre-2017 rates effective Jan. 1, 2023. The fees prior to 2017 were approximately 25% higher than the reduced rate we have been charging since 2017.

Stay in touch with DLI news



Sign up for newsletters and email lists.

dli.mn.gov/about-department/news-and-media/sign-news-department-labor-and-industry

CCLD Review is a quarterly publication of the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry.

Receive email notification when an issue is available by [subscribing online](#).

Contact information

CCLD main contact info

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Visit the [Contact Us](#) page

Licensing information

DLI.License@state.mn.us

Business/contractor licenses and bonds:

651-284-5034
(Including: electrical, HPP, plumbing, residential, manufactured structures, mechanical bonds, technology system, water conditioning)

Personal licenses and certificates:

651-284-5031
(Including: boiler engineers, electricians, plumbers, power limited technicians, pipefitters, unlicensed individuals, building officials)

Electrical information

Phone: 651-284-5026
Fax: 651-284-5746
DLI.Electricity@state.mn.us

Boiler, high-pressure piping, boats-for-hire inspection

Phone: 651-284-5544
Fax: 651-284-5746
DLI.Code@state.mn.us

Plumbing information

Phone: 651-284-5063
Fax: 651-284-5746
DLI.Plumbing@state.mn.us

License enforcement details

Phone: 651-284-5069
Fax: 651-284-5746
DLI.Contractor@state.mn.us

Contractor registration

Phone: 651-284-5074
DLI.register@state.mn.us

Residential building contractor continuing education reminder

All qualifying builders and remodelers (QBs and QCs) must complete 14 hours of DLI-approved continuing education by the expiration date of their builder or remodeler registration, which may not be the same date as the expiration date for their business license (BC or CR). A business license cannot be renewed if the company's qualifying person's QB or QC registration is expired due to lack of continuing education.

Contractors can check the continuing education date of their qualifying builder or remodeler by looking up their license information in our License and Registration Lookup at <https://secure.doli.state.mn.us/lookup/licensing.aspx>. A list of approved continuing education courses is at <https://secure.doli.state.mn.us/cldcecourses>.



Business management strategies continuing education

Due to enforcement cases resulting from some contractors' failure to use sound business management practices, the state legislature updated continuing education rules for residential building contractors to require training about business management strategies.

Residential building contractors must complete at least 14 hours of continuing education every two years. Of the 14 hours, at least one hour must relate to the Minnesota Energy Code and at least one hour must relate to business management strategies.

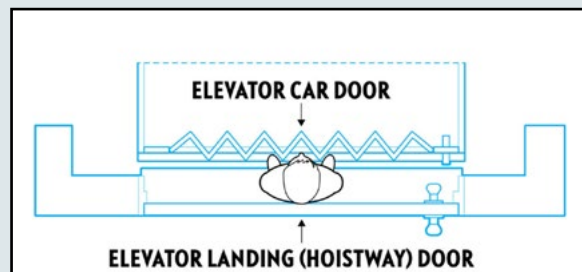
Questions? Contact us at 651-284-5034 or dli.license@state.mn.us.

Private residence elevators subject to safety recall

Due to recent safety concerns, the Consumer Product Safety Commission has been working with manufacturers of private residence elevators to address a serious safety concern related to gaps between private residence elevator doors. It has been identified that young children can become trapped in the space between the exterior landing (hoistway) door and the interior elevator car door if there is a large enough gap between the doors. If a young child enters this area and a call is placed to another floor, they could suffer serious injuries or death.

The following links provide information about these recalls from some manufacturers.

- [Custom Elevator recall](#)
- [Cambridge Elevating recall](#)
- [ThyssenKrupp Access Manufacturing, LLC, thyssenkrupp Access Corp., Access Industries, or National Wheel-O-Vator recall](#)
- [Residential Elevators Inc recall](#)
- [Savaria and Garaventa recall](#)
- [Bella Elevator/Symmetry recall](#)
- [Inclinor Elevator recall](#)
- [Otis/CemcoLift recall](#)



Scenario depicting a child trapped between an exterior landing (hoistway) door and an interior elevator car due to a hazardous gap. (Image: Consumer Product Safety Commission)

Unlicensed contractor fined \$10,000 for repeat violations

- An unlicensed contractor operating out of Marble, Minnesota, who was previously ordered to cease and desist from engaging in unlicensed plumbing activities, was found continuing to perform unlicensed plumbing work, in addition to performing electrical and mechanical work without appropriate licensure and bonding. The contractor was ordered to cease and desist from the unlicensed activities and fined \$10,000.
- An unlicensed Burnsville contractor was found to be performing residential building construction, remodeling, roofing, plumbing and electrical work. The unlicensed contractor was ordered to cease and desist from the unlicensed activities and fined \$22,500, of which \$15,000 was stayed contingent on future compliance.
- A licensed Edina residential building contractor was found to have violated a previous Order of the Commissioner by breaching contracts with multiple homeowners, failing to obtain required building permits, failing to pay a subcontractor, and failing to comply with correction orders issued by permitting authorities. The contractor's license was revoked, a \$32,500 fine was imposed, which was stayed contingent on compliance with the terms of the order, and the contractor was ordered to cooperate with its customers' efforts to seek compensation from the Contractor Recovery Fund.
- A licensed Blaine electrical contractor failed to appoint a responsible licensed master electrician, ensure its employees were appropriately registered and/or licensed, and comply with the supervision ratio. The contractor was censured and fined \$39,500, of which \$20,000 was stayed contingent on full future compliance.
- An unlicensed Rochester contractor was found to have engaged in unlicensed electrical and/or technology systems work. The contractor was ordered to cease and desist from the unlicensed activity and fined \$5,000.



Enforcement actions
View enforcement and license actions levied against licensees.

More information

View summaries of enforcement actions at dli.mn.gov/workers/homeowners/file-complaint-and-view-enforcement-actions. Contact us at 651-284-5069 or dli.contractor@state.mn.us.

Electrical area representatives attend NEC training

In September 2022, Minnesota's electrical area representatives attended the Western Section meeting of the [International Association of Electrical Inspectors](https://www.iaei.org/) (IAEI) in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. The conference addressed the significant changes of the 2023 National Electrical Code (NEC).

The Western Section is the largest of six IAEI sections, and includes 17 states across the center United States. Minnesota's electrical area representatives have been very active in the 2023 NEC code making process and submitted many proposals that were accepted by the code panels.



Electrical area representatives and staff at the IAEI Western Section meeting.

Who to call for plumbing inspections?

Plumbing contractors must notify the proper administrative authority for all plumbing inspections. This includes all site utilities, drain, waste and vent, storm drainage and water distribution. Locate the proper administrative authority in our local inspector lookup: <http://workplace.doli.state.mn.us/jurisdiction/>.

DLI's plumbing inspectors are responsible for inspecting all new plumbing installations for public, commercial and industrial facilities located in areas where the building code has not been adopted by local ordinance. In areas that have adopted the building codes, the proper administrative authority must ensure compliance with all the requirements of the code.

DLI will inspect the following projects throughout Minnesota unless there is a plumbing plan review agreement with the department and the municipality, and a licensed master plumber will conduct inspections for the municipality:

- All new plumbing installations for public, commercial and industrial facilities located in areas where the building code has not been adopted by local ordinance.
- Hospitals, nursing homes, supervised living facilities, free-standing outpatient surgical centers, correctional facilities, boarding care homes, or residential hospices, and similar state-licensed facilities;
- Public buildings which are paid for by the state or a state agency regardless of cost, and school district building projects or charter school building projects regardless of cost; and
- Projects of a special nature, including dialysis facilities and other projects for which a department plan review is requested by either the municipality or the state.



Cities with a delegation agreement may conduct inspections as long as the individual is a licensed master or journey worker plumber, or inspector meeting competency requirements established in rules adopted under section 326B.135. (Minnesota State Statute 326B.43 Sub 2(h))

Questions?

View more information about plumbing inspections at dli.mn.gov/business/plumbing-contractors/plumbing-inspections.

2022 NERA meeting recap

The National Electrical Reciprocal Alliance (NERA) is an organization that consists of 17 member states that promote reciprocity based on similar, complimentary and interchangeable requirements for licensed individuals. Minnesota was represented at NERA's annual meeting in Bandera, Texas, Sept. 27 and 28, by Steve Dudley, DLI electrical representative.

Some of the meeting topics included:

- Changes to the 2023 National Electrical Code.
- Ways to bring more qualifying states into NERA.
- The benefits of belonging to NERA by being proactive with reciprocity.



Steve Dudley, third from left, represented DLI.