CCLD REVIEW

Construction Codes and Licensing Division • Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry • Summer 2024

2024 Construction Codes and Licensing legislative session updates

Below is a brief overview of some of the 2024 legislative session laws related to the Construction Codes and Licensing Division (CCLD).

Prohibited insurance practices for residential contractors <u>Minnesota Statutes 325E.66</u> prohibits licensed residential building contractors, remodelers and roofers from offering to pay a homeowner's insurance deductible for home repair and improvement services which are to be paid by an insurance company. The prohibited practices associated with this statute have been expanded and will be effective Aug. 1, 2024. DLI encourages all licensed contractors to review the statute to learn about the prohibited practices.



Contractor Recovery Fund payout increased for homeowners

Effective July 1, 2024, homeowners who have suffered a direct and out-of-pocket loss due to fraudulent, deceptive, or dishonest practices, conversion of funds or failure of performance of a licensed residential building contractor or remodeler are eligible to receive up to \$100,000 in reimbursement from the <u>Contractor</u> <u>Recovery Fund</u>. This represents an increase from the previous maximum threshold of \$75,000 for eligible homeowners.

Elevator constructor continuing education changes

Effective Aug. 1, 2024, the requirement for the International Distance Education Certification Center (IDECC) or International Association for Continuing Education and Training (IACET) approvals for online elevator constructors continuing education courses is eliminated. This change will allow the elevator industry to submit educational programs that are commonly recognized in other states to DLI for review and approval. This change should result in more opportunities for elevator constructors to fulfill their continuing education requirements to renew their licenses or registrations.

Plumbing plan review for well designs

The design and installation of wells is regulated by the Minnesota Department of Health. However, the design of the water service pipe to the building is regulated by the Minnesota Plumbing Code. Prior to the new legislation, now in effect, a well license allowed an individual to design piping from the well to the building, but the Department of Labor and Industry could not accept it as a valid license for plumbing plan review due to language in the statute. The new legislation allows a plan designed and signed by a licensed well contractor (well license Type A) to be submitted and approved by the Department of Labor and Industry Plumbing Plan Review unit.

Fast-forward on residential energy

Minnesota Statutes 326B.106 was modified to require each successive issue of the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) to be adopted as the Minnesota Residential Energy Code with incremental strengthening amendments to achieve a 70% improvement in energy efficiency by 2038 in comparison to the

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2006 IECC. This code applies to all residential buildings three stories or less in height. A Technical Advisory Group will evaluate the 2024 IECC for adoption once it is published. DLI anticipates adoption and enforcement in late 2026 or early 2027.

Apartments over three stories with single exit stairways

The state legislature requires that DLI study what safety measures will be required to result in apartment buildings with single exit stairways to be equivalent in occupant life safety to other types of housing in Minnesota when the subject apartment buildings are up to 75 feet tall. The legislation requires an extensive list of stakeholder groups to be included in the development of the study. DLI will issue a request for proposal to contract the services of a fire life-safety engineering firm to lead the study and prepare the report. The final report is due to the state legislature in December 2025.

Building contractor and remodeler continuing education reminder

All qualifying builders and remodelers (QBs and QCs) are required to complete 14 hours of approved continuing education by the expiration date of their registration, which may not be the same date as the expiration date for their business license (BC or CR).

Contractors can look-up the continuing education date of their qualifying person in our licensing platform, iMS. A list of <u>approved continuing education courses is available here</u>. At least one hour of the continuing education must relate to the Minnesota Energy Code and one hour must relate to business management strategies. Contact us at 651-284-5034 or <u>DLI.license@state.mn.us</u> for help with questions.

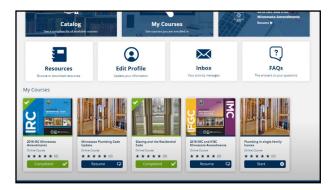
CCLD Learn offers online continuing education courses at your pace

Sign-up to be notified by email when new courses are available

CCLD Learn — the online, self-paced learning platform from the Construction Codes and Licensing Division — offers an intuitive online interface where visitors can complete courses and earn continuing education credits in topics that interest them.

Current courses include:

- 2018 International Mechanical Code and International Fuel Gas Code Minnesota Amendments
- 2018 International Residential Code Minnesota Amendments
- Elevator Licenses, Stairway Chairlifts and Platform Lifts
- Glazing and the Residential Code
- International Building Code Automatic Fire Sprinkler Requirements
- Minnesota Accessibility Code Basics
- Minnesota Plumbing Code Update
- Plumbing in Single-Family Homes
- Residential Building Contractor Licensing and Enforcement
- Understanding the Building Code for Special Event Centers



The interface of CCLD Learn.

View more information, register for courses and get notified about new courses at <u>dli.mn.gov/ccld-learn</u>.

New process for stairway chairlift inspections

To make it easier for licensed elevators contractors to comply with state laws requiring a stairway chairlift to be inspected prior to being placed into service, the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry is implementing the smartphone-based VuSpex Go app for all stairway chairlift installation inspections in Minnesota.

The change makes it possible for registered or licensed stairway chairlift installation technicians to perform and submit an inspection any time of the day, weekend or holiday without having to coordinate with an elevator inspector.



Beginning June 17, 2024, all residential stairway chairlift installation inspections must be conducted and submitted by the installer via the VuSpex Go app as an offline field report prior to being put into service. The app can be installed from the Apple App Store or Google Play Store directly to your mobile device.

View instructions about how to install, register and use VuSpex Go in the <u>offline field report guide</u>. Once installed on your mobile device, contractors can perform a practice inspection using the test permit number ELV-P2404-0307.

Questions?

- <u>View more about elevator permits and inspections</u>.
- Contact us at <u>elevator.inspections.dli@state.mn.us</u> or 651-284-5071.

Help stop child labor violations in the construction industry

Everyone who works in the construction industry can help protect kids and promote safety on the jobsite by becoming familiar with child labor laws and reporting violations.

Minnesota's child labor law prohibits anyone under the age of 18 from working in or about any construction or building project, from operating machinery such as circular or radial saws, and from working in any occupation or at any site that is hazardous or dangerous to life, limb or health, among other things. There are also laws about the hours kids can work.

You can help stop child labor violations and help keep kids safe, and at the same time help keep you and your jobsite safe. If you are an employer, do not hire children to work at construction sites and refuse to work with other companies or subcontractors who violate child labor laws. Talk to your employees about the law and ask them to come to you with any suspicions they have. If you become aware of a child working at a construction site, say something. Report violations to an investigator with the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry's Labor Standards Unit at 651-284-5075. Reports can be made anonymously.

View more about Minnesota's child labor laws at <u>dli.mn.gov/child-labor</u>.

Schedule of board and council meetings

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

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

Board of Electricity

Board of High Pressure Piping

- July 9, 2024
- Oct. 8, 2024
- July 18, 2024

Plumbing Board

- Construction Codes Advisory Council
- July 30, 2024
- July 16, 2024
 Oct. 15, 2024

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 <u>dli.mn.gov/about-department/boards-and-councils</u> for more information about how to apply.

Translated documents, Language Line available

A selection of documents and web pages related to building codes, workers' compensation, workplace safety, apprenticeship and more have been translated into various languages.

Additionally, DLI has access to Language Line, a free language translation service for limited-English speakers.

View the translated documents and instructions to access Language Line at <u>dli.mn.gov/about-department/</u> about-dli/translated-materials.



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

Receive email notification when an issue is available by <u>subscribing online</u>.

Contact information

CCLD main contact info Phone: 651-284-5012 Toll-free: 1-800-657-3944

Visit the <u>Contact Us</u> page.

Licensing information

Business/contractor licenses and bonds and personal licenses and certificates Phone: 651-284-5034 DLI.License@state.mn.us

iMS support

Phone: 651-284-5026 iMS.support.dli@state.mn.us

Electrical information Phone: 651-284-5026 DLI.Electricity@state.mn.us

Boiler, high-pressure piping, boats-for-hire inspection Phone: 651-284-5544 DLI.Code@state.mn.us

Plumbing information Phone: 651-284-5063 iMS.bld.plb.dli@state.mn.us

Building information Phone: 651-284-5857 iMS.bld.plb.dli@state.mn.us

License enforcement details Phone: 651-284-5069 DLI.Contractor@state.mn.us

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

Unlicensed Lakeville contractor fined \$48,000

- A Lakeville contractor was found to have engaged in residential remodeling and roofing activities without a license. The contractor was ordered to cease and desist from the unlicensed activities and fined \$48,000.
- A Grand Forks, North Dakota, contractor was found to have performed unlicensed plumbing work. The contractor was ordered to cease and desist from the unlicensed activity and fined \$3,500, of which \$3,000 was stayed contingent on full future compliance.
- A St. Peter contractor was found to have performed plumbing, electric, remodeling and mechanical work without having the required contractor licenses and bonding. The contractor was ordered to cease and desist from the unlicensed activities and fined \$10,000.
- A Merriam, Kansas, contractor was found to have engaged in residential remodeling activities without the required license. The contractor was ordered to cease and desist from the unlicensed activities and fined \$6,000, of which \$3,000 was stayed contingent on full future compliance.
- A licensed residential building and electrical contractor operating out of St. Paul and Stillwater was found to have breached contracts with multiple homeowners. The contractor was ordered to cease and desist from acting as a residential building contractor, from performing electrical work in Minnesota, and both licenses were revoked.

More information

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

The basics of Minnesota electrical licensing

A pair of web pages explain the basic steps and requirements to become an electrician or an electrical contractor in Minnesota.

Electrical licensing basics <u>dli.mn.gov/workers/electrician-or-electrical-installer/electrical-</u> <u>licensing-basics</u>

Electrical contractor licensing basics <u>dli.mn.gov/business/elevator-contractors/electrical-contractor-</u> <u>licensing-basics</u>

For help with questions about licenses and registrations contact <u>dli.license@state.mn.us</u>.



