

CHAPTER 205

AN ACT concerning certification of persons installing medical gas piping in certain facilities by the State Board of Examiners of Master Plumbers and amending and supplementing P.L.1968, c.362.

BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

C.45:14C-28 Certification required for installation, maintenance of medical gas piping in certain facilities.

1. a. No person shall install, improve, repair or maintain medical gas piping unless certified by the State Board of Examiners of Master Plumbers in accordance with the provisions of this act.

b. No person shall provide instruction regarding the installation, improvement, repair or maintenance of medical gas piping unless certified by the State board in accordance with the provisions of this act.

For purposes of this act, "medical gas piping" means that medical gas piping within a health care facility licensed pursuant to P.L.1971, c.136 (C.26:2H-1 et seq.), located after the source valve and intended for patient use.

C.45:14C-28 Eligibility for certification.

2. a. Except as provided in subsection b. of this section, to be eligible to be certified to install, improve, repair or maintain medical gas piping, an applicant shall be of good moral character and submit to the State board satisfactory evidence that he:

(1) (a) is a master plumber, or a journeyman plumber who has successfully completed an apprenticeship program accredited and approved by the United States Department of Labor;

(b) is an apprentice plumber who has successfully completed not less than three years of an apprenticeship program accredited and approved by the United States Department of Labor;

(c) is a pipe fitter or steam fitter employed by a plumbing contractor; or

(d) is certified in his area of expertise in accordance with the National Fire Protection Association standards;

(2) has successfully completed not less than 32 hours of classroom training relating to the most recent edition of the Standard on Gas and Vacuum Systems issued by the National Fire Protection Association; and

(3) (a) has passed an examination offered by the National Inspection Testing and Certification Corporation (NITC), or a substantially equivalent examination approved by the State board, that demonstrates the applicant's competence to install, improve, repair and maintain medical gas piping;

(b) has passed an examination as a brazer offered by the American Welding Society, and has successfully completed a training program in the installation of medical gas piping approved by a major medical gas producer; or

(c) is certified in accordance with the appropriate American Society of Sanitary Engineering standards for the operations being performed.

The successful completion of any such examination provided for in this paragraph may have been accomplished before the effective date of this act.

b. To be eligible to be certified to perform only brazing duties incidental to the installation, improvement, repair or maintenance of medical gas piping, an applicant shall be of good moral character and submit to the State board satisfactory evidence that he:

(1) (a) is a master plumber, or a journeyman plumber who has successfully completed an apprenticeship program accredited and approved by the United States Department of Labor;

(b) is an apprentice plumber who has successfully completed not less than three years of an apprenticeship program accredited and approved by the United States Department of Labor;

(c) is a pipe fitter or steam fitter employed by a plumbing contractor; or

(d) is certified in his area of expertise in accordance with the National Fire Protection Association standards;

(2) has successfully completed not less than 20 hours of classroom training relating to the performance of brazing duties required in the installation, improvement, repair or maintenance of medical gas piping; and

(3) (a) has passed an examination offered by the National Inspection Testing and Certification

Corporation (NITC), or a substantially equivalent examination approved by the State board, that demonstrates the applicant's competence in performing brazing duties incidental to the installation, improvement, repair or maintenance of medical gas piping;

(b) has passed an examination as a brazer offered by the American Welding Society and has successfully completed a training program in the brazing of medical gas piping approved by a major medical gas producer; or

(c) is certified in accordance with the appropriate American Society of Sanitary Engineering standards for the operations being performed.

The successful completion of any such examination provided for in this paragraph may have been accomplished before the effective date of this act.

C.45:14C-30 Requirements for certification.

3. To be eligible for certification to provide instruction regarding the installation, improvement, repair or maintenance of medical gas piping, an applicant shall fulfill the following requirements:

a. Be licensed as a master plumber or journeyman plumber in this State, or be a pipe fitter or steam fitter employed by a plumbing contractor; or

b. Have been actively engaged in the practice of installing medical gas piping or be certified in his area of expertise in accordance with the National Fire Protection Association standards for at least five consecutive years preceding the date of application for certification as an instructor;

c. Have successfully completed not less than 40 hours of instructional training in the field of medical gas piping installation, improvement, repair and maintenance as approved by the State board; and

d. (1) passed an examination offered by the National Inspection Testing and Certification Corporation (NITC), or a substantially equivalent examination approved by the State board, that demonstrates the applicant's competence to teach in the field of medical gas piping installation, improvement, repair and maintenance;

(2) passed an examination as a brazer offered by the American Welding Society and has successfully completed a training program in instructional training approved by a major medical gas producer; or

(3) is certified in accordance with the appropriate American Society of Sanitary Engineering standards for the operations being performed.

C.45:14C-31 Issuance of certificates.

4. a. The State board shall issue a certificate of certification to any applicant who, in the opinion of the State board, has satisfactorily met the requirements of this act.

b. The State board shall by rule or regulation establish, prescribe or change the fees for certificates or other services provided by the State board pursuant to the provisions of this act. Certificates for persons certified to install, improve, repair or maintain medical gas piping, or certified as instructors regarding the installation, improvement, repair or maintenance of medical gas piping shall be issued for a period of three years and be renewable. Certificates for persons performing only brazing duties incidental to the installation, improvement, repair or maintenance of medical gas piping shall be issued for a period of one year and be annually renewable.

c. Fees shall be established, prescribed or changed by the State board to the extent necessary to defray all proper expenses incurred by the State board and any staff employed to administer this act, except that fees shall not be fixed at a level that will raise amounts in excess of the amount estimated to be so required.

d. All fees and any fines imposed by the State board shall be paid to the State board and shall be forwarded to the State Treasurer and become part of the General Fund.

C.45:14C-32 Certification for persons currently engaged in practice.

5. a. Any person who engaged in the installation, improvement, repair or maintenance of medical gas piping for not less than three consecutive years preceding the enactment date of this act may acquire certification as provided in subsection a. of section 2 of this act if that person

has met the requirements specified in paragraph (3) of subsection a. of section 2 of this act no later than two years following the enactment date of this act.

b. Any person who performed only brazing duties incidental to the installation, improvement, repair or maintenance of medical gas piping for not less than three consecutive years preceding the enactment date of this act may acquire certification as provided in subsection b. of section 2 of this act if that person has met the requirements specified in paragraph (3) of subsection b. of section 2 of this act no later than two years following the enactment date of this act.

C.45:14C-33 Inapplicability of act.

6. The provisions of this act shall not apply to any electrical contractor licensed by the Board of Examiners of Electrical Contractors pursuant to P.L.1962, c.162 (C.45:5A-1 et seq.), and any person in his employ while performing the duties of his employment, who is acting within the scope of his profession or occupation.

7. Section 10 of P.L.1968, c.362 (C.45:14C-10) is amended to read as follows:

C.45:14C-10 Register of applications for State licenses, certificates of certification.

10. The State board shall keep a register of all applications for State licenses and certificates of certification, which register shall show: (a) name, age and residence of the applicant, (b) date of application, (c) principal place of business of applicant, (d) name and address of employer firm or corporation, if not self-employed, (e) whether or not an examination was required, (f) whether the applicant was accepted or rejected, (g) the number of the license or certificate of certification, if issued, (h) the date of the action of the State board, and (i) any other information prescribed by the State board.

8. This act shall take effect immediately, except that section 1 shall remain inoperative for 720 days following enactment.

Approved January 7, 2004.