



Volume 3 2024

THE VOICE OF THE LICENSED MASTER PLUMBER

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Dellon Sales - NYC FSAE Elevator Threshold Drain
- Teamwork Makes the Dream Work at Venco Sales
- Upcoming Backflow Courses
- Meszaros Engineering - HLW vs H: The Battle of the Stamps
- October Membership Meeting
- And More!

OUR 7TH ANNUAL GOLF OUTING WAS A GREAT SUCCESS!

READ MORE INSIDE ON PAGE 12



The Master Plumbers Council of the City of New York, Inc.

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*The Voice of the Licensed Master Plumber,
a membership publication of the NYCMPC.*



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As summer draws to a close, the NYC Master Plumbers have been busier than ever, channeling our energy into truly meaningful causes.

Our recent golf outing was a resounding success, blending a fantastic day of camaraderie and sport with a profound impact on two remarkable organizations: the Make-A-Wish Foundation and the Tunnel to Towers Foundation. The event not only provided an enjoyable experience for all participants but also raised substantial funds to support these crucial causes.

The Make-A-Wish Foundation is dedicated to granting the heartfelt wishes of children facing critical illnesses, offering them a glimmer of hope and joy during their toughest times. Meanwhile, the Tunnel to Towers Foundation plays an indispensable role in supporting American service members, first responders, and their families by providing vital housing and support services.

I am incredibly proud of the Master Plumber Council's contribution to these extraordinary foundations and grateful for the support that made this event possible.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all of our sponsors, whose generosity was instrumental in the success of this event. A special acknowledgment goes to the members of the golf committee and the many volunteers whose hard work and dedication ensured everything ran smoothly. Additionally, I am deeply appreciative of John DeLillo and his staff at ADS for their unwavering support and assistance. Organizing such a large-scale event is no small feat, requiring meticulous planning and coordination, and their efforts were crucial in making it all come together seamlessly.

Thank you all for your commitment and support. Your contributions have not only made this event memorable but have also brought hope and aid to those who need it most.

Meanwhile, the board has been hard at work behind the scenes. We have a significant hearing scheduled for October 8th regarding Int # 429-2024. This bill proposes important amendments to the regulations governing gas piping inspections, including adjustments to the scope of inspections, the entities authorized to inspect active gas systems, and the procedures for reporting and correcting conditions identified during these inspections.

In addition to redefining ordinary plumbing work to encompass the replacement of household gas appliances, the bill aims to reinstate the Plumbing and Fire Suppression License Board. It also proposes changes to the definition of emergency work, allowing work to restore systems to a working condition without a permit when addressing emergency situations. Furthermore, the bill seeks to remove the exception of plumbing work from the definition of fire suppression piping work and expand the Department of Buildings' authority to seize tools and vehicles suspected of being used for unlicensed or unregistered work. Finally, it would revise the definition of piping systems to include appliance connections, rather than just the outlet of the shutoff valve.

Your continued support and engagement are vital as we navigate these important legislative changes and strive to advance our profession. Thank you for standing with us in these efforts.

Anthony Vigilante
President
Master Plumbers Council of the City of New York

The collective Voice of our membership is much greater than any single individual. Join the MPC today and have your voice heard!

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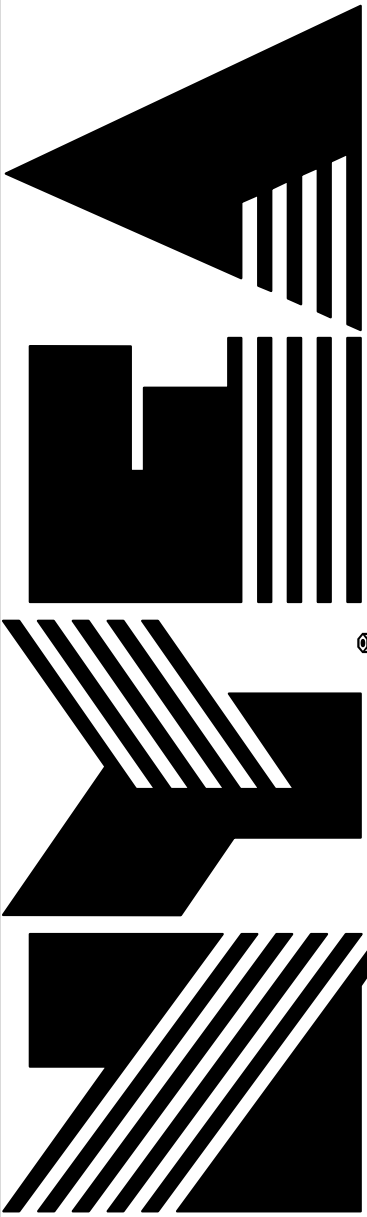
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Some Things Never Change...

2024 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Join the MPC for another year of exciting events!

Keep up to date on our website, and keep your contact information current for important email updates.

OCTOBER

October 1

Membership Meeting

NOVEMBER

November 12

Membership Meeting

DECEMBER

December 3

Holiday Party

STAY TUNED TO NYCMPC.ORG FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF UPCOMING EVENTS!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Jerry Campitiello Jr.

JGC Plumbing & Heating Inc

Barry McLaughlin

MCLNY Plumbing & Heating



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This 32-hour course over 4 days is required by NYSDOH to register as a backflow prevention technician for the State of NY and all local jurisdictions within including NYC.

September 28-29, 2024

October 5-6, 2024

Time: 8AM - 4PM (each day)

Cost: \$900/person

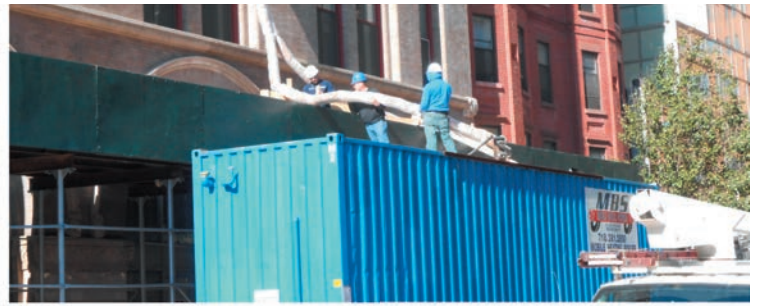
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testing skills at the MPC testing facility!**

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Monday, November 4, 2024

Time: 8AM - 4PM

Cost: \$350/person



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TEAMWORK MAKES THE DREAM WORK AT VENCO SALES

In the ever-evolving world of plumbing and heating, Venco Sales is an outstanding example of the power of family values, teamwork, and industry commitment. As manufacturers' representatives for top-tier HVAC/R, hydronic heating, pumping, and domestic water products, Venco has built a reputation for supporting its customers with the highest quality solutions. But their success story goes beyond just products – it's a testament to the strength of a father-son legacy and the power of collaboration.

Founded in 1990 by John Venini, Venco Sales has blossomed from a one-man operation into a thriving 23-person team, covering a vast territory that includes New York City, Long Island, New Jersey, eastern Pennsylvania, and lower New York state. At the heart of this growth is a leadership duo that embodies the company's core values: John's son, Jay Venini, president, and Frank Brecher, sales manager. From the moment you meet them, it's clear that their genuine camaraderie and mutual respect for each other form the backbone of Venco's success.

A Family Legacy

Jay joined Venco in 2002 after gaining valuable experience working in plumbing supply houses. This strategic move, orchestrated by his father, allowed him to bring crucial distributor-side knowledge to the family business. So, when Jay took over the reins from his father in 2017, he was well-prepared, but a bit nervous about his new role as top executive.

"My father's retirement was a significant transition for me," Jay reflects. "I showed up one day and he wasn't there. I was like, 'Okay, this is all me now.' It was daunting knowing that I had to support 23 other families, and my decisions would ultimately impact so many lives."

But Jay rose to the challenge. The succession of leadership from father to son was incredibly smooth, as Frank Brecher, who witnessed the transition notes, "The change was flawless. I'd be somewhere two, three years later and somebody would say, 'Oh, I haven't seen John in a while.' And I said, 'Oh, he retired. Jay took over.' Nothing changed."

Despite the weight of this role, Jay finds immense satisfaction in his work. "My favorite part is working with our team and seeing how everybody works together to accomplish one goal," he shares. "Putting that team together and working with everybody to achieve sales – that's really what I enjoy most."

As president, Jay's role involves more than just managing the day-to-day operations. He frequently travels around the country, visiting manufacturers and their facilities. "One of the things I get to experience is meeting our manufacturers and seeing the facilities where everything gets put together," Jay explains. "Learning the behind-the-scenes of what we're selling and where it's coming from, and tying all that together is a great experience."

A Veterans Perspective

Frank Brecher, a fixture at Venco since 1999, brings over four decades of industry experience to his role as sales manager. He began his career in 1983 and has seen the industry evolve firsthand. His journey to Venco was marked by stints at other manufacturers, but it was the promise of building an unbeatable team that drew him to join forces with Jay's father.

"When we got together, we said if we can put this team together, it'll be a team that nobody else can compete with," Frank recalls. "And the story has been told over the last 20-plus years."

For Frank, the best part of working at Venco is the family-like atmosphere fostered by the Veninis. "Yes, we work, but this is a family," he emphasizes. "What we built is a very unique sales rep agency. In most other agencies, it's all about the individual. With Venco, it's all about the team."

A Collaborative Approach

The synergy between Jay and Frank is palpable and is the recipe for the company's success. Despite their age difference, the two work in harmony, constantly exchanging ideas and collaborating to find the best solutions.

"We click very easily and work together seamlessly," Jay explains. "We always throw ideas past each other, back and forth. Between the two of us, we always come up with the right solution."

Frank echoes this sentiment, noting how his approach has evolved over the years. "One of my strengths now is that I'm not a solo pilot," he reflects. "Jay and I discuss everything. When you do things by yourself, it's not always the right answer."

"It's kind of like a brother relationship," Frank says of their 20-year working relationship. "I don't remember the last time we've been on a different page with things."

Master Plumbers Council: A Cornerstone of Success

Central to Venco's industry involvement is its long-standing relationship with the MPC. Frank, in particular, has been a driving force behind the company's engagement with the organization.

"Many years ago, I learned from some older salesmen in the industry that the key to success is being involved," Frank explains.

This involvement has paid dividends for Venco. By supporting organizations like the MPC, they've built strong relationships with contractors who feel comfortable using Venco's products. "They know how to reach out because they know me and my team," Frank says. "It allows both the contractors and the reps to be part of it and know what's going on from the ground up."

Jay adds that their involvement with the MPC goes beyond just business. "Between the holiday parties and the golf outings, it's a good group of guys who care about the business and the industry," he says. "It's not just about the bottom line of what's good for their pocket, but what's good for everybody."

Navigating Industry Changes

As veterans in the field, both Jay and Frank have witnessed significant shifts in the industry landscape. One of the biggest challenges they face is the transition from family-owned businesses to corporate entities.

"This used to be a mom-and-pop industry, with family-owned supply houses and family generation contractors," Frank observes. "Now we're seeing major corporations and finance companies owning and running both supply houses and contractors. It's a big change because you're dealing on a corporate level instead of a personal level."

Despite these changes, both men remain optimistic about the industry's future. When asked what advice they would give to someone looking to enter the field, Frank doesn't hesitate: "Get in because there are not many young people in this industry, and the opportunities for a successful career are huge."

Looking Ahead

As Venco Sales continues to thrive under Jay's leadership and with Frank's experienced guidance, their commitment to teamwork, family values, and industry involvement remains unwavering. Their collaborative approach serves as a model for success in an evolving industry, demonstrating the power of teamwork, mentorship, and community engagement.

To learn more about Venco Sales, visit www.vencosales.com. Or, simply introduce yourself to them at the next meeting or event. They're always happy to meet new people and expand their industry network.

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Thank you to everyone who attended our 7th Annual Golf Outing; the event was a wonderful success! The MPC made donations to both Make-A-Wish Foundation and Tunnel to Towers, which could not have been done without the generous support from this years' sponsors.

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VINTAGE CORNER

Have vintage photos or artifacts to share? Send them in to us at voice@nycmpc.org to be featured in an upcoming issue!



These three images are of a Vintage Gas Fired Tankless Water Heater discovered by Vigilante Plumbing, Heating & Air Conditioning.

Submitted by Anthony Vigilante, Vigilante Plumbing Heating & Air Conditioning.



16th Annual Putting of the Queensboro Branch Master Plumbers Association. Venetian Shores, Lindenhurst, L.I. Sept 6, 1930. MPC Member Henri Billharz's grandfather is in the back row. He was 24 years old and one of the youngest licensed plumbers at the time.

Submitted by Henri Billharz, Billharz Plumbing Inc.



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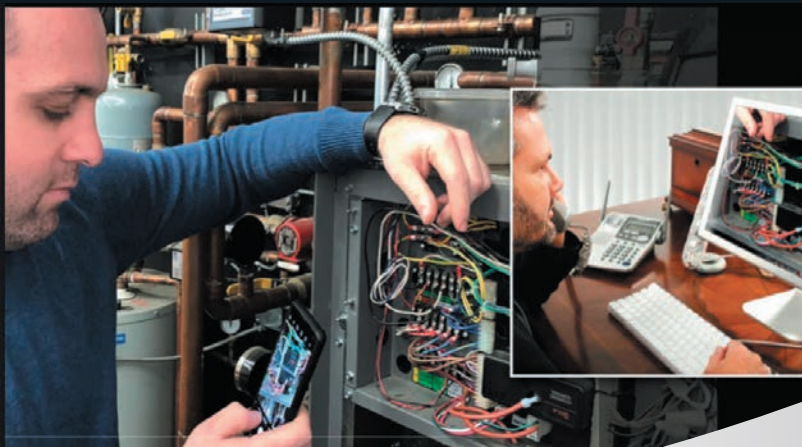
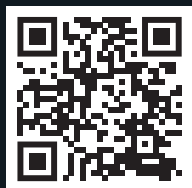


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NYC FSAE ELEVATOR THRESHOLD DRAIN



In September 2023 the NYC DOB Issued Building Bulletin 2023-010.

The summary is as follows:

I. BACKGROUND (from NYC DOB Bulletin 2023-010)

"The 2014 and 2022 NYC Building Code requires new buildings with an occupied floor more than 120 feet (36,576 mm) above the lowest level of fire department vehicle access be provided with a minimum of one Fire Service Access Elevator (FSAE). The FSAE ensures safe operation by trained firefighters during a fire emergency in certain high-rise buildings. This Bulletin clarifies two FSAE requirements: 1) service to all floors and areas required to be served by an elevator in the building and 2) the approved method of water protection of FSAE's hoistway."

The FSAE or Fire Service Access Elevator Drain was initially developed by Zurn in conjunction with the San Francisco Fire Department to protect firefighters and building occupants in the fire service elevator from water inundation in the event of a sprinkler event during a fire. (Fire Service Access Elevators, Occupant Evacuation Elevators, Water Protection, FSAE, Trench Drain)

Where/When did it start?

- 2009 IBC – requirement for preventing water infiltration first appeared.
 - "3007.3 Water protection. Water from the operation of an automatic sprinkler system outside the enclosed lobby shall be prevented from infiltrating into the hoistway enclosure in accordance with an approved method."
 - IBC Commentary clarifies that this protection could occur at the hoistway or at the elevator lobby doors, and states, "Solutions include concepts such as a door sweep, trench drains, sloped floors, curbs and gasketed openings, which may be used individually or in combination. Other methods may also be available to meet this intent."
 - No flow requirement established.
 - Fire service access elevators required for buildings with an occupied floor more than 120 feet above the lowest level of fire department access.

Where did the Elevator Threshold Drain Design Come From for the US Market?

- 2014 / 2015 San Francisco Fire Code – 5.11 Fire Service Access Elevators (FSAE) and Occupant Evacuation Elevators (OEE).
- Chief Fire Marshal came to us for solution to new code requirement.
 - 100 GPM requirement derived from estimations of 3-5 sprinklers.
 - Minimized sump depth of 2" derived from post tension construction in California.
 - Minimum load rating of 3,500 lbs.
 - "Trench Drain" style chosen to either span elevator door opening or lobby entrance.

Zurn Elevator Drain Z899-100/THR*

Value Proposition

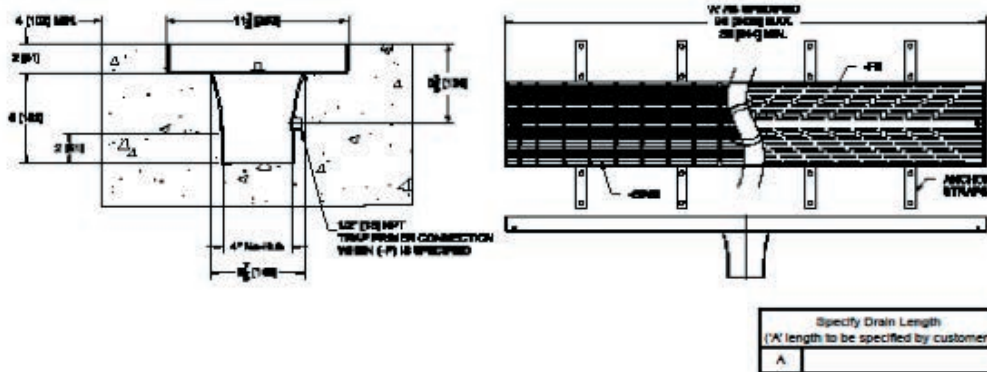
- Minimal Volume to Reduce Overall Footprint and Ease Construction.
- 2,500lb Load Rating Achieved Through Ribbing Structure.
- 100 GPM Flow Rate Optimized Through Unique Flow Path and Parabolic Outlet.
- * THR not rated at 100GPM.
- The Zurn Z899-100 Elevator Threshold Drain is under constant review aiming to deliver an aesthetically pleasing product to satisfy the building owner/developer, as well as the architect and design engineer while meeting the NYC Code requirements.

ZURN Z899-100 ELEVATOR TRENCH DRAIN SYSTEM WITH CENTER OUTLET

SPECIFICATION SHEET
TAG _____

Design and Dimensional Data (Inches and [mm]) are Subject to Manufacturing Tolerances and Change Without Notice

PAT. NO.
U.S. 9,777,489
Patents Pending



ENGINEERING SPECIFICATION: ZURN Z899-100

Zurn Z899-100 elevator drain, stainless steel channel made of #11 gauge fabricated stainless steel conforming to ASTM A-240 (type 304) with center outlet, anchor straps, and bead blasted finish. Elevator drain is engineered to enhance flow through the system through use of funnel style outlet and flow directing ribbing structure. Standard grate to be stainless steel wire grate (-SWG) conforming to ASTM A-240 (type 304), with vandal proof grate lock downs, meets ADA and heel-proof requirements, has an open area 63.74 in²/linear foot [1,771.94 cm²/linear meter], and is listed as Class A per DIN EN1433 load classification. In addition to being tested to 2500 lbs per ASME A112.6.3. Optional fabricated stainless steel grate (-FS) available, conforming to ASTM A-240 (type 304), with vandal proof grate lock downs, meets ADA and heel-proof requirements, has an open area 34.13 in²/linear foot [722.19 cm²/linear meter], and is listed as Class A per DIN EN1433 load classification. In addition to being tested to 2500 lbs per ASME A112.6.3. This system has been designed to comply with SFFC Code, Section 511.1 for a 100 GPM flow rate. (Replaces Z895-94 and Z899).

Note: Max 96 / Min 36 Length must be met to satisfy 100 GPM flow rate specification.

Prefix Options (Check/specify appropriate options)
___ Z Type 304 Stainless steel*

Grate Options

___ -FS Fabricated Stainless Steel Slotted Grate (open area = 34.13 in² / linear foot)
___ -SWG Stainless Wire Grate* (open area = 63.74 in² / linear foot)*

Suffix Options

___ -BPC Black Powder Coating
___ -P 1/2 (13) Trap Primer Connection
___ -LAS Less Anchor Straps

Product Length (mm)	Grate Open Area	
	FS	SWG
36 (914)	100.3 in ² (647.1 cm ²)	250.3 in ² (1614.8 cm ²)
48 (1219)	135.1 in ² (871.6 cm ²)	334.6 in ² (2158.7 cm ²)
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HLW VS H: THE BATTLE OF THE STAMPS

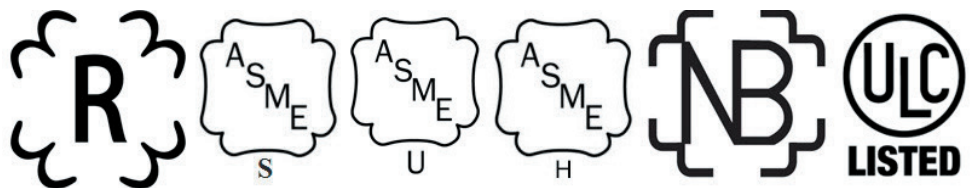
What is an ASME stamp? Why is this important? Why do I need to be concerned? These are the questions that I hope to answer and leave you more informed when selecting equipment specific to potable water heating. With the advent of Local Law 97 and the first threshold of compliance coming into effect this year, more and more buildings are looking to come into compliance by separating their domestic hot water production from their space heating appliance. This separation is being modeled by many engineers as beneficial to a building from the standpoint of carbon reduction which, in turn, generates work for the plumbing industry. LL 97 is the driving force for the separation of system production, but there is a very important factor that needs to be clarified at the point of ordering the appliance: Is it really a potable (key word being potable) hot water heater, or is it a boiler in disguise? The designation lies on the rating sticker attached to the appliance jacket. This rating will trigger how the appliance is filed, what permits will be issued, who will inspect and has the potential to create costly change orders that will put you in “hot water” with the client. So, let’s get into the weeds with what makes a potable hot water heater and what makes a boiler...it all lies with the stamp.

ASME stands for the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. They have a multi-sectional code called the Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code. This code is up to eleven parts and is accepted internationally as governing the rules of construction including but not limited to nuclear vessels, unfired pressure vessels, welding, nondestructive testing, high and low boilers, potable hot water heaters, materials for construction, and so on. In this article we are concerned with Section IV: Rules for Heating Boilers. It is in this section you will find the rules for construction for low pressure heating boilers, which are traditionally used for space heating (“traditionally” meaning can be used for other “indirect” purposes), and the construction of potable hot water heaters (domestic hot water heaters or, in layperson’s terms, the “hot water heater”). Now, what triggers how you, as the licensee, need to handle this filing and installation and by whom it will be inspected is in the ASME designation of what you are installing. Remember the stamp...

A boiler is designated by an “H” stamped on the rating sticker for the appliance whereas a potable hot water heater is designated by an “HLW” stamped on the rating sticker for the appliance. This tells the City and authorities what a boiler is, what a potable hot water heater is, and what requirements for installation are applicable. As a quick side note, the stamp is not stamped, rather it is printed on the sticker, but back in the day it was adhered to the vessel with a rating plate and rivets. They were literally plates, 5/16” thick, where you took a die hammer and whacked the top of a die stamp to engrave the mark of designation. Depicted in Picture 1 are images of different die stamps that were used for pressure vessels.



Picture 1: Examples of Die Stamp Plates



Picture 2: Examples of the current print versions of how various stamps will look on a rating sticker. The “H” below the ASME designates a boiler. When it is a potable water heater it will state “HLW”.

Alright, now that you all are designated inspectors and can identify the proper stamping, you should know why it is so important. Well, the obvious reason is that it tells you what a boiler is and what is a potable hot water heater. The next is how the vessel is manufactured. Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code, Section IV has a section dedicated to the design of boilers and a separate section for the design of potable hot water heaters. Additionally, the section concerning the design of boilers specifically states that the boiler design section does not apply except as mentioned in the section for the design of potable hot water heaters. What does all this mean? Simply put, they are just

designed differently, and a boiler needs to be a boiler, while a potable / domestic water heater needs to be a potable / domestic water heater. This leads to the City - and you - adhering to having different sections of Building Code requirements when filing and installing.

Now, to top it off, manufacturers have found creative ways to make a boiler a “pretend” potable hot water heater; however, the reverse is not allowed (see NYC Plumbing Code Section 501.2). Here is the catch: Remember I said the word “traditionally”? Well, here is the reason why: A boiler is a water heater! Wait! What?! Huh? This is the play on words that will confuse even the best until you read the fine print of the sales brochure. It is described as a water heater, yet it’s really stamped as a boiler. Now I must change my filing and have an inspection that will encompass the entire plant and fuel storage area...

Well, what about all those holes in the ceiling? I am pretty sure there is a body buried in the back of the fuel storage area...How am I going to reach that ceiling?

This can be a recipe for disaster, and the reason I bored you to tears explaining ASME design is because a boiler, if treated internally, are advertised as “water heaters” for domestic use. See the difference? It’s not a potable hot water heater, or service water heater, or even a domestic hot water heater, as all of those imply an “HLW” designation, but a water heater for domestic use...

In other words, a boiler with an “H” designation!

So why should you be concerned with an ASME designation? Well, for starters:

1. Applicability by design. A boiler is a boiler, and a potable water heater is for direct domestic use. Remember a boiler is indirect. Once it has that stamp, it will always be a boiler. The city differentiates this, so you should, too!
2. A boiler filing typically encompasses more compliancy responsibilities than a potable hot water heater, which typically implies higher costs to be disclosed at the time of proposal to the customer.
3. On the professional design level of filing, meaning an alteration application, this will require a subsequent filing if you do not have a BE permit issued and just a PL to cover the “hot water heater.” You cannot even file an amendment to the existing application to file the boiler as a hot water heater used for domestic use...Now you have to pay for the “new” drawing, an additional filing fee, another Tenant Protection Plan fee, and more site inspections. Good luck with trying to get a client to approve that change order!

In summary, with the approaching 2024 thresh hold of LL 97, you will be requested to provide more and more proposals for separate potable water heaters. It will generate good revenue for your company, which is always a plus if you, but always remember:

1. The stamp: “HLW” is for direct while an “H” is indirect for domestic water use. An “HLW” is more suited.
2. If you must use a boiler then prepare your client for the additional costs that will be associated with work for compliance. Don’t get caught having the uncomfortable change order conversation after the fact.
3. Be aware of the play on words with “water heaters” that are really boilers: You are looking for “HLW” and not the “H” in most cases.

Article written by Christian Meszaros, PE, CEM, CBP
Principal of Meszaros Engineering, PLLC

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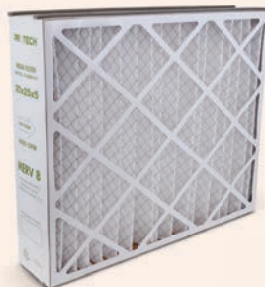
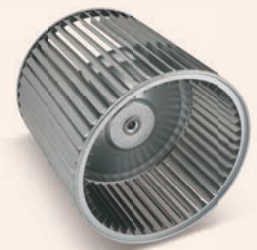
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