



COVID-19 UPDATES – May 8, 2020

Construction Practices to Change as a Response to COVID-19

Message from the Executive Board:

Check out this article that was recently published in **the Commercial Observer** – “[CO Panel: Temp Checks and Masks Will Be New Norm for Construction Sites](#)”. While none of these proposed changes are official yet, they soon could be. In addition, specific sites and buildings that we work in everyday may incorporate some or all of these changes as requirements to work in that building. What should you do? To be prosperous in business you need to have a plan and a backup plan in case things go south. During this pandemic, and for the foreseeable future, the plans are more about survival and trying to get by until we can come out on the other side of this.

As you read this article consider how these proposed changes could affect your business. What will it cost you to provide your workers with the proper safety equipment? What will these proposed changes do to your productivity on a job? What about manpower requirements? Imagine if you send a worker to a site and they have a fever and are denied entry. What does that do to your schedule? What if you lose a whole crew and are off the job for two weeks to self-isolate? Should you reorganize your crews into smaller “teams” and keep interactions between the teams to a minimum to avoid a catastrophic loss of all workers?

So, if this article gets you thinking too much, and you need to reach out, we are here to help you. Hopefully, we will have an answer to your question, can provide you with advice and, at the least, we can provide a shoulder to rest your head on. Our organization is unique in that we are led by people that are active in the same industry as all of the members. The government always says that everyone is in the same boat. That is not a true statement. In this pandemic, there are people in a boat on a calm lake, people in a raging river and others in a whirlpool being sucked down into an abyss.

There are industries that are more and less fortunate than we have been. The licensed plumbing industry is really in the same boat and by working together we can make it through this. We would love to hear from you to see how you are doing and if you have any ideas to share with membership. Please email us at office@nycmpc.org

CO PANEL: TEMP CHECKS AND MASKS WILL BE NEW NORM FOR CONSTRUCTION SITES

Article from the Commercial Observer

New construction safety guidelines will not just focus on wearing hard hats or mitigating falls but checking workers temperatures before they enter job sites, staggering start hours and making sure masks are worn at all times due to the coronavirus pandemic, panelists said.

Experts who spoke on the Commercial Observer’s Second Annual Construction Safety Forum said that measures taken to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 on the few job sites allowed to remain open now will likely impact future construction safety guidelines. [Click here to continue reading.](#)



Message from the DEP Committee:

In late March we had a conference call with the DEP regarding water meter permits, break seals and other important issues. As we notified membership, the Bureau of Customer Services had effectively shut down their operations. This is in contrast to the Cross Connection Control and Bureau of Water and Sewer Service, which have made changes and continue to operate. After repeated efforts, we were finally able to get a response from the DEP. The responses (in **red** below) are completely unsatisfactory. Our Lobbyist will be working on this today. We will keep membership apprised of any changes.

DEP LOCAL PERMIT OFFICES

Please find below a few questions that our committee has regarding Permits.:

1. What will happen to permit applications that were in process when the order to shut down was given?

*Response from the DEP: Any applications that were in process would be completed and the permits returned to the plumbers. **Some members have reported that their paperwork was returned to them without any permits. – please provide detailed information on the plumbers, job site addresses, etc.***

Follow-up questions:

- a) Should plumber not submit any new or revised applications until further notice? **DEP is only issuing emergency permits at this time**
- b) Does the same apply for any new or revised break seal permits? **YES**
- c) In an effort to keep the economy moving, can a plumber do work now and follow-up with a meter application when they are being accepted again? **NO**
- d) Can a plumber do break seal work now and follow-up with an application when they are accepted again? **NO**

2. For permits that were issued, should the plumbers return the paperwork to the Borough Offices?

*Response from the DEP: There are no employees in the office at this time so no paperwork will be processed. **You can still send the paperwork to each of the Borough Offices, but no action will be taken until we resume operations***

Follow-up question:

- a) To avoid having paperwork lost or misplaced, should plumbers hold all paperwork until we receive further direction? **That is your decision to make**
- b) Are you planning to modernize the process to include all permits to be applied for online? **A decision on this action has not been made as yet**

3. Will any consideration be given to violations that cannot be cued because the permits are not available?

*Response from the DEP: Consideration will be given to extend the time to respond to the NOV's. **YES***

Follow-up question:

- a) Will we be provided with a written response stating that plumbers have an additional 45 days to comply starting after your office is open and the plumbers have been notified that you are accepting paperwork? **We will be looking at each issue individually**

Regards,
The Master Plumbers Council



Upcoming Change: Requirement: License Renewal Applications to be submitted online as of Friday, May 8, 2020

Applications to **renew** a license/registration issued by the Department of Buildings are required to be submitted online at www.nyc.gov/dobnow. Renewal applications will not be accepted in-person or by mail as of Friday, May 8, 2020.

License/Registration Renewal Applications

Concrete Safety Manager	Master Fire Suppression Piping Contractor
Construction Superintendent**	Master Plumber
Contractor**	Master/Special Rigger
Electrician	Oil Burner Equipment Installer
Elevator Agency Directors/Inspectors	Sign Hanger
Filing Representative	Site Safety Coordinator/Manager
High Pressure Boiler Operating Engineer	Tower Crane Rigger
Hoisting Machine Operator	

***Does not include non-registered General Contractors with a tracking number. To update the insurance, email scanned insurance certificates to GCInsurance@buildings.nyc.gov.*

As of Friday, May 8, 2020, renewal applications for the above licenses/registrations can no longer be sent or delivered in person to the Licensing Unit. To submit a license renewal application, use an eFiling account to log into DOB NOW at www.nyc.gov/dobnow and select the BIS Options portal. If you need to create an eFiling account, visit www.nyc.gov/dobnowtips. An active [eFiling account](#) specific to your license number is required.

From the DOB NOW BIS portal, select **+License Renewal Application**. Then select your license type and enter your license number. Enter the required fields, select **Save** and then in the Documents section, upload the completed applicable forms and any other required documents. After completing the Statements & Signature section and selecting the **Pay Now** button to process the payment, select the **Submit** button. The request will not be reviewed by the Licensing Unit until the Submit button is selected and confirmation is given for it to be submitted.

An email notification will be sent to the applicant with the status of the review. If the request is rejected or an eCheck payment is returned, a new request needs to be submitted.

For forms and additional information visit www.nyc.gov/doblicensing and from the License Types page, select your license type to review the requirements for a renewal application. For further assistance, contact doblicensing@buildings.nyc.gov.

Continue to submit applications to renew a welder license in [DOB NOW: Licensing](#).

eFiling Account

An active [eFiling account](#) specific to your license number is required to log into DOB NOW. New accounts require submission of a completed Authentication Form that needs to be mailed or hand-delivered with a copy of the applicant's driver's license or DOB ID to:

NYC Department of Buildings
eFiling Authentication



280 Broadway, 1st Floor
New York, NY 10007

Your license information will be verified, and your eFiling account will be changed from pending to active status. Once the eFiling account is active, the applicant will then be able to log into DOB NOW to complete a license renewal application.

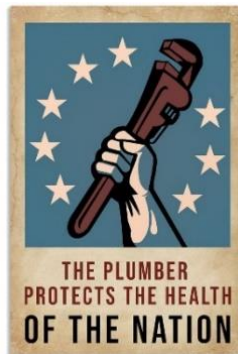
License Renewal Extension

Licenses/registrations expiring from the beginning of the declaration of the state of emergency through the period of the emergency declaration are extended in accordance with [Mayor's Emergency Executive Order](#). Affected licenses/registrations will be automatically extended by subsequent orders until the state of emergency in the City of New York is no longer in effect.

Any licensee/registrant who is eligible and can satisfy the requirements for renewal of their license/registration may submit their application for renewal at any time during this period. *Following the extension period, licensees/registrants will be subject to all requirements for the renewal of their respective license/registration.*

Licenses/registrants must ensure that all required insurances are active during this extension period. Current insurance information can be found in the [Buildings Information System \(BIS\)](#). See [Licensing Insurance Guidelines](#) for information about submitting certificates to the Department.

For additional service updates see the [DOB COVID-19 Response](#) page.



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