



WEEKLY UPDATE

AUGUST 24 - 28, 2020

Message from the Executive Board:

On Saturday morning, a member's plumbing license expired. He was the fourth member whose license expired this month. To date, only two of the four have had their license renewed and that was made possible only as a result of our Lobbyist's daily efforts.

What does the DOB have to say about this? Here are some of the responses we have seen.

"We will review your request in a timely manner, may I please remind you that you are required to submit your license renewal 30 to 60 days PRIOR to your expiration date, we are currently working within a 15 to 20 business days turnaround for review, your application currently sits at 12 business days, we will continue to do the best we can to review all renewal application requests in a timely manner."

"Please be advised that we are processing applications in the order that they are submitted both of these were submitted less than 30 days ago, they will be processed accordingly."

"Your current application status is Pending QA Assignment. Once the clerk has been assigned then the clerk will start the process to review it, and then they will contact you regards the next step(s) in the process. As we're still operating under COVID conditions, application processions across the licensing/buildings department are taking longer than normal as we're only at a fraction of our staffing capacity. We ask that you bear with us as we work diligently to process all submitted applications as soon as possible. Thank you for your continued patience, take care."

One of the primary functions of the MPC is to address issues such as this. We spent the last two weeks attempting to communicate with the DOB as to just how important it was for a license not to expire. We asked that priority be given to any license that is about to expire. Despite our best efforts, in the past two weeks the MPC has failed our members and not accomplished one of our core missions. Every member should pay attention to this. This could have happened to anyone of us. We are committed to doubling our efforts and continuing to work for our membership to resolve this issue. We will alert members to any changes in this situation.

MPC Licensing Committee Comments:

DOB License Application:

Note: To avoid a late fee, renewal applications **must** be submitted 30-60 days before the expiration date that is indicated on your license card.

There is **NO** statutory requirement to submit an application 30 - 60 days ahead of expiration. The mandatory submission requirement is done to avoid late fees. There is **NO** mention that failure to comply will result in license expiration. It is incumbent upon the DOB to maintain the ability to review original, and corrected, applications and issue renewals within 30 days. On May 8, 2020, the DOB required all renewal applications to be submitted online. Prior to this change, a licensee could go to



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the Division in person and, in most cases, obtain a renewal within 1 - 2 business days. How is it possible that it now takes 15 - 20 business days just to conduct a review? We have also requested that when a review is undertaken that it is done thoroughly. One member made corrections and when the application was reviewed again, new objections were raised.

While we have not been able to prevent some members from expiring, the work of the Committee and our Lobbyist minimized the duration of the expiration. We believe that through our daily dialogue, the DOB has started to understand the complexity of the situation.

YOU MUST PAY ATTENTION

It is your responsibility to make sure that when you are undertaking the renewal process, you complete all forms accurately and that you submit all required documents. Failure to do may result in your license expiring. If that happens, you cannot do any plumbing work and you will have to spend time and money to renew your permits.

LL152 UPDATES

Not a day goes by that we do not receive an email from members asking about conducting Local Law 152 inspections. Many of you have started to conduct these inspections. Here's what the MPC has done so far:

- Submitted an "inspection list" (what to look for and how to react) to the DOB for review.

Status: The list was returned without any comments on the list itself. This list will be provided to membership by September 1, 2020.

- Submitted a list of questions about the inspections for the DOB to review.

Status: The DOB responded to our initial questions. We have prepared a follow-up and it is being sent back in today. As soon as we receive a response with revised answers, we will provide it to membership.

SURVEY: The MPC is considering creating a LL152 inspection training course. This course would be provided at a cost to membership. The course would review all of the inspector requirements for conducting the inspections, identification and reporting of AOCs and completing the paperwork. Please fill out the survey below to express your interest in this course.

[Click here](#) to complete the survey.



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Message from the DOB Committee:

Members have been contacting us about unqualified persons advertising to conduct these inspections, as well as plumbers who have been advertising extremely low priced inspections. Please send any literature you come across that meets this criteria to office@nycmpc.org

NEXT WEEK: Some do's and Don'ts for anyone who has decided to do these inspections ahead of getting all of this valuable information.

WARNING: Any DOT 86/87 **active** qualified operator is **required** to conduct these inspections according to the NYS inspection protocols. In order to conduct these inspections the inspector **must** be either a DOT 86/87 **active** qualified operator to conduct these inspections or a NYC licensed Master Plumber.

More about this next week at the general membership meeting.

INSPECTION WAIT TIMES – PLAN AHEAD

Members have alerted us that they are experiencing long wait times for plumbing inspections. [Click here](#) for the DOB NOW Inspection page and click **Inspection Service Levels** for the current service levels. If you are finding that you are outside of these wait times, please let us know by emailing dob@nycmpc.org.

Coming soon: Survey on the DOB Development Inspections

NYSIF OFFERS PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT CREDIT

Please read this if you have your insurance with New York State Insurance Fund:

Their Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Premium Credit Program rewards you with a credit of up to 5% of your annual premium (capped at \$500) for the purchase of PPE and other eligible items. It's an easy way to save money while protecting your employees and taking steps toward a safe reopening. To find out more [click here](#)



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How to Apply for a DEP Water Meter Permit or Break Seal Permit via Email **(Updated 08-25-20)**

Message from the DEP Committee:

PLEASE PAY ATTENTION

We received two emails from the DEP this week. They are receiving between 250 - 350 emails per week. That's emails **NOT** permit applications. People are not following the rules and are sending repeated emails to follow-up, which is slowing the process to the point it can take up to 10 business days to obtain a water meter permit or break seal. The other issue is that applicants are not paying for their permits at the time of application. It takes 2 - 3 business days for the payment to clear.

When this process started, permits were issued within 2 - 3 business days. If applicants followed the protocols, we are certain that they would be issued in under a week.

Please see the process.

[Click here to view the DEP Email Permit Application Procedure.](#)

If you have an issue with the process, please contact us at dep@nycmpc.org

1. Submit your application.
2. Pay the required fees (it takes 2-3 days to process)
3. Allow for 10 business days to process the application.
4. Only contact the DEP on day 11 after the submission of your application.
5. Only use the queenspermits@dep.nyc.gov email account, unless you are contacted from a staff person with a specific issue.

Email submission is a great privilege. Please be considerate and follow the required protocols. Your cooperation will help alleviate some of the backlog and get the systems moving along more quickly.



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Also, starting August 24, 2020, returned meter permits will be accepted by mail at each Borough Office locations. Completed meter permits, along with their respective meter tags can be mailed to a **location listed below**. After the permit is accepted, a receipt will be mailed to the plumber's office on file. If you would also like to receive an electronic version of the receipt, which will be faster than mail, please include an email address with your submission.

Locations:

- | | | |
|--------------|--|--------------------|
| • Bronx: | 1932 Arthur Ave., 6 th floor | Bronx, NY 10457 |
| • Brooklyn: | 250 Livingston St., 8 th floor | Brooklyn, NY 11201 |
| • Manhattan: | 1250 Broadway, 16 th floor | New York, NY 10001 |
| • Queens: | 96-05 Horace Harding Exp., 1 st floor | Corona, NY 11368 |
| • S.I.: | 60 Bay St., 6 th floor | S.I., NY 10301 |

Other DEP Bureau of Customer Services Updates:

Please be advised that starting August 24, 2020:

- all customer service borough offices are open by appointment only basis. Customers must have an appointment to enter our customer service offices and they must also wear a mask or face covering, as required by New York State.
- all indoor meter inspections have also resumed with protocols implemented to keep both our customers and staff safe during this public health emergency.
- For more information please visit our website at <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/dep/news/210820/customer-service-information-operational-changes-covid-19>



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SEPTEMBER MEMBERSHIP MEETING – 09/01/20

Registration is currently closed, as we have reached capacity. Use the link below to join the waitlist.

Message from the Executive Board:

Why should you consider coming to this meeting? For the past two months, members have taken both sides of the position about in person meetings. Some people are upset and feel that if they don't attend, they will miss something. We want to reassure members that whether or not you attend any meeting you will always have access to all information published by the MPC. That being said, there is a huge benefit to attending meetings. That benefit is the in person interactions that you can have with other members, our affiliates and maybe, most importantly, our Committee Members who help to resolve your issues. (Of course, at this time, in person interactions are a bit different and will have to follow all COVID-19 regulations.) For whatever reason, some people are more comfortable to discuss an issue in person. The stories of members that have benefited from attending these meetings is long. Come to the meeting and we will be happy to share a few of them with you.

MPC's September general membership meeting will be held entirely outdoors, adhering to all NYC COVID mandates. This meeting requires pre-registration (no walk-ins).

We have a strict maximum of 50 attendees. Because of this limited capacity, only one person per member company will be allowed to attend. Please register promptly.

See the guidelines below that we are following:

- If you have not pre-registered, you will be turned away.
- Doors will be locked promptly at 6:15pm, so please arrive on time.
- This meeting is limited to members in good standing only and only one person per member company may attend.
- No nonmember or guest is permitted to attend. (No exceptions.)
- All COVID-related social distancing protocols will be enforced by the vendor. Members must adhere to these guidelines.

We have set up the venue to accommodate all comfort levels. Those who do not wish to eat, or to remove their masks at any time, may sit at a separate table in the back of the restaurant. Seats in this section will be socially distanced and no waiter will approach the table.

Registration will take place from 5:00pm - 6:15pm. Dinner will be served at this time. Registration will end at 6:15pm and there will be no admittance after that time.

A buffet dinner will be offered to those who wish to eat. All food will be served by a masked restaurant employee. Members must wear masks whenever they are not seated, including when at the buffet or restrooms.



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EVENT DETAILS:

Date: Tuesday, September 1, 2020

Time: Registration & Dinner: 5:00 - 6:15 PM | Meeting: 6:30 - 7:30 PM

Location: Russo's on the Bay (162-45 Cross Bay Blvd, Howard Beach, NY)

Who Can Attend: Only MPC members in good standing may attend. One person per member company is permitted to attend the meeting. Registration on the website is only open to Regular, Affiliate and Professional members, therefore those are the only people who can register themselves or someone else from their company.

[CLICK HERE TO JOIN THE WAITLIST.](#)

There may be some openings, so be sure to sign up for the waitlist.

**On the website, this meeting will only be visible to members, you must be signed in to see it.*

***Registration is only available to Regular, Affiliate and Professionals Members. Co and Associate Member will not have access to registration. It is the responsibility of the Regular, Affiliate and Professional Member to sign up the designated representative from their company.*

Updates from August 17th Update

DEP CROSS CONNECTION CONTROL UNIT ONLY ACCEPTING HARD COPIES OF ANNUAL TEST REPORTS

Message from the DEP Committee: The following email was sent to several members today.

From: Connections & Permitting [<mailto:Connections@dep.nyc.gov>]

Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 12:10 PM

To: LMP

Subject: RE: GEN215B

Please be advised that beginning 8/17/2020 the Cross Connection Control Unit will be accepting only hard copies of Annual Test Reports.

These reports will be mailed the office at NYC DEP, 59-17 Junction Blvd, 3rd Floor, Low Rise, Flushing, NY 11373 attn: Cross Connection Control Unit. The mailing information is also at the bottom of the GEN215b form.

Thank you for your continued cooperation.

The MPC sent an email last week to the DEP. We have received a reply and are in the process of responding to it. Please see the next update for more information.



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NYC DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS PERMIT AND LICENSE RENEWAL EXTENSION

Effective August 7th, 2020, all Licenses/Registrations and Permits issued by DOB are no longer subject to automatic extensions resulting from the COVID-19 emergency.

All Licenses/Registrations and Permits issued by the Department of Buildings with an **original expiration date on or after August 7, 2020** will expire on that original expiration date per [Mayoral Emergency Executive Order No. 134](#).

Licenses/Registrations and Permits that were subject to [Mayoral Emergency Executive Order No. 107](#), subsequent orders, and [Local Law 57 of 2020](#), which were automatically extended through August 6, 2020, will expire according to the below schedule.

Original (Pre-COVID) Expiration Dates	Final Extension Date
March 12, 2020 – March 31, 2020	September 30, 2020
April 1, 2020 – April 30, 2020	October 31, 2020
May 1, 2020 – May 31, 2020	November 30, 2020
June 1, 2020 – June 30, 2020	December 31, 2020
July 1, 2020 – August 6, 2020	January 31, 2021

NOTE: There is nothing to stop you from submitting the applicant ahead of the “recommended 60 day period. Please note the LIC62 physical exam must be within 90 days of submission.

licensingdob@buildings.nyc.gov



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Last Call

HAVE A QUESTION FOR THE DOB?

It has been a slow summer in regard to DOB updates. A Sub Ops Meeting is scheduled for September 01, 2020 and we would like to provide you with an opportunity to ask a question. Please email us at dob@nycmpc.org. Please submit your question(s) by Friday, August 21st.

We depend on membership to bring us issues so that we can address them with the DOB. In some cases, we will review the issue and advise the member on how to contact the DOB. In other cases, with the member's permission, we will help them address an issue directly with the DOB. In either case it is beneficial to have our Committee Members review the information before it is sent to the DOB.

A member recently sent an email directly to the DOB. In reviewing the information provided by the member, the Committee agreed that they had a valid point. Unfortunately for the member, the DOB disagreed and, as the email moved through the chain of command, it landed at Plumbing Enforcement. Plumbing Enforcement disagreed with the member's position and may be paying a visit to the jobsite. The moral of this story is that it is better to address issues with the MPC first, so our Committee Members can work to help get your issue/question addressed.

On that note, we have seen many members address ECB violations without legal representation. Any violation (even if it's not your fault) associated with your license is best addressed by professional legal counsel.

UTILITY UPDATES

At the August Board of Directors Meeting, there was some discussion about the performance of National Grid in regard to providing timely service for gas restoration and new projects. If you are having any issues with National Grid, please contact us at utility@nycmpc.org. We cannot help to address a problem, unless we know it exists.



STAY SAFE