

## Benefits of the New Sprinkler Fitters Certification & Testing Requirements



Fire sprinkler systems prevent the loss of life and property. The important life-saving and property-saving values of these systems is lost when they are not installed by qualified sprinkler fitter journeymen and apprentices. To ensure skilled sprinkler fitters install and service sprinkler systems,

- ✓ **Establish Solid Education and Experience Requirements For Individuals Who Work in the Sprinkler Fitting Industry.**
  - Persons working sprinkler systems or other fire suppression systems will be required to complete an apprenticeship in a sprinkler fitting program registered with the State Apprenticeship and Training Council.
  - Individuals will have to performed at least 10,000 hours of documented practical experience in the installation of maintenance of sprinkler systems under the supervision of a certified sprinkler fitter *and* have 800 hours of classroom and/or shop instruction in the sprinkler fitter trade.
- ✓ **Require a Written Examination Requirement to Ensure the Individuals' Knowledge of the Sprinkler Fitting Trade.**
  - The Department of Licenses and Inspections shall develop a sprinkler fitting examination for individuals who have satisfied the education and experience requirements.
  - This examination will test the individual's knowledge, experience and skill in the sprinkler fitting trade. Upon the successful completion of the test, the individual earns a certificate to work in the sprinkler fitting trade.
- ✓ **Permit Reciprocity for Individuals Certified by Other State and Local Jurisdictions.**
  - Individuals who have been authorized by other State and local jurisdictions to perform sprinkler fitting work can receive a certificate to work in the sprinkler fitting trade in Philadelphia upon presenting competent evidence that the individual is a practicing sprinkler fitter or apprentice and that the individual has been authorized by another jurisdiction.

## Effective Enforcement Measures

- ✓ **Prohibits Unqualified Individuals From Working on Fire Suppression Systems**
  - Unqualified individuals, i.e., those who have not satisfied the requirements of the bill, or those who have not satisfied the reciprocity requirements, are prohibited from installing or servicing sprinkler systems.
  
- ✓ **Provides Stiff Penalties For Violations of the ordinance:**
  - A \$50 to \$300 fine for each violation of the law.
  - A violation of the law is defined as each day a person performs sprinkler fitter work in violation of the law or each day that a person or entity employs a person to perform sprinkler work in violation of the ordinance.
  - The Department of Licensing and Inspections will have the power to deny individuals found to have violated the chapter the right to apply for a sprinkler fitter certificate or apprentice permit for one year.
  - The Department of Licensing and Inspection will have the power to suspend or revoke a sprinkler fitter certificate or an apprentice permit upon a finding of technical incompetence.
  - The Department of Licensing and Inspections shall have the power to revoke the Fire Suppression Systems Contractor license of any person, corporation or other business entity which knowingly or recklessly employs a person to perform sprinkler fitting work without the required certificate or permit.

## The Need to Maintain High Qualification Standards

The following excerpts are reprinted from The Contractors Critic  
Issue No. 4 (Sept. 2000).

### STEINGASS MECHANICAL

*Steingass Failed to Connect Fire Sprinklers to a Water Supply at a Solon, Ohio School. A fire later raged unabated through the school.*

Steinglass' use of unlicensed and uncertified fire system installers is especially troubling given Steingass' record. On April 14, 1998, the Parkside Elementary School in Solon, Ohio, caught fire, but the fire prevention sprinkler system never came on, according to published accounts. The reason was that Steingass failed to connect the sprinkler system to a water supply. The fire caused over \$45,000 in damages.

The Solon Board of Education produced several memos on the disaster, which were critical of Steingass. "The contractor does bear responsibility for the shortcomings [of the] fire suppression system .... This would not be the first time a contractor either cut corners or did not perform as expected .... Had we not been lucky with the result, this fire may have been more extensive, causing a serious disruption

of the educational system, thus affecting the our citizens in a way that could have been prevented. The sprinkler company, the contractor and the school's project manager should have also been held accountable. The facts remain the facts. This was a major screw up. We (the city) put our most vulnerable residents (kindergarten students) in jeopardy. This fire could have happened on a school day with children in attendance."

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## STEINGASS MECHANICAL

### Steinglass Used Uncertified Personnel

Properly installed fire prevention systems have saved many lives and have averted billions of dollars in property damages. But a fire sprinklers system is only as good as the persons who install it. Now copies of payroll certification reports, released under the Ohio Public Records Act, reveal that Steinglass Mechanical has used uncertified personnel to install fire protection systems.

In November 1999 Steinglass submitted a "Payroll Certification Report" for their work on the Avon Lake Safety Center, in Lorain County, Ohio. This Report listed Douglas R. Canada as a "Sprinkler Fitter-I." Stanley Kulon was listed in the payroll records as an "Apprentice." But the Ohio State fire Marshal Bureau of Licensing and Certification had no records showing that Canada was licensed or certified as sprinkler fitter or that Kulon had a provisional license or certification.

(Reprinted from The Contractors Critic, Steinglass Mechanical, Issue No. 4, (Sept. 2000).)

### The Sprinkler Fitters Ordinance addresses these problems by:

- ✓ *Establishing Educational and Experience Requirements, including the completion of an apprenticeship program, for all individuals who intend to install or maintain sprinkler systems in the City of Philadelphia.*
- ✓ *Requiring individuals to pass a written examination before obtaining a license as a sprinkler fitter.*
- ✓ *Providing stiff penalties for persons (individuals and contractors) who perform sprinkler fitting work without the required apprentice permits or journeymen licenses, including a \$50-\$300 fine for each violation of the ordinance, which is each day the person works without the required permit or license.*
- ✓ *Granting the Department of Licenses and Inspections the power to revoke, for one year, the Fire Suppression Systems Contractor License for any person, corporation or other business entity that knowingly or recklessly employs a person to perform sprinkler fitting work without the required permit or license.*

## Sprinkler Fitter Laws In Other Jurisdictions

The new Sprinkler Fitter Certification and Testing Requirements represent the latest legislation of qualifications and standards for sprinkler fitters. More and more jurisdictions are passing legislation establishing education and experience requirements for sprinkler fitters and apprentices. Those jurisdictions are set forth in the following table entitled "SPRINKLER FITTERS, State Statutory and Regulatory Requirements."

Jurisdictions have not only legislated qualifications for sprinkler fitters, but also for other piping trades, such as plumbers, pipe fitters, gas fitters, HVAC mechanics and medical gas installers. Additional tables setting forth the statutes governing qualifications for these trades follow the Sprinkler Fitters table.

# SPRINKLER FITTERS

## *State Statutory and Regulatory Licensing Requirements*

| STATE         | STATUTE OR REGULATION              | EXPERIENCE  | OTHER  |
|---------------|------------------------------------|---|--|
| Connecticut   | CONN. GEN. STAT. § 20-334a         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completed apprenticeship program and not less than 4 years of experience</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Test</li> </ul> |
| Idaho         | IDAHO ADMIN. CODE § 18.01.49.023   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1500 hours per year for 3 years working as fitter</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Test</li> </ul> |
| Massachusetts | MASS. REGS. CODE tit. 528, § 11.03 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8000 hours as apprenticeship or trainee and not less than 144 hours of study each year as apprentice or trainee</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Test</li> </ul> |
| Minnesota     | MINN. STAT. ANN. § 326.48          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8000 hours performing fire protection related work OR</li> <li>• Completion of sprinkler fitter program</li> </ul>         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Test</li> </ul> |
| New Mexico    | N.M. STAT. ANN. § 60-13-38         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have 2 years of experience as pipefitter OR complete course in trade offered by vocational education division</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Test</li> </ul> |
| Rhode Island  | R.I. GEN. LAWS § 28-27-4.2         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete 4 year apprenticeship program AND/OR passed journeyman exam</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Test</li> </ul> |
| Wisconsin     | WIS. STAT. ANN. § 145.07           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete apprenticeship program</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Test</li> </ul> |

# HVAC/REFRIGERATION MECHANICS

## *State Statutory and Regulatory Licensing Requirements*

| STATE                | STATUTE OR REGULATION               | EXPERIENCE  | OTHER  |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------|---|--------|
| Alabama              | ALA. CODE § 34-37-6                 |   |        |
| Arkansas             | ARK. CODE § 17-33-302               |   | • Test |
| Connecticut          | CONN. GEN. STAT. § 20-334a          | • Completion of apprenticeship program  | • Test |
| District of Columbia | D.C. CODE ANN. § 47-2853.202        |   |        |
| Kentucky             | KY. REV. STAT. ANN. § 198B.658      | • 2 years of employment in HVAC trade   | • Test |
| Maryland             | MD. REGS. CODE tit. 9 § 09.15.02.09 | • 1875 hours of training over three years while licensed as apprentice  | • Test |
| Massachusetts        | MASS. REGS. CODE tit. 528, § 11.01  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6000 hours as apprentice or trainee plus 100 hours of 522 CMR 9.00 Code training, other training and 150 hours of 527 CMR 12.00 Code (elec. Code) training OR</li> <li>• 1000 hours in refrigeration technician course plus 100 hours of 522 CMR 9.00 Code training, other training and 100 hours of 527 CMR 12.00 Code training; OR</li> <li>• 500 hours of refrigeration technician course plus 100 hours of 522 CMR 9.00 Code training, other training and 100 hours of training in 527 CMR 12.00 training</li> </ul> | • Test |
| New Mexico           | N.M. STAT. ANN. § 60-13-38          | • Have 2 years of experience as pipefitter OR complete course in trade offered by vocational education division   | • Test |
| Rhode Island         | R.I. GEN. LAWS § 28-27-4.1          | • Complete 5 year apprenticeship program AND/OR passed journeyman exam  | • Test |

# PLUMBERS

## *State Statutory and Regulatory Licensing Requirements*

| STATE         | STATUTE OR REGULATION                     | EXPERIENCE  | OTHER  |
|---------------|---|---|--|
| Arkansas      | ARK. CODE ANN. § 17-38-304                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 years experience in the trade.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Test</li> </ul>   |
| Colorado      | COLO. REV. STAT. § 12-58-107              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6800 hours for a Journeyman license</li> <li>• 3400 hours for a Residential license</li> <li>• Some work experience credit is given for academic training</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Test</li> </ul>   |
| Delaware      | DEL. CODE ANN. tit. 24, § 1806(a)         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 years under a licensed plumber and completion of apprenticeship course or 7 years without an apprenticeship course</li> </ul>                                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Test</li> </ul>   |
| Hawaii        | HAW. REV. STAT. § 448E-5                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10,000 hours as a journey worker's or master plumber's helper</li> </ul>   |  |
| Idaho         | IDAHO CODE § 56-2608                      |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Test</li> </ul>   |
| Illinois      | 225 ILL. COMP. STAT. ANN. 320/10          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 years as an Illinois licensed apprentice and supervised in the trade</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approved training program</li> <li>• Test</li> </ul>                        |
| Indiana       | IND. CODE § 25-28.5-1-12                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 years in an approved apprenticeship program or 4 years in the trade</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Test</li> </ul>   |
| Kentucky      | KY. REV. STAT. ANN. § 318.040             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 consecutive years as an apprentice</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Test</li> </ul>   |
| Louisiana     | LA. REV. STAT. ANN. § 46:1368             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8,000 hours supervised by a licensed journeyman plumber</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Test</li> </ul>   |
| Maine         | ME. REV. STAT. tit. 32 § 3501             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4,000 hours supervised in the trade or 2,000 hours with a journeyman-in-training license</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Test</li> </ul>   |
| Maryland      | MD. CODE ANN., BUS. OCC. & PROF. § 12-302 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 years as an apprentice with 7,500 hours supervised</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Test</li> <li>• 32 hours training in backflow protection devices</li> </ul> |
| Michigan      | MICH. COMP. LAWS ANN. § 338.908           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No specific requirement</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Test</li> </ul>   |
| Minnesota     | MINN. STAT. § 4715.3140                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 years in the trade</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Test</li> </ul>   |
| Missouri      | MO. ANN. STAT. § 341.170(2)               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 years in the trade supervised by a master plumber</li> </ul>   |  |
| Montana       | MONT. CODE ANN. § 37-69-304               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 years in the trade; credit given for training</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Test</li> </ul>   |
| Nebraska      | NEB REV. STAT. § 18-907                   |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Test</li> </ul>   |
| New Hampshire | N.H. REV. STAT. ANN. § 329-A:9            |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Test</li> <li>• Complete an apprenticeship training program</li> </ul>      |



| STATE        | STATUTE OR REGULATION                   | EXPERIENCE  | OTHER   |
|--------------|---|---|---|
| New Jersey   | N.J. REV. STAT. ANN. § 45:14C-1         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 years in the trade or a bachelors degree in mechanical, plumbing, or sanitary engineering</li> </ul>                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Test</li> </ul>  |
| North Dakota | N.D. CENT. CODE § 62-02-01-01           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 years as a licensed apprentice plumber supervised by a licensed master plumber or 5 years other experience in the trade</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Test</li> </ul>  |
| Oklahoma     | OKLA. STAT. TIT. 59 § 103               |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Test</li> </ul>  |
| Oregon       | OR. REV. STAT. § 693.050                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 years as an apprentice</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Test</li> </ul>  |
| Rhode Island | R.I. GEN. LAWS § 5-20-17                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 years as an apprentice or equivalent experience and training</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Test</li> </ul>  |
| South Dakota | S.D. CODIFIED LAWS § 20:53:03:05        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 years as an apprentice</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Test</li> </ul>  |
| Texas        | TEX. REV. CIV. STAT. ANN. art. 6243-101 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2000 hours in one of several sub-specialties</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Test</li> </ul>  |
| Utah         | UTAH CODE ANN. § 58-55-302              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 years supervised as licensed apprentice or equivalent</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Test</li> </ul>  |
| Vermont      | VT. STAT. ANN. tit. 26 § 2173           |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Test</li> <li>• Completion of Vermont apprenticeship program or equivalent</li> </ul>  |
| Washington   | WASH. REV. CODE § 18.106.030            |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Test</li> <li>• Completion of approved apprenticeship program or equivalent</li> </ul> |
| Wisconsin    | WIS. STAT. § 145.07                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 years in accordance with approved apprenticeship program</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Test</li> </ul>  |

# PIPEFITTERS

## *State Statutory and Regulatory Licensing Requirements*

| STATE         | STATUTE OR REGULATION              | EXPERIENCE  | OTHER   |
|---------------|------------------------------------|---|---|
| Connecticut   | CONN. GEN. STAT. § 20-334a         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completion of apprenticeship program</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Test</li> </ul>  |
| Massachusetts | MASS. REGS. CODE tit. 528, § 11.01 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6000 hours as apprentice or trainee plus 350 hours of A.S.M.E. Code reqs. OR</li> <li>• 1000 hours in pipefitter course, plus 200 hours A.S.M.E. Code reqs. plus 2,000 hours as apprentice or trainee OR</li> <li>• 500 hours in pipefitter course plus 200 hours of A.S.M.E. Code reqs. plus 4000 hours as apprentice or trainee</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Test</li> </ul>  |
| Minnesota     | MINN. STAT. ANN. § 326.48          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be a registered pipefitter trainee or journeyman pipefitter for 4 years</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Test</li> <li>• Possess sufficient education to read and comprehend blue prints</li> </ul> |
| New Mexico    | N.M. STAT. ANN. § 60-13-38         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have 2 years of experience as pipefitter OR complete course in trade offered by vocational education division</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Test</li> </ul>  |
| Rhode Island  | R.I. GEN. LAWS § 28-27-4.2         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete 5 year apprenticeship program AND/OR passed journeyman exam</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Test</li> </ul>  |

# GAS FITTERS

## *State Statutory and Regulatory Licensing Requirements*

| STATE                | STATUTE OR REGULATION  | EXPERIENCE  | OTHER  |
|----------------------|--|---|--|
| Alabama              | ALA. CODE § 34-37-6<br>(all gas)                                 | • 2 years work as an apprentice   | • Test   |
| Arkansas             | ARK. CODE §§ 17-33-103, 17-33-302<br>(HVAC gas)                  |   | • Test   |
| Connecticut          | CONN. GEN. STAT. § 20-334a<br>(all gas)                          | • Completion of apprenticeship program  | • Test   |
| District of Columbia | D.C. CODE ANN. § 47-2853.122                                     |   |  |
| Georgia              | GA. COMP. RULES & REGS § 121-2-11<br>(medical gas)               | • Hold journeyman plumber license AND<br>• Complete 32 hour medical gas piping certification program  | • Test   |
| Kentucky             | KY. REV. STAT. §§ 318.010, 318.040<br>(medical gas)              | • 2 consecutive years as an apprentice  | • Test   |
| Louisiana            | LA. ADMIN. CODE tit. 46, § 304<br>(medical gas)                  | • 8000 hours of plumbing experience   | • Test<br>• Sufficient education to understand code  |
| Maine                | ME. REV. STAT. ANN. tit. 32 § 14807<br>(propane and natural gas) |   | • Test   |
| Maryland             | MD. CODE ANN. § 12-302<br>(propane gas)                          |   | • Hold gas fitters license from county or municipality<br>• Demonstrate qualifications are satisfactory or equivalent to standards of National Propane Gas Ass'n |
| Massachusetts        | MASS. GEN. LAWS ANN. 142 § 4<br>(all gas)                        |   | • Test   |
| New Mexico           | N.M. STAT. ANN. § 60-13-38<br>(all gas)                          | • Have 2 years of experience as pipefitter OR complete course in trade offered by vocational education division   | • Test   |
| Oregon               | OR. REV. STAT. §§ 480.432, 480.434<br>(liquid petroleum gas)     |   | • Test   |
| Virginia             | 18 VA. ADMIN. CODE § 50-30-40 <u>et. seq.</u><br>(all gas)       | • 4 years in the trade and 240 hours of formal vocational training OR<br>• An associate degree or certificate of completion of two year program OR<br>• A bachelors degree and 1 year of practical experience | • Test   |
| Washington           | WASH. REV. CODE § 18.106.040<br>(medical gas)                    | • 3 years in the trade AND completion of course.  |  |