

Notes
Plumbing and Mechanical Systems Board
Testing and Exam Committee
February 27, 2012 - 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
5THFLOOR S CONFERENCE ROOM #415
Lucas State Office Building
321 East 12TH Street, Des Moines, IA

Present:

Chuck Thomas
Jane Hagedorn
Mick Gage
Ron Masters
Cindy Houlson
September Lau
Matt Oetker

Absent:

Jim Cooper

Committee members reviewed the Prometric Candidate Information Bulletin (CIB). They also discussed the test takers concerns and other concerns that have been voiced at the Board meetings.

One issue that members focused on was the number of questions. Members shared that typically city master and journey tests used to be fewer questions. The committee would like to explore switching to the catalog tests that Prometric already has in place. Is this something that could be considered during this contract period? This would be the preferred fix; members identified it as Plan A.

It was also agreed that lowering the number of questions by 25% would be a step in the right direction if canned tests were not an option. This would be considered Plan B. For all journey level tests, the committee decided to reduce the number of test questions to 75. Keeping the subject area percentages the same. For all master level tests, they decided to reduce the number of test questions to 150. Keeping the subject area percentages the same.

Members also discussed updating the code being referenced in the tests. After more discussion on making the change, the committee determined they would request that the Code Committee meet to discuss the change.

Gas questions were also discussed. It was determined that Chuck would follow up on the status of adding gas questions to the refrigeration tests, both master and journey, with Prometric on the next teleconference call. The committee also discussed the need for adding refrigeration questions to the HVAC tests. If it has not been done, the committee determined it would like to hold off on that change at this time. If it has already been done, the committee is ok with it and would not ask Prometric to remove them.

Questions were brought up addressing sheet metal and ducted systems as a specialty license. This would need to be brought up in the full board to discuss creating a new specialty license. It may take more reworking of all the licenses to have them better aligned to what the apprentice, journey and

master level tradespeople are being tested over. It was voiced that a specialty license was not what sheet metal was looking for. But lowering the test questions would improve the passing rate.

The committee would like to see all of these items implemented as soon as possible. Members were hoping the changes could be done in two weeks, 30 days maximum. The committee agreed that the two weeks may not be realistic, but they need a time frame with a firm date. The Board meets again on March 20th, and the committee would like to report on these issues at that time.