

Iowa Plumbing & Mechanical Testing Committee

July 17, 2008

Meeting notes and highlights.

1. Meeting called to order at 1:00pm. Those Committee members present were Chuck Thomas chair, Tom Day, Mickey Gage also in attendance were Cindy Houlson Executive Officer, board member Jane Hagedorn, who with the approval of the board would like to serve on this committee. Committee member absent was Patty Broerman.
2. We had a presentation by Stacy Hewitt Contract Administrator with IDPH. She introduced us to her counterpart who would be working with us John McMullen Contract Administrator with IDPH. They covered Iowa's competitive bidding process; they explained that before we can talk to vendors about testing services we must do a Request for Information (RFI). This form must be completed by the board, then it will go through an IDPH contract review process, this usually takes two weeks once the review starts. The committee asked Cindy to work on RFI, she has access to the form templates they are on the IDPH intranet, and Cindy graciously accepted the challenge. Once we receive information back from vendors then we go to the Request for Proposal (RFP) phase this will start with the form being filled out by the board, and then the contract review process. We asked Stacy and John how long the entire process usually takes the reply was six months. We discussed that with some of the criteria we might have that there could possibly only be one vendor that can provide service, Stacy went through the Sole Source exception we us, this could possibly reduce the six month time frame. That concluded there presentation.
3. We discussed the testing needs and came to the following lists of test-

Plumbers Testing

Journeyman with gas

Master Plumber

Mechanical Testing

Journeyman HVAC

Journeyman Hydronic

Journeyman Refrigeration

Master HVAC

Master Hydronic

Master Refrigeration

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There's a Medical Gas section in Iowa code 105 we looked at this and came to the following conclusion a person wishing to do this work in Iowa will get certified as an installer as well as a brazer by the National Testing Inspection Certification (NITC) corp. or an equivalent authority approved by the board. A person wishing to perform work covered by this section will need to show their certification then the board will give them a certificate.

We also discussed which plumbing and mechanical codes the state uses, I had already asked that question of Cindy; she checked and found that the plumbing code is the Uniform Plumbing Code and is under the IDPH and they have adopted 2000 version; the mechanical code is under the IDPS and is the International Mechanical Code 2006 version.

When we talked with Stacy about Sole Source provider here's a list of why we were thinking that way-

- We will need testing over two different codes
- They will need to perform testing statewide
- Their computer system must be able to interface with our data base. Our data base must track an applicant all the way through the process and the testing vendors must be able to transfer test results into our system without us having to manually input the results.

When we get back our RFI's that will tell us how many vendors can provide all the services we will need.

4. We had a few more things on our agenda but ran out of time.
5. Meeting adjourned approximately 3:15pm