

**Plumbing and Mechanical Systems Examining Board
Medical Gas Committee Meeting Minutes
February 10, 2009**

Committee Members Present:

Chuck Thomas, Chairperson
Thomas Day
Mick Gage

Committee Members Absent:

Carol Crane

Staff Attending:

Cindy Houlson, Executive Officer
Susan Van Horn, Program Planner

The meeting was called to order at 4:04 pm.

Minutes from the January 20, 2009 meeting were approved as presented.

Chuck Thomas opened the meeting with an explanation that David Mohile, CMGV with Medical Engineering Services, Inc will be joining the meeting via conference call at 4:30pm. Committee then identified questions & concerns to have prepared for the call. The following items were identified:

- Incorporation paper work not yet received.
- Are proctors used for testing or is it instructor from course?
- Can he explain continuity procedures?
- Are tests closed book?
- Are they covering ASSE & NFPA 99C?

David Mohile joined the committee meeting at 4:22 pm via conference call. Chuck Thomas opened the discussion with a brief explanation of the current legislation relating to Medical Gas certification and the identification of NITC or an equivalent authority. Mr. Mohile offered a brief comparison of his program to the NITC program. Highlights included:

NITC – Braze continuity letter + \$33.00 must be submitted every 6 months. Once every 3 years there is a take home test with a \$20.00 - \$40.00 test cost + a cost of \$45.00 for test book.

METC – Continuity letter must be signed every 6 months and witnessed after brazing in front of the witness, but only submitted at 3 year update class. Each 3 years there is a ½ day update class with a multiple choice test. Code book is included in cost of the update class. Total approximate cost \$150.00.

Tom Day emphasized that NFPA & ASME require that a person has to braze every 6 months and is concerned that the requirement may not be met under this plan. Mr. Mohile agreed that brazing is required, but doesn't think it should eliminate a certificate holder from the

program. However, continuity letter must be completed and submitted at the 3 year renewal class in order to continue through class. Mr. Mohile also pointed out that students in the class must have 4 years experience prior to applying for course.

Mr. Mohile responded to questions about the type of test used, stating that METC has a 50 question closed book multiple-choice test that must be completed in 1 hour in comparison to the NITC 100 question open book test that must be completed in 2 hours. Brazing is checked by a certified welding lab in Pennsylvania and is examined by CWI's.

Mr. Mohile responded to questions about test sites by saying they will give a class wherever there are 15 or more students in one location. He can travel anywhere. The class is 32 hours which includes: brazing, power point, lecture, & final exam.

In response to test proctor questions, Mr. Mohile state he does not currently proctor his exams due to problems in the past with proctor arrangements. However, he is willing to use proctors in the future.

Mr. Mohile also discussed the numbering system used for certificate numbers which includes last 4 of social + 1st 4 of city name.

Mr. Mohile discussed arrangements for re-taking the class if a student fails the first time. If the student fails the written test two times they have to retake the class. If they fail the braze test, they can re-braze as many times as needed but must pay each time.

Chuck Thomas thanked Mr. Mohile for the information and advised that the Medical Gas Committee will be reviewing the information and then making a recommendation to the full board at the meeting scheduled 02/17/09.

The committee continued discussion after Mr. Mohile left the line. Tom Day stated he is not comfortable with offering tests without a proctor. He thinks it may be a requirement of the ASSE code that the test must be proctored by a city official and possibly by a plumbing inspector. Chuck & Tom will review code to see what the requirements are by code. Mick Gage stated the lack of having to pay continuity letter fees is an advantage over NITC's program. Tom expressed concern that continuity doesn't have any checks or balances until the three year renewal period. The committee also discussed the 'witness' signature requirements and what is specifically needed.

The committee agreed to research some of the points discussed today and try to arrive at a consensus on a recommendation prior to the February 17, 2009 meeting. If the committee cannot come to a consensus they will present all the information for discussion at the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:23 pm.

Respectfully submitted
Susan Van Horn