

Plumbing and Mechanical Systems Board

Testing and Exam Committee Notes

June 20, 2011

Present: Chuck Thomas, Mick Gage, Jane Hagedorn, Ron Masters, Cindy Houlson, September Lau and Mary Swinehart

Absent: Jim Cooper

Chuck Thomas called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. in Room 517

Discussion about Exams:

1. ESL Issues – Ken Sharp

An exam candidate presented to take an exam and wanted to bring in a translation dictionary. Prometric would not allow the translation dictionary as that is not part of the listed references. We will meet with Prometric to ascertain what type of provisions they may have for this type of candidate. An initial conversation with Prometric revealed they are not interested in addressing because the current contract does not address this issue. Should provisions be provided for an individual, we would like to make it quite clear it would be at his/her expense and would not affect the costs to other exam candidates.

September Lau agreed to do some research to as to how other boards have handled this concern.

2. Review Prometric contract

There was a discussion about allowing additional time to take the exam or reducing the number of questions. Initially this committee increased the number of questions.

The Committee requested Cindy to contact Prometric and obtain:
Passing rates (how many times candidates take test before passing)
Original number of questions for journey/ master exams
How many candidates are pending
Do they round up or round down on test results

Changes (should be able to roll questions over to appropriate exam)

Add gas to refrigeration
Add refrigeration to HVAC

There was a discussion of number and location of test sites. There was some concern that additional sites within Iowa need to be provided.

Committee members will check out sites for adequate accommodations for references as well as the computer.

Prometric review is scheduled for July and discussion of the impact of the legislative definition changes on the exams as well as updating references will take place.

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.