

**Plumbing and Mechanical Systems Board  
Testing and Exam Committee Meeting Notes  
June 15, 2010  
Conference Call**

**Committee Members Present:** Chuck Thomas, Tom Day and Mick Gage

Andy Prometric

**Committee Members Absent:** Jane Hagedorn

**Staff Attending:** Cindy Houlson, Susan Van Horn & Mary Swinehart

Chuck Thomas called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

2009 Mechanical Code, 2009 UPC with amendments has been adopted. What adjustments need to be made from the earlier codes to those we have been adopted.

Cindy has provided to Prometric the updated 2009 UPC Code with Amendments. Andy suggested having updated with new specifications. Questions may be replaced or reworded to follow with the updated references. Exams will go to test production team to build the updated exam, then review of the exam should you choose to. The process is a bit like last time, upon approval or edit – exams will be finished to get published. Realistically, we are looking at September to be ready.

Tom – before when we went thru a test you had – we thought there were going to be a bank of questions. That does not change. Questions in the bank will be updated.

**Code Books** One of the items to update is use of loose leaf code book as resource. There was a discussion about allowing a loose leaf code book into the exam. Concern was a candidate may be able to slide something into the book. Change could be made now or wait to include with roll out. Any code book will be allow into the exam – candidate will have to take full responsibility should they not be able to answer the question, as questions are easily referenced to the newer code. Biggest problem is the plumbing code being used now. The only book available to be bought is the loose leaf (hard bound are not available). Further how can amendments be brought into exam. Amendments will be added to our website and can be sent to licensees if requested.

We are listing as Administrative Code 621- Chapter 25 State Plumbing Code amendments – if change will include for test administrations, on references and all communication.

Group agreed we should go ahead now with change to allow licensees to use now. If someone should try to cheat – stop the test, report to Cindy to run by the board.

Candidates bring in own references. Permanent tabbing and highlighting is allowed. Candidates are given one piece of scratch paper that is returned to test administrator following completion of exam and shredded. Candidates are not allowed to bring in highlighter. Calculator is built into the exam.

Ron Masters asked if it is normal practice to use Trane Ductulator. ACCA Duct Slide Rule is listed as reference for Iowa Master HVAC with Gas. Chuck will check into if Trane Ductulator is a standard and let Andy know (sooner the better). After building new questions, if there are no references to Ductulator, remove from references ACCA Duct Slide Rule. All load calculations and duct sizes should be included.

Concern was expressed when taking exam the area around computers is really small (allowing only one reference to be accessed). Is there any way that the questions could be sorted – such as mechanical code questions in a group so one reference could be used? That would change how the exams are delivered, multiple questions are used to choose from. Maybe allow more time to take exam if not allowing ample space. Cindy will ask Andy if extending the exam time is an option. Is the average guy completing exam during the time allotted? If extending time allotted not acceptable may have to reduce the number of questions. Originally the time allotted was based upon 50 questions.

There was a discussion about the pass rate. Generally, a couple hundred is a good sampling size to review pass rate. Presently, we do not have enough to evaluate.

Chuck has had quite a few apprentices take the exam. One of Chuck's best refrigeration guys received a score of 82%. One of the lesser guys has taken it three times before passing.

Statistics:

63 have attempted to take exam

18 passed 45 failed

Majority of candidates are not missing horribly. The biggest hang up is they run out of time. Suggest a class on how to take a test such as with multiple choice, mark questionable ones, go thru and can go back and rethink those marked. When individual fails Prometric does give what tests questions were most wrong. A large percentage did not pass the City Plumbing test the first time.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.