

ARTICLE 1705

Requirements and Qualifications to Obtain Licensing to Perform Plumbing Work Within the City of Bethlehem

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CROSS REFERENCES

Pennsylvania Uniform Construction Code – See BLDG. Art. 1701
Mechanical food waste disposals - See BLDG. Art. 1717
Plumbing or plumbing fixtures - See BLDG. Art. 1733
Required plumbing facilities in rooming houses - See BLDG. Art. 1735

1705.01 DEFINITIONS

(a) Master Plumber

A master plumber is a person who regularly engages in and works at the plumbing trade, who employs and directs journeyman plumbers and apprentice plumbers, and who is entitled to secure permits for the installation or repair of plumbing.

(b) Journeyman Plumber

A journeyman plumber is a person who regularly engages in and works at the plumbing trade and is employed and supervised by a licensed Master Plumber.

(c) Code

"Code", or "the Code", shall mean the version of the International Plumbing Code in effect as adopted by Article 1701 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Bethlehem.

(d) Corporation or similar entity

"Corporation or similar entity" shall have the same meaning as that term is prescribed in Rule 2176 of the Pennsylvania Rules of Civil Procedure.

(Ord. 2023-21. Passed 6/20/2023)

1705.02 APPLICANTS' APPLICATIONS AND EXAMINATIONS

(a) Applications: Every application for a license shall be made in writing in such form and shall furnish such information as the Chief Code Official may, from time to time, require.

(b) Examinations: Written examinations shall be prepared by the International Code Council (ICC) and administered by it to applicants to test each applicant's knowledge of the provisions of the Code and the work covered thereby and no license shall be issued unless the applicant attains a passing mark in such examination.

(Ord. 2023-21. Passed 6/20/2023)

1705.03 RECIPROCITY

The Chief Code Official will accept, as a Master Plumber or a Journeyman Plumber, valid licenses from other municipalities, provided that such other municipalities have a testing process for their own licensees, and provided that such licensees from such other municipalities comply with all other applicable provisions of the Code, including payment of the applicable license fee.

(Ord. 2023-21. Passed 6/20/2023)

1705.04 OWNER PERFORMANCE

Single Family Dwellings. Any permit required by this Article may be issued to a bona fide owner, occupant of a single family dwelling, which is to be occupied exclusively for living purposes, to do any work regulated by the Code on the said dwelling and on the condition that the said owner personally purchase all material and perform all labor in connection therewith.

(Ord. 2023-21. Passed 6/20/2023)

1705.05 FEES

License Fees:

Master Plumber (annual)	\$75.00
Journeyman Plumber (annual)	\$50.00

(Ord. 2023-21. Passed 6/20/2023)

1705.06 PROOF OF RESPONSIBILITY

At the time of, and as a condition of, issuance of a license under this Article, the applicant shall furnish a certificate evidencing proof of Workmen's Compensation, Bodily Injury and Property Damage Insurance applicable to the applicant, unless such evidence is currently on file in the Bureau of Inspections.

(Ord. 2023-21. Passed 6/20/2023)

1705.07 SUSPENSIONS OR REVOCATIONS

Every holder of a license, upon retiring from the plumbing business or upon the occurrence of any other cause for suspension or revocation of such license, shall notify the Chief Code Official in writing of such fact, at the same time enclosing the license certificate. The Chief Code Official may, by an order in writing, suspend or revoke any license issued by him for good cause shown, including but not limited to the following: permitting unauthorized or fraudulent use of the license by another, failure to file applications for certificates performing work which fails to meet the Code, fraudulent dealing, or misrepresentation. Any licensee whose license has been suspended or revoked shall have the right to file an appeal to, and receive a hearing before, the Board of Appeals pursuant to Article 150 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Bethlehem.

(Ord. 2023-21. Passed 6/20/2023)

1705.08 NON-LICENSED WORK

(a) No person shall perform plumbing work, including but not limited to as a Master Plumber or Journeyman Plumber, without being issued a license by the Chief Code Official pursuant to this Article. No person, proprietorship, partnership, or corporation or similar entity shall permit any employee or independent contractor thereof to perform plumbing work, including but not limited to as a Master Plumber or Journeyman Plumber, if such employee or independent contractor has not been issued the appropriate license required by this Article.

(b) Only Master Plumbers may apply for a permit to perform plumbing work in the City. An application for a plumbing permit shall be made to the Chief Code Official, and the Chief Code Official shall issue plumbing permits only to Master Plumbers.

(Ord. 2023-21. Passed 6/20/2023)

1705.09 FALSE STATEMENTS

Any person who, with intent to defraud or deceive, knowingly makes, causes, procures to be made, or aids and assists in the making of a false statement in an application for a license, or the renewal of a license, in an application for a permit, in any application provided for in this Article, in any proof or instrument in writing in connection therewith, or who shall in any examination hereunder, deceive or substitute, shall be in violation of this Article.

(Ord. 2023-21. Passed 6/20/2023)

1705.10 ESCROW

The holder of any valid license as herein defined may, upon written request to the Chief Code Official, have the Chief Code Official hold said license in escrow for a period of up to five (5) years, during which time the licensee may not perform any work which would, under the provisions of the Code, require the issuance of a license. Upon proper application for renewal of the license being held in escrow, the applicant shall be granted same without examination contingent upon payment of the applicable annual license fee as set forth in Section 1705.05.

(Ord. 2023-21. Passed 6/20/2023)

1705.11 ABOLITION OF PLUMBERS EXAMINING BOARD

The Plumbers Examining Board of the City of Bethlehem is hereby abolished.

(Ord. 2023-21. Passed 6/20/2023)

1705.99 PENALTIES AND ENFORCEMENT

(a) Any person, proprietorship, partnership, or corporation or similar entity who violates any provision of this Article shall be subject to the following penalties: (1) First Violation - A fine of \$200, or thirty days imprisonment, or both; (2) Second Violation - A fine of \$500, or sixty days imprisonment, or both; (3) Third and Subsequent Violations - A fine of \$1,000, or ninety days imprisonment, or both.

(b) The Director of Community and Economic Development is hereby granted the power to designate those having the power to enforce this Article and issue citations.

(Ord. 2023-21. Passed 6/20/2023)

(Ord. 4148. Passed 10/1/2002; Ord. 4257. Passed 6/15/2004; Ord. 2023-21 Passed 6/20/2023)

NOTE: Article 1705 of the Codified Ordinances, was deleted in its entirety and replaced with this new Article 1705, Requirements and Qualifications to Obtain Licensing to Perform Plumbing Work Within the City of Bethlehem by Ord. 2023-1, passed 6/20/2023, and approved by Mayor on 6/21/2023.

ARTICLE 1705

International Plumbing Code

- 1705.01 Adoption.
- 1705.02 Additions, Deletions, and Modifications; Fees; Penalty. (IPC 108.4)

CROSS REFERENCES

- International Building Code - See BLDG. Art. 1701
- ICC Electrical Code - See BLDG. Art. 1703
- Mechanical food waste disposals - See BLDG. Art. 1717
- Plumbing or plumbing fixtures - See BLDG. Art. 1733
- Required plumbing facilities in rooming houses -
See BLDG. Art. 1735

NOTE: This Article was deleted in its entirety and incorporated in new Article 1701, Pennsylvania Uniform Construction Code. (Ord. 4254. Passed 6/15/2004)