

From: The Iowa Plumbing & Mechanical Systems Board

Date: 6/1/2021

Re: Updated Guidance Regarding the 2020 License Renewal Cycle

MEMORANDUM REGARDING 2020 LICENSE RENEWALS

On June 1, 2021, the Iowa Plumbing and Mechanical Systems Board (the Board) voted to eliminate late fees for the current renewal cycle and to have licenses enter lapsed status as of July 1, 2021 or upon expiration of the Governor's emergency proclamation, whichever is later. The Board encourages all licensees to renew their licenses by June 30, 2021, to avoid any delays or other possible issues with their licensure status.

Background and Legal Authority: Under Iowa Code section 105.9(7)(a), all licenses issued by the Board were to expire on June 30, 2020. Under Iowa Code sections 105.9(2) and 105.20(2), the Board sets renewal fees and deadlines by rule. The Board's rules setting license fees and renewal fees are contained in 641 Iowa Administrative Code chapter 28.

However, the Board recognizes that the 2020 license renewal cycle is unlike previous licensing cycles. On March 9, 2020, Governor Reynolds issued a Proclamation of Disaster Emergency throughout the State of Iowa in response to the COVID-19 global pandemic. The state of emergency has persisted since that time and the proclamation has been extended multiple times, most recently on May 27, 2021. The proclamation is currently set to expire June 26, 2021.

The emergency proclamation continues to suspend the expiration of licenses occurring during the duration of the emergency proclamation, and the proclamation can only be extended 30 days at a time. However, given that the majority of licensees have already renewed their licenses and that the proclamation has given licensees an additional year in which to renew without late fees, the Board believes that additional extensions beyond the length of the proclamation is unwarranted. The Board therefore voted to only extend the renewal period through June 30, 2021 or the last date for which the proclamation is in effect, whichever is later.

As of July 1, 2021 or the expiration of the emergency proclamation, whichever is later, all licenses with an expiration date of June 30, 2020 will be considered lapsed, will no longer be valid for practice, and may no longer be renewed but must instead be reinstated pursuant to Board rules 29.7(6)(b), (c), and (d). The Board highly encourages all licensees who have yet to renew their license for this renewal cycle to do so by June 30, 2021 to avoid any possible licensure issues.