

License Renewal FAQ's

Do all licenses need 21 hrs of Continuing Education?

Yes, licensees must complete 21-Hours of Continuing Education before the renewal date 7/31/2010. A 15-Hour Code Class taken with a Board approved provider and 6 Hours of Professional Development

Should I mail a copy of my 15-Hour Certificate?

No, the approved provider will electronically submit your continuing education information to the Board. Do not mail any other documents with your renewal form.

Do I need to submit proof of completing the 6 Hours to the Board?

No, a record in the form of a certificate of completion must be kept by the licensee for three renewal cycles and must be furnished to the Board only upon request.

When will I get a renewal form?

Renewal forms will be mailed in May of this year. If you have moved you must ensure that the Board has been notified or you will not receive a renewal form. Address changes may be made online at www.mass.gov/reg/boards/el or by faxing your request to 617-727-9932. You may also mail your request to the address of the Board on your current license.

Resources

Massachusetts Department of Professional Licensure, 239 Causeway St., Suite 500, Boston, MA
Phone: 617-727-9931, Fax: 617-727-9932

Dedham, MA 02026
105 Eastern Avenue, #208

MECA



MECA WINTER 2008



Educational Seminars

**15- Hour Code Seminar
February 23 & 24, 2008
8AM-4PM**

**Instructors: Bill & Charlie
MECA Office, Dedham**

**15- Hour Code Seminar
March 29 & 30, 2008
8AM-4PM**

**Instructors: Bill & Charlie
Skip's Restaurant, Chelmsford**

**15- Hour Code Seminar
April 19 & 20, 2008
8AM-4PM**

**Instructors: Bill & Charlie
MECA Office, Dedham**

Call the MECA office at 781-320-9811 to register today or log on to our website at: www.meca-network.org

Massachusetts Electrical Contractors Association

NEWS



Meet the New MECA Board!

On November 1st, 2007, the members of MECA voted a new Executive Committee into office at the Annual Meeting. The Committee consists of newer members and former Presidents of MECA.

John "Jack" Rich is the new President of the MECA State Board. Jack and his family are the owners of Atlas Alarm in Weymouth and have been members of MECA for many years. Jack has served on the MECA State Board for the past four years and also sits on the Old Colony Chapter Board.

The 1st Vice-President voted into office is Michael DeMeo. Mike is the Vice-President of Stilian Electric in Georgetown. Mike has been a member of MECA for three years and also serves as the President of the Essex Chapter.

Paul Coleman from Allied Systems Technologies in Hyannis has been voted as MECA's 2nd Vice-President. Paul has been a member of MECA for seven years and currently serves as President of the Cape Cod Chapter.

Treasurer, James Cialdea, is the Vice-President of Three-C Electrical Company in Ashland. Three-C has been a member since 1984. This is Jim's second term as Treasurer and he has served as President of the MECA State Board.

Joseph "Jay" Gebhardt is serving his second term as Secretary. Jay is the President of J.G. Electric in Cochrasset.

and has been a member of MECA since 1981. Jay has served in the capacity of President of the MECA State Board and President of the South Middlesex Chapter.

Our Past President, John "Rex" Funderburk, has been a member of MECA since 1986. Rex is the President of J & R Industrial Wiring and has served as President of the MECA State Board several years ago.

MECA's current Board of Directors is Daniel Cleary, President of the Old Colony Chapter, John Keady, President of the North Middlesex Chapter, Ken Page, President of the Worcester Chapter, Mike Mancini, President of the Essex Chapter, William Snow, President of the Boston Chapter, Michael Pillarella, President of the Bristol Chapter and Paul McDonald, President of the Pioneer Valley Chapter. Sam Doucet and Phil Burgess represent the Worcester Chapter. Andrew Sheenan is a representative for the North Middlesex Chapter and Gerry Cardillo is a representative for the Boston Chapter.



2008 Executive Board and Board of Directors

www.meca-network.org

From the President's Desk

There have been many hurdles we have overcome in the past two years with the help and direction of our previous President, John "Rex" Funderburk. I would like to thank Rex for all of his efforts, time and commitment to our Association during his presidency.

We are presently at the beginning of a new code cycle for our industry. Codebooks are available and many have been distributed already. I would encourage all to educate themselves now with the 2008 15-Hour Code Course as there are many changes.

Speaking of Code, I would like to remind all of our members of our Association's Code of Ethics. All members should show due consideration for other members and for their ability. We should never attempt to harm another's business through misrepresentation or by any other means, which may cause loss of goodwill or reputation.

I would also like to remind individual chapters that there is a code of business practices and By-Laws of our Association. I encourage all

chapters to familiarize themselves with said practices and By-Laws and to actively practice them.

In our ever more complex world, it appears that more and more legislation is filed relentlessly every year which may affect the way we all live as a society. Frivolous legislation and law may affect the way we conduct business and earn a living which is becoming more increasingly difficult. Couple this matter with improper enforcement and it can cause one to run away from home or seek alternative business occupations.



I speak on this matter as many of you are aware of

pending legislation which could affect our legal right to earn a living with certain work we are already legally entitled to perform. In particular, one piece of legislation of great concern is the licensing of telecommunications work. Said legislation is presently not a stand alone issue and is basically packaged in with Board restructure and the rewrite of M.G.L. 141. Be advised that it is my opinion that M.G. L. 141 is old and should be looked at for re-



vamping, however not to the degree of certain legislative bills in which there are several.

Our State Board of Directors along with our Committees have and will continue to be watching these matters. To date, we have provided oral and written testimony on legislative bills such as Telecommunications Licensing and the Well Installers bill.

Who will speak for the professional electrical contractor if not MECA? Who will represent our best interest as well as the best interest of the citizenry of the Commonwealth? The answer is an association like MECA. Please stayed tuned for updates and additional information regarding these matters and help me to help you.

*John "Jack" Rich
President, MECA*

Negligent Entrustment

Do you have a policy that governs the use of company motor vehicles? If not, are you aware of the potential risk to your business?

Allowing employees and others to operate company vehicles creates a potential risk that could lead to a case of negligent entrustment. Theoretically, lawsuits should be directed toward the facts of an accident; however, cases alleging negligent entrustment often focus on a company's driving policy and management's consistent adherence to the policy.

Managing your company driving exposure can help avoid disaster. Failing to check an employee's driving record, when it would have revealed a poor driving history, or allowing a driver with a "below standards" record to drive anyway, are equally negligent.



Past cases have found that even though driving restrictions are in place for an employee, repeatedly overriding the restriction decreases its effectiveness. In this case, a court may hold the business negligent even if permission to drive was not granted to the employee at the time of a loss.

How can you reduce exposure to negligent entrustment?

•Implement and follow a Motor Vehicle Policy which includes expectations of how and when vehicles should be operated

and standards used to evaluate the driving record.

•Communicate the Motor Vehicle Policy standards and expectations. The standards should apply to violations and accidents occurring on personal and company time.

•Order and review MVRs on a predetermined timeline, generally every three years, more frequently for younger and "borderline" employees.

•Enforce the standards and document the action taken.

Federated policyholders have access to sample policies on driving expectations, checking MVRs and vehicle usage. In addition, a toll-free Driver Insurability Service is available. Manage your exposure to negligent entrustment today to avoid a possible tragedy in the future.



Federated Insurance is MECA's recommended carrier for Property Liability, Workers Compensation and Financial Protection Services.

To locate your local federated Insurance marketing representatives call the Federated Home Office at 800-533-0472.

www.federatedinsurance.com

It's Lonely at the Top Business to Business Advice



In a recent article in the Wall Street Journal, an employee wondered what to do after accepting an offer from another company and then receiving a counter offer to stay with his original company. Patrick G. Spencer, a businessman from Chetek, Wisconsin responded with the following advice based on his experience.

"Playing two employment offers isn't a problem ("When to Take a

Counteroffer from Your Employee", Career Journal, Nov. 6). However, when the person accepted the new employer's offer, the job situation was closed. If an employee goes back on his word after accepting a new employer's offer and "comes home" to his old employer, the old employer knows that he has an employee who can never be trusted again. From my experience, people who do this rarely stay with the old company for very long as everybody knows that their word means nothing. Who wants to work with someone with no integrity?

I ran a number of businesses dur-

ing my working career that ranged in size from hundreds of employees to thousands. My policy was to never make a counteroffer once the employee had accepted a new position. If they came back, I knew I really did not want them working for me. There was no point in wasting management time working on a counteroffer.

Would you like to share some Business to Business advice? Submit your article to: lpodgurski@meca-network.org.

Education

For those who are unaware, effective in April of 2007 there is a new 7th Edition of the MA State Building Code (CMR-780) for one or two family dwellings. Other occupancies that fall under the new 7th Edition of the MA State Building Code have been approved but are not in print as of this writing. Until such printing is complete, the 6th Edition of CMR-780 is still in effect for all occupancies other than one and two family dwellings.



The current legally adopted edition of NFPA-72 in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts is the year 2002 and not the 2007 edition.

The installation and maintenance of security alarm work requires a security clearance from the Department of Public Safety, however said clearance is not required for fire alarm systems.

Additional education requirements for electrical inspectors in Massachusetts have been put on hold until the 2010 Code cycle. At that time inspectors will be required to take an additional 6 hour class pertaining to their field and a 15-Hour code course taught by a Board approved provider.

Chapter Meetings with Elise Gebhardt



MECA chapters have been very busy these last few months anticipating the 2008 code changes. At the November meeting of the Old Colony Chapter, Bill Laidler and Charlie Palmieri highlighted some of the changes to look forward to in the new 2008 Code and Pass & Seymour introduced their tamper resistant receptacles required by the 2008 Code to the South Middlesex chapter. The North Middlesex chapter's meeting was sponsored by Beacon Electrical Distributors and focused on Firex smoke and CO detectors and Lutron dimming switches. In January, with the 2008 Code changes on everyone's minds, the Cape, Worcester and Pioneer Valley chapters all learned about the new tamper resistant receptacles while South Middlesex and Boston chapters saw Siemen's Arc Fault Breakers required by the new Code. Anticipating the winter weather and ice back-up, the North Middlesex chapter viewed the Centralite & Delta-therm products for heat trace and gutter de-icing.

Our Pioneer Valley chapter members were very excited to meet in January after a long hiatus. We met at the HU-KE-LAU restaurant in Chicopee and were impressed by the turnout. CLS in West Springfield lent us their support by sponsoring the presentation. We look forward to our next meeting in February.

MECA works hard keeping its members updated on the changes in our industry. We look forward to a year of record attendance at meetings and informative presentations.

2008 NEW MEMBERS

Assabet Valley Voc. School Marlborough, MA South Middlesex Chapter	Gentex Optics Dudley, MA Worcester Chapter	NorthStar Electric Marlborough, MA Boston Chapter
A.S. Jones Electric Mendon, MA South Middlesex Chapter	Greater New Bedford Vo-Tech New Bedford, MA Bristol Chapter	Harry Parviainen-Fitchburg Inspector Fitchburg, MA Worcester Chapter
Roland Basset- Inspector Brewster, MA Cape Cod Chapter	Michael Jennette Franklin, MA South Middlesex Chapter	Pittsfield Plastics Pittsfield, MA Pioneer Valley Chapter
Beagles Electric Plymouth, MA Old Colony Chapter	Don Jansen-Haverhill Inspector Haverhill, MA Essex Chapter	Plymouth South High School Plymouth, MA Old Colony Chapter
Blackstone Valley Vocational Upton, MA South Middlesex Chapter	Keefe Tech Vocational School Framingham, MA South Middlesex Chapter	Steven French Electric Whittinsville, MA South Middlesex Chapter
Dover Electric Framingham, MA South Middlesex Chapter	M & S Electric Hatfield, MA Pioneer Valley Chapter	www.meca-network.org for the latest in Chapter Meeting Information

New Mercury Law Will Affect Your Business. It's Just a Matter of How...

By Kevin Schneider, Veolia ES Technical Solutions

Starting May 1, 2008, your business will be affected by the recent legislation regarding mercury and mercury containing products. Being prepared for this and seeing the opportunity this new law presents is equally important.

New Mercury Act signed into law

The Governor of Massachusetts signed into law An Act Relative to Mercury Management. Starting May 1, 2008, "no person, household, business, school, healthcare facility or state municipal government shall knowingly dispose of a mercury-added product in any manner other than by recycling, disposing as hazardous waste or using a method approved by the department."

Why is mercury a problem?

Mercury is highly toxic to humans and wildlife. It accumulates in the tissues of fish and other organisms inhabiting mercury-contaminated waters and builds up in the tissues of organisms higher up the food chain, including humans. Mercury is toxic to the nervous system, affecting the brain, spinal cord, kidneys and liver. Mercury exposure is particularly significant for young children and pregnant women because mercury inhibits the development of the brain and the nervous system. Some effects seen in children with elevated mercury exposure are lowered intelligence, impaired hearing, and poor coordination. Mercury also adversely affects wildlife. Eagles, osprey, common loons, river otters, mink, and other fishing-eating animals may suffer premature death, weight loss, difficulties reproducing, and other problems as a result of eating mercury-contaminated fish.

Why should you be concerned?

Mercury is contained in fluorescent

light bulbs. Electrical contractors come in contact with these items on a daily basis either during construction or renovation. Most often, these mercury-containing light bulbs are disposed of as solid waste and mercury ends up in the environment either by incineration, or by leaching into the land and water. Under the new Mercury Management Act in Massachusetts it will be illegal to dispose of any lamp, from either a business or a residence, as a sold waste.

What should you do and how can this be a business opportunity?

Federal and state rules do allow lamp generators and contractors to collect and accumulate lamps for recycling without a regulatory burden. This can be a great business opportunity for you as a contractor because you may charge a

"Starting May 1, 2008, nobusiness shall knowingly dispose of a mercury added product in any manner other than by recycling..."

fee to collect lamps. You can also make arrangements with any authorized recycler and possibly be eligible for volume discounts. Once you realize how easy it is to recycle lamps, you will discover how this service will improve your bottom line. Given the Commonwealth's increased emphasis on proper disposal of mercury-added products, lamp recycling represents an excellent opportunity for your company to expand its business and present an environmentally-friendly image.

How to get started collecting, accumulating and recycling lamps?

Recycling does not need to be difficult. Veolia Environmental Ser-



vices (Veolia) is one of the largest commercial recyclers of lamps and ballast in the world and works with a broad range of customers to offer easy, environmentally compliant recycling solutions for large or small quantities of waste.

Several lighting and electrical distributors throughout Massachusetts have teamed up with Veolia to offer lamp recycling services to their customers. While, some distributors offer convenient mail-back type recycling kits, others collect and consolidate larger quantities of materials for their customers. The involvement and commitment needed to successfully set up a recycling program is minimal, and as regulations become more stringent recycling should become easier.

There is no doubt that the newest regulation to be passed in Massachusetts will affect your business. Embracing the rules can open opportunities for you, by allowing you to gain competitive advantages over the competition, better serve customers and keep customers in compliance with environmental regulations.

Veolia is committed to helping your business in its pursuit of growth and profitability by keeping you up to date on Massachusetts environmental laws and regulations. For more information, contact your local lighting and electrical distributor, call Veolia at 800-478-6055 or visit us on the web at www.veoliaes.com.

Order your codebooks today!

To order your copy today Call 800-231-MECA, Fax 781-320-9811 or E-Mail: codebooks@meca-network.org!

2008 CODE BOOK ORDER FORM

CODEBOOKS, HANDBOOKS, TABS, POCKET GUIDES, CD ROMS
PHONE (781) 320-9811 Fax (781) 320-9812

CODEBOOKS
(CODEBOOKS INCLUDE MA AMENDMENTS)

SOFT COVER:	<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>NON MEMBER</u>
1-20	\$65.00	\$72.00
21-99	\$63.00	\$70.00
100+	\$61.00	\$68.00

LOOSE LEAFS:	<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>NON-MEMBER</u>
1-20	\$76.00	\$84.00
21-99	\$74.00	\$82.00

HANDBOOKS:	TABS:	AMENDMENTS:
MEMBER \$114.00	MEMBER \$15.00	MEMBER \$7.00
NON-MEMBER \$126.00	NON-MEMBER \$17.00	NON-MEMBER \$10.00

POCKET GUIDES:	CD ROM CODE:	CD ROM HANDBOOK:
MEMBER \$26.00	MEMBER \$87.00	MEMBER \$153.00
NON-MEMBER \$29.00	NON-MEMBER \$97.00	NON-MEMBER \$170.00

QUANTITY	ITEM/DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT

MEMBER
 NON-MEMBER

CHAPTER: _____

SHIPPING — EACH ADDITIONAL

1 SOFT COVER	\$8.00	ADD. \$2.00
1 LOOSE LEAF	\$8.00	ADD. \$2.00
1 POCKET GUIDE	\$8.00	ADD. \$2.00
1 CD ROM	\$8.00	ADD. \$2.00
1 HANDBOOK	\$8.00	ADD. \$2.00
1 TAB	\$1.00	ADD. \$0.60

SHIP TO: (NO P.O. BOXES)	WE ACCEPT M/C, VISA, AMEX, DISCV.
NAME: _____	_____ - _____ - _____
COMPANY: _____	EXP. DATE: MM: _____ YEAR: _____
ADDRESS: _____	PRINT: _____
CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____	SIGNATURE: _____
PHONE: _____	
FAX: _____	

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: MECA
105 EASTERN AVE., SUITE # 208, DEDHAM, MA 02026