

Mechanical News

November 2012

Questions from contractors

Question : Do I need to perform an air balance test on a Type 1 commercial hood ?

Answer : Yes section 507.16 NCMC requires this test to be performed, see the following code section.

507.16 Performance test. A performance test shall be conducted upon completion and before final approval of the installation of a ventilation system serving *commercial cooking appliances*. The test shall verify the rate of exhaust airflow required by Section 507.13, makeup airflow required by Section 508 and proper operation as specified in this chapter. The permit holder shall furnish the necessary test *equipment* and devices required to perform the tests.

Question : If I install a pool heater or spa heater do I have to provide a pool cover, and time switch ?

Answer : Yes this is a new requirement for the 2012 NCECC so this will be required. If you are gas piping the heater or installing the heater, you will need to make sure the pool installer has this covered. See the following code section.

403.9 Pools, in ground permanently installed spas (Mandatory).

Pools and in ground permanently installed spas shall comply with Sections 403.9.1 through 403.9.3.

403.9.1 Heaters. All heaters shall be equipped with a readily accessible on-off switch that is mounted outside of the heater to allow shutting off the heater without adjusting the thermostat setting. Gas-fired heaters shall not be equipped with constant burning pilot lights.

403.9.2 Time switches. Time switches or other control method that can automatically turn off and on heaters and pumps according to a preset schedule shall be installed on all heaters and pumps. Heaters, pumps and motors that have built-in timers shall be deemed in compliance with this requirement.

Exceptions:

1. Where public health standards require 24-hour pump operation.
2. Where pumps are required to operate solar- and waste-heat-recovery pool heating systems.

403.9.3 Covers. Heated pools and in ground permanently installed spas shall be provided with a vapor-retardant cover.

Exception: Pools deriving over 70 percent of the energy or heating from site-recovered energy, such as a heat pump or solar energy source computed over an operating season.

Note : The same requirements apply to commercial pools also but is under section **504.7 NCECC**

All of the 2012 Code books are available at NCDOT or through ICC

Important News From The State Board of Examiners

Repeal of Mandatory Continuing Education as a Condition of Annual License Renewal Effective December 31, 2012.

On or about October 14, 2011, the Board unanimously voted to eliminate the rules that require mandatory continuing education as a condition of annual license renewal. In November of 2011, the Board submitted a set of proposed rules to the North Carolina Rules Review Commission, which included elimination of mandatory Continuing Education as a condition of annual license renewal. The proposed repeal of mandatory continuing education as a condition of annual license renewal was set to be effective on December 31, 2012.

During the review period, the North Carolina Rules Review Commission received at least ten (10) letters of objection to the proposed changes. This resulted in the proposed changes being sent to the North Carolina General Assembly (also referred to as the legislature) for their review and any action deemed necessary. We received information late on July 3, 2012, that the rules have been approved as submitted by the Board.

This means that mandatory continuing education as a condition of annual license renewal will no longer be required as of December 31, 2012. Licensees with a currently active license will be eligible to renew the license for 2013 without the mandatory continuing education requirement. The Board is aware of the fact that many licensees have already completed the continuing education that would have been required for the 2013 renewal under the old rule. If the rules had been approved as submitted, without objection and the resulting delay, this would not have been an issue; however, the letters of objection delayed the approval process for a period of approximately six months, an action that was beyond the control of the Board. This resulted in much confusion and anxiety for many months, and many licensees attended the classes “just in case” the rule regarding continuing education did not change.

Licensees who are currently in expired status must comply with the rules in order to renew the license for 2010, 2011, and/or 2012, but will not be required to attend continuing education for the 2013 renewal. The continuing education class schedule for the remainder of 2012 is available on our website to assist licensees in locating classes and provider contact information.

From this point forward, active licensees will not be required to attend continuing education courses that have been approved by the Board as a condition of annual renewal. The Board strongly encourages all licensees to periodically attend continuing education classes in order to maintain and increase your knowledge within your respective trades. In order to assist our licensees in locating continuing education classes, beginning in January, 2013 our website will continue to list names, types of classes, and contact information of the providers who notify the Board staff that they will be offering continuing education classes.

The Board is currently creating a continuing education program for use as a disciplinary tool for any licensee whom a valid complaint is filed against. This is not a new practice, as a number of special classes have been used on a limited basis for many years. It is the position of the Board that the individual licensee should be responsible for keeping himself/herself educated and in touch with the latest business and trade practices. Licensees who fail to take this responsibility seriously are more likely to be the subject of complaints. The Board will ensure that those who are in need of continuing education as evidenced by the findings of the complaint investigation will be required to satisfactorily complete mandatory continuing education in order to keep their license in good standing.

The Board would like to take this opportunity to publicly express our appreciation to the providers and instructors that have developed and conducted continuing education classes over the past ten years.

Department changes

The city has made changes to our credit card usage policy that will include permit purchasing. Effective September 4, 2012, credit card purchases are limited to a \$5.00 minimum permit transaction. The maximum number of debit or credit transactions is 10 in any 30 day period and/or \$2,500, whichever may come first. If you are a contractor who regularly purchases permits and pay fees with a credit card, please make note of these changes and make arrangements if needed so we can still help provide the best possible service to you and your company.

Permit information

Please provide us with accurate permit information including contact information, cross streets and description of work . There are fields on the permit application for all of this information to be provided. By completing all of the appropriate information we can operate more efficiently and help get your job completed quicker. If you should need assistance on completing any of this information please contact me and I will help walk you through the process or go over it with your office staff..

AM /PM Inspections

When you request an inspection there is an option of selecting AM or PM inspection request. This selection is **only for Building inspections of footings or concrete inspections**, it is not for normal routine inspections . If you have a no heat or an emergency, please let us know and we will get you on the front of our list.

Contact information

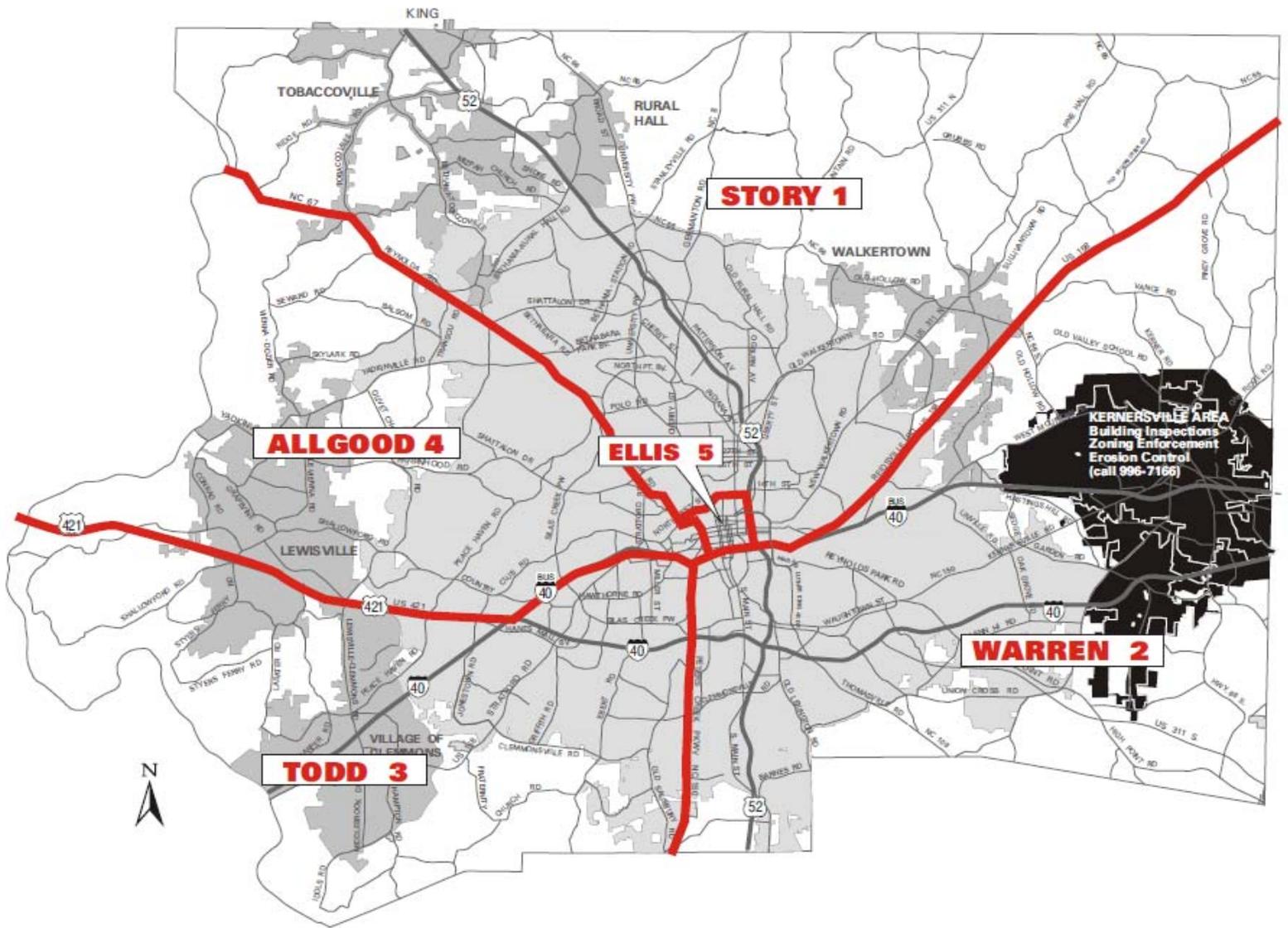
If you have an occupied dwelling that needs an inspection, please leave us the contact information on the permit and let the owners or tenants know that we will be contacting them to make arrangements to gain access to perform your inspection . Please, DO NOT tell them when we will be there to do the inspection .You can let them know that you have their inspection scheduled and that we will contact them.

Thank you

**If you wish to have your questions included in our monthly newsletter,
Please send to alexe@cityofws.org Alex Ellis Senior Mechanical Inspector 336-727-2382**

CITY OF WINSTON-SALEM Mayor: Allen Joines City Council: Vivian H. Burke, Mayor Pro Tempore, Northeast Ward;
Denise D. Adams, North Ward; Dan Besse, Southwest Ward; Robert C. Clark, West Ward; Molly Leight, South Ward; Wanda Merschel,
Northwest Ward; Derwin L. Montgomery, East Ward; James Taylor, Jr., Southeast Ward City Manager: Lee Garrity
FORSYTH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS David R. Plyler, Chairman; Debra Conrad, Vice Chair; Beaufort O. Bailey; Ted Kaplan;
Richard V. Linville; Walter Marshall; Gloria D. Whisenhunt County Manager: Dudley Watts, Jr.





Mechanical/Heating Inspector's Work Areas

MECH. / HEATING INSPECTORS	Work Area	Office Phone	Nextel Mobile	Nextel Direct Connect
Alex Ellis (Supr.)	5	747-7462	462-7501	150*1129*30
Jim Story	1	748-3098	462-7498	150*1129*27
Wade Warren	2	734-1394	462-7502	150*1129*31
Shawn Todd	3	727-2387	462-7499	150*1129*28
Troy Allgood	4	747-7431	462-7489	150*1129*18