

Mechanical News

September 2012

Questions from contractors

1. Questions : If I replace a fuel- fired furnace on the 1st floor of a house and the sleeping areas are on the 2nd floor, am I required to install Carbon Monoxide alarms at the sleeping areas ?

Answer : Yes if you install or replace any fuel-fired appliance located inside the structure Carbon Monoxide alarms must be installed outside of the sleeping area in the immediate vicinity of the bedroom(s) as directed by the alarm manufacturer.

2. Question : Am I required to perform my duct leakage test on the rough inspection ?

Answer : No section **403.2.2 NCECC** does not say that the test shall be performed prior to the rough inspection being completed. It simply states that the test shall be performed and the results shall be included on the energy certificate in accordance with section 401.3 NECC.

3. Question : I am installing a 7 ton split system and was wanting to know if I am going to be required to install an economizer on this system. ?

Answer : Yes section **503.3.1 NCECC** now requires Economizers to be installed on all cooling systems $\geq 65,000$ btu . We are in climate zone 4A and do not get the exceptions to eliminate economizers.

4. Question : What is my maximum thermostat mounting height in areas that are accessed by the public and are required to be ANSI compliant ?

Answer : ANSI **A117.1** section 308 requires the high side reach range to be a maximum of 48" above the floor.

Department changes

1. The city has made some changes to our credit card purchasing policy that will include permit purchasing. Effective September 4th 2012 credit card purchases are now limited to a \$5.00 minimum per transaction. The maximum number of transactions is 10 transactions in any 30 day period and a maximum of \$2,500 total in any 30 day period. If you are a contractor who regularly purchase 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.

2. The City of Winston Salem/ Forsyth County Inspections department has changed their cell phone contract from Nextel to Verizon. By making this switch we no longer have push to talk features on our cell phones however we all still have the same cell phone number as before. Please update your phone list and let your contacts know about this change. If anyone has a company phone directory that they would like to share with us please forward those to me and I will get them out to all of our inspectors.

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..

Contact information

If you have a 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 because we may be running behind .**You can let them know that you have your 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.



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.

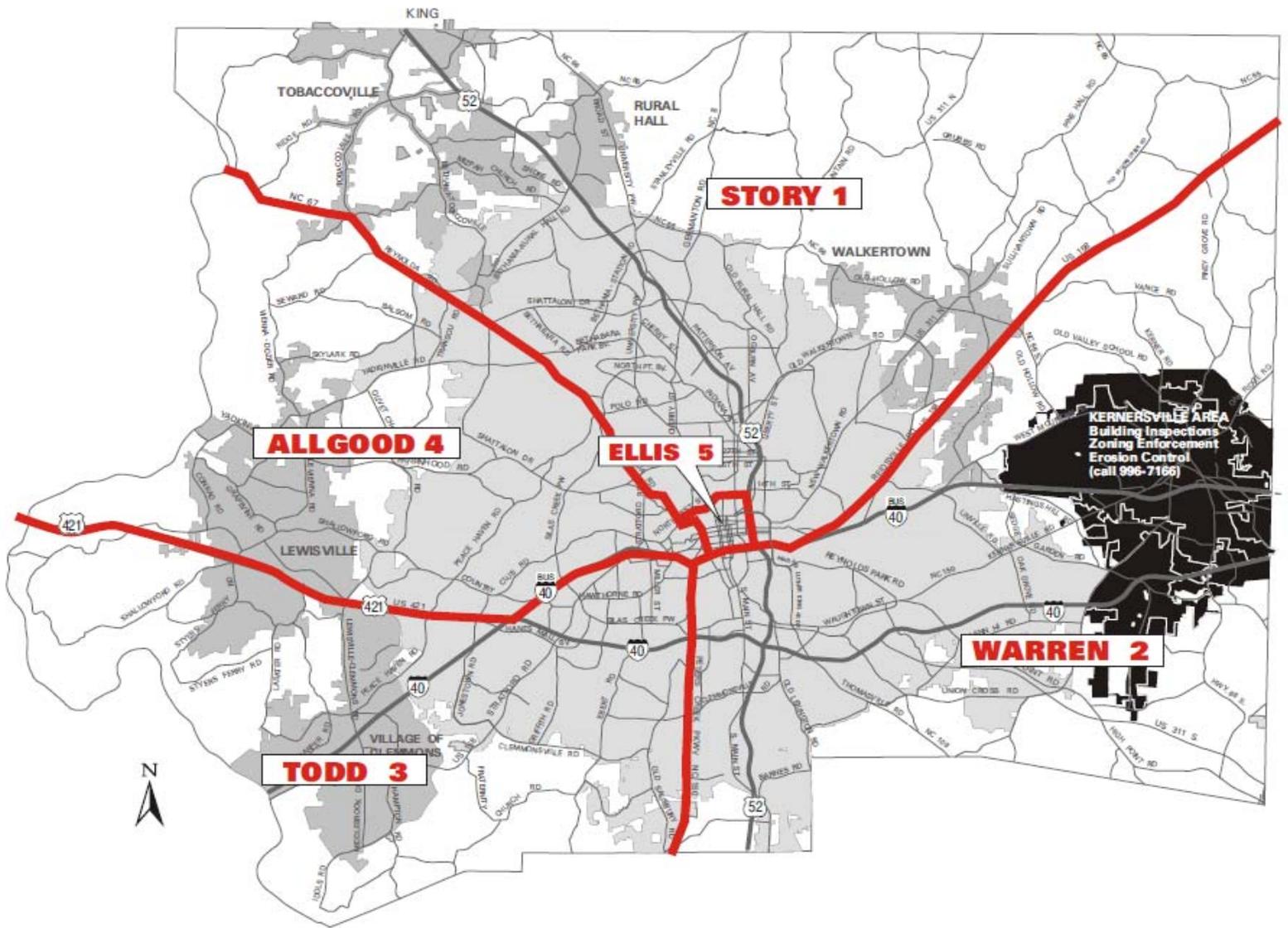
This means that mandatory continuing education as a condition of annual license renewal will no longer be required as of December 31, 2012. Licensees with a currently active license will be eligible to renew the license for 2013 without the mandatory continuing education requirement. The Board is aware 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.



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