

## **815 KAR 20:030. Plumbing licenses.**

RELATES TO: KRS 318.010, 318.020, 318.030, 318.040, 318.050, 318.054, 318.060, 318.080

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: KRS 318.040(1)(d), (2), (3), 318.050, 318.054(3), 318.130

NECESSITY, FUNCTION, AND CONFORMITY: KRS 318.130 requires the department to promulgate an administrative regulation establishing the Kentucky State Plumbing Code to regulate plumbing. KRS 318.040(1)(d) authorizes the commissioner to promulgate administrative regulations establishing qualifications for a master plumber's license and a journeyman plumber's license. KRS 318.040(2) and (3) require the department to promulgate administrative regulations establishing examination requirements. KRS 318.050 requires the department to establish reasonable application fees for licensure as a master plumber or journeyman plumber. KRS 318.054(3) requires the department to establish reasonable renewal fees for master plumbers and journeyman plumbers. This administrative regulation establishes the application, examination, and renewal requirements for master plumbers and journeyman plumbers.

### Section 1. License Requirements.

(1) Master plumber. An applicant seeking a master plumber license shall meet the following requirements:

(a) The applicant shall have:

1. A valid journeyman plumber's license for a minimum of two (2) years within the past five (5) years immediately preceding application, and be actively employed in plumbing under the supervision of a licensed master plumber for a minimum of two (2) years; or

2. An engineer license in Kentucky sufficiently experienced in mechanical engineering. The sufficiency of experience shall be determined based upon the number and complexity of the applicant's past mechanical engineer projects; and

(b) Apply for and successfully complete the master plumber examination pursuant to Section 2 of this administrative regulation with a passing score of eighty (80) percent, with a minimum of seventy five (75) percent obtained for each portion of the examination.

(2) Journeyman plumber. An applicant seeking a journeyman plumber license shall meet the following requirements:

(a) At least two (2) consecutive years of experience as an apprentice plumber demonstrated by the submission of:

1. A W-2 form;

2. An affidavit from a Kentucky licensed master plumber; or

3. A plumbing license issued by another state; or

(b) Complete a department approved course and at least one (1) year of experience as an apprentice plumber; and

(c) Apply for and successfully complete the journeyman plumber examination pursuant to Section 2 of this administrative regulation with a passing score of seventy five (75) percent, with a minimum of seventy (70) percent obtained for each portion of the examination.

(3) License fees.

(a) The master plumber license fee shall be \$250.

(b) The journeyman plumber license fee shall be sixty (60) dollars.

(c) The initial license fee for a master plumber or a journeyman plumber may be prorated for not less than seven (7) months or more than eighteen (18) months and shall expire on the final day of the applicant's birth month.

## Section 2. Examinations.

### (1) Examination applications.

(a) Master plumber examination application. An applicant for examination for a master plumber's license shall submit to the department:

1. A completed Application for License as a Master Plumber, Form PLB-1;
2. An examination fee of \$150; and
3. A passport-sized color photograph of the applicant taken within the past six (6) months.

(b) Journeyman plumber examination application. An applicant for examination for a journeyman plumber license shall submit to the department:

1. A completed Application for License as a Journeyman Plumber, Form PLB-2;
2. An examination fee of fifty (50) dollars; and
3. A passport-sized color photograph of the applicant taken within the past six (6) months.

### (2) Examination design.

(a) The examination requirements shall be designed by the State Plumbing Examining Committee.

(b) The examination requirements shall be more complex for the master plumber's license examination than the journeyman plumber's license examination.

(c) The master plumber examination shall include:

1. Answering written questions pertaining to basic principles of plumbing and KRS Chapter 318 and 815 KAR Chapter 20; and

2. Inserting the proper pipe size on a prepared drawing that indicates all stacks, wastes, and vents and the plumbing fixtures connected thereto.

a. The proper sizing of main stacks shall be given more importance than other piping.

b. Deductions shall be required for oversized piping and for undersized piping.

(d) The journeyman plumber examination shall include:

1. Answering written questions pertaining to basic principles of plumbing and KRS Chapter 318 and 815 KAR Chapter 20;

2. Inserting the proper pipe size on a prepared drawing that indicates all stacks, wastes, and vents and the plumbing fixtures connected thereto.

a. The proper sizing of main stacks shall be given more importance than other piping.

b. Deductions shall be required for oversized piping and for undersized piping; and

3. Completing a practical section in which the applicant shall demonstrate the ability to properly install plumbing by engaging in certain activities such as making proper connections of various plumbing materials.

### (3) Examination materials.

(a) An applicant for a journeyman plumber's license examination shall furnish the plumbing materials required for the practical examination.

(b) The department shall notify the applicant at least one (1) week prior to the date of examination as to what plumbing materials are needed.

### (4) Examination schedule.

(a) Regular examination of applicants for a master plumber's license or a journeyman plumber's license shall be conducted yearly during the months of February, May, August, and November.

(b) A special examination may be conducted during other times of a year as the department directs.

(c) Notice of the time and place of examination shall be given by the department at least one (1) week prior to the date of examination to each person who has an approved application on file.

### (5) Examination retakes.

(a) An applicant who fails to attend or successfully complete an examination for which he has been scheduled may request to reschedule or retake the examination within one (1) year from the date of the applicant's first notice of examination as established in subsection (2) paragraph (c) of this section. An applicant shall not resubmit the requirements in subsection 1 of this section.

(b) An applicant for a journeyman plumber's license who passes the written portion, the drawing portion, or the practical portion of the examination, but not all portions, may apply to retake the portion that he failed within one (1) year from the date of the applicant's first notice of examination.

(c) An applicant for a journeyman plumber's license who failed to achieve a passing score on the retaken portion of the examination may apply to retake the failed portion of the examination if the reexamination is completed within one (1) year from the date of the applicant's first notice of examination.

(d)1. An application for a master plumber's or journeyman plumber's license shall be void if the applicant fails to successfully complete his examination within one (1) year from the date of the applicant's first notice of examination.

2. An applicant whose application has become void pursuant to this subsection may reapply as if the applicant was a first-time applicant.

(e) An applicant must pay the full examination fee for a retake of any portion of the examination, regardless of whether the applicant is taking less than the whole examination.

### Section 3. License Renewals.

(1) Filing for renewal. A master plumber and a journeyman plumber shall submit to the department:

(a) The applicable renewal fee made payable to the Kentucky State Treasurer of:

1. \$250 for a master plumber; or
2. Sixty (60) dollars for a journeyman plumber;

(b) Proof of completing the continuing education requirements established in 815 KAR 2:010; and

(c) Proof of insurance as required by KRS 318.030 for a master plumber.

(2) Inactive license renewals.

(a) To place a plumbing license in inactive status:

1. A master plumber shall pay an initial inactive fee of \$125;
2. A journeyman plumber shall pay an initial inactive fee of thirty (30) dollars.

(b) 1. An inactive master plumber shall not secure a plumbing permit, advertise, represent himself as a qualified master plumber, or otherwise engage in the work of a master plumber.

2. An inactive journeyman plumber shall not represent himself as a qualified journeyman plumber or otherwise engage in the work of a journeyman plumber.

(c) To reactivate a plumbing license, the inactive licensed plumber shall:

1. Pay an additional reactivation fee;
  - a. \$125 for a master plumber; or
  - b. Thirty (30) dollars for a journeyman plumber;
2. Provide proof of insurance as required by KRS 318.030 for a master plumber; and
3. Comply with the continuing education requirements established in 815 KAR 2:010.

### Section 4. Change of information.

(1) A master plumber or journeyman plumber shall notify the department of any change to the name of the plumber's business and its address, employer, and the employer's address each time a change of employment is made.

(2) Death of a master plumber.

(a) If the master plumber representing a company dies, the company shall notify the department within ten (10) days of the master plumber's death.

(b) The 180 day interim period established in KRS 318.054 shall begin on the date the master plumber dies.

(c) The company shall not be required to renew the deceased's master plumber license, if the license renewal date falls within the 180 day interim period.

(d) The company shall not use the deceased master plumber's license after the expiration date of the interim period.

(e) The company shall notify the department when the company has a replacement master plumber to represent the company on or before the expiration date of the interim period.

Section 5. Incorporation by Reference.

(1) The following material is incorporated by reference:

(a) "Application for License as a Master Plumber", Form PLB-1, November 2018; and

(b) "Application for License as a Journeyman Plumber", Form PLB-2, November 2018.

(2) This material may be inspected, copied, or obtained, subject to applicable copyright law, at the Department of Housing, Buildings and Construction, Division of Plumbing, 101 Sea Hero Road, Suite 100, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601-5412, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and is available online at <http://dhbc.ky.gov>. (1 Ky.R. 756; 1348; eff. 6-11-1978; 2 Ky.R. eff. 4-14-1976; 3 Ky.R. 237; eff. 11-3-1976; Recodified from 401 KAR 1:015, 7-5-1978; 7 Ky.R. 844; eff. 4-15-1982; 12 Ky.R. 1899; eff. 7-2-1986; 13 Ky.R. 956; eff. 12-2-1986; 17 Ky.R. 2878; eff. 5-3-1991; 3521; 18 Ky.R. 283; eff. 7-30-1991; 3037; 5-28-1992; 21 Ky.R. 1388; eff. 1-9-1995; 25 Ky.R. 2467; 2902; eff. 5-26-1999; 27 Ky.R. 3374; eff. 8-15-2001; 32 Ky.R. 2361; 33 Ky.R. 403; eff. 8-10-2006; 34 Ky.R.1237; 1747; eff. 2-1-2008; 37 Ky.R. 2757; 38 Ky.R. 20; eff. 8-5-2011; 41 Ky.R. 1199; 1795; eff. 3-6-2015; 45 Ky.R. 808; 1544; eff. 1-4-2019.)