**02 DEPARTMENT OF PROFESSIONAL AND FINANCIAL REGULATION**

**41 OFFICE OF PROFESSION AND OCCUPATIONAL REGULATION**

**BOILER AND PRESSURE VESSEL SAFETY PROGRAM**

**Chapter 80: BOILER OPERATORS AND STATIONARY STEAM ENGINEERS**

**Summary**: This chapter establishes requirements for licensure and responsibilities of boiler operators and stationary steam engineers.

**SECTION 1. Application for Examination**

1. Except as otherwise permitted by Title 32, Chapter 131 of the Maine Revised Statutes, an individual must first pass an examination to qualify for licensure as a boiler operator or stationary steam engineer.
2. An individual seeking to take the required examination must submit:
3. An application on a form approved by the director; and
4. Evidence that the applicant has the experience, education or combination thereof required by 32 M.R.S. § 15109(7)(B)-(I) for that grade or class of license at the time the applicant applies for examination.
5. Experience must consist of high pressure boiler experience, excluding miniature electric boiler experience.
6. Proof of satisfactory completion of a director-approved high pressure boiler operator’s technical training course shall be considered equivalent to three (3) months of high pressure boiler experience.
7. The examination is administered by a vendor designated by the director. Once an individual is notified by Program staff that they are approved to sit for the examination, the applicant shall contact the vendor directly to arrange to sit for the examination and pay any required fees directly to the examination vendor.
8. Eligibility for examination remains valid for a period of two (2) years from the date of approval to sit for examination. An applicant who fails to pass the examination within two (2) years of approval must reapply as a new applicant.
9. The passing grade on any examination is 70%.

**SECTION 2. Application for Licensure**

1. To obtain a license, all applicants shall submit an application on a form approved by the director and the license fees required by Chapter 10 of the rules of the Office of Professional and Occupational Regulation. The director reserves the right to require an applicant to submit any other information needed to evaluate their application and qualifications for licensure.
2. If an applicant fails to apply for a license within two (2) years from the date of notification of a passing score on the examination, the applicant must reapply as a new applicant and retake the examination.
3. Applications will not be acted on until the application is complete. If an applicant does not remedy the deficiencies described by Program staff within a designated timeframe, the application may be voided and the application would need to submit a new application and any required fee to reapply.

**SECTION 3. Renewal of License**

1. **Expiration**. Except for boiler operator training permits, all licenses issued under this Chapter expire three (3) years from the date of issuance. Boiler operator training permits are issued for a one (1) year nonrenewable term.

2. **Eligibility for Renewal**. Applications for renewal of a license governed by this Chapter must be on a form provided by the director and must be accompanied by the fee as set forth in Chapter 10 of the rules of the Office of Professional and Occupational Regulation. A license may be renewed up to ninety (90) days after expiration upon payment of a late fee in addition to the renewal fee.

**SECTION 4. Renewal of License Beyond 90 Days**

1. **More than 90 Days but Not More than Two Years**. An individual who fails to renew a boiler operator or stationary steam engineer’s license for more than ninety (90) days but not more than two (2) years from the date of expiration may renew the license without taking the examination required by Section 1 of this chapter. To renew, an individual must file an application for renewal and pay the license fee, and additional late fees as set forth in chapters 10 and 11 of the rules of the Office of Professional and Occupational Regulation.

B. **More than Two Years**. An individual who fails to renew a license governed by this Chapter for more than two (2) years from the date of expiration may obtain a new license by satisfying the requirements of Title 32, Chapter 131 of the Maine Revised Statutes, and Sections 1 and 2 of this Chapter.

**SECTION 5. Attendance Requirements for Power Boilers**

If a plant can simultaneously be classified as more than one type of plant (power, process, or heating), attendance requirements must meet the most stringent attendance requirements based on operational conditions.

The following rules govern the required power boiler attendance requirements of licensed boiler operators and/or stationary steam engineers, with consideration of the method of firing fuels, equipment, or machinery being supplied, or the occupation of the building being served:

1. **Stationary Steam Engineer Duties.** A licensed stationary steam engineer’s duties include the observation and manipulation of mechanical, automatic, or remote controls and the testing, clearing, and blow-down or draining of these controls to ensure proper operation of these devices. A stationary steam engineer may also undertake routine cleaning of any boiler and its fuel burning equipment.

2. **Manual Boilers.** Manual boilers must be constantly monitored while in operation by an appropriately licensed individual.

3. **Automatic Boilers.**  If a plant can simultaneously be classified as more than one type of plant (power, process, or heating), attendance requirements must meet the most stringent attendance requirements based on possible types of plant and operational conditions.

For the purposes of this subsection, “aggregate heat input” is the potential heat input of the plant based on the capacity of the installed boilers connected to a single plant.

A. Power Plant. Boilers located in power plants must be constantly monitored while in operation by an appropriately licensed individual.

B. Process Plant.

(1) Boilers located in process plants with **1,000,000 BTU/hour or more aggregate heat input** must be monitored at least every two (2) hours while in operation by an appropriately licensed individual.

(2) Boilers located in process plants with **less than 1,000,000 BTU/hour aggregate heat input** must be monitored at least every 8 hours while in operation by an appropriately licensed individual.

Steam kettles used in cooking are considered process units.

C. Heating Plant. The attendance and monitoring requirements for heating plants are applicable when the boiler is in use and the school or building is open for public use. Any boiler located in a heating plant with **1,000,000 BTU/hour or more aggregate heat input** must be monitored at least every eight (8) hours while in operation by an appropriately licensed individual. Any boiler located in a heating plant with **less than 1,000,000 BTU/hour aggregate heat input** must be monitored at least once every twenty-four (24) hours while in operation by an appropriate licensed individual. Only properly licensed stationary steam engineers may change the controls on a high pressure boiler to operate as a low pressure boiler and vice versa.

D. Process plants and heating plants that are operated as a low pressure boiler do not have mandatory attendance requirements; however, the boiler must be operated and maintained in a safe condition.

**SECTION 6. Unsafe Conditions**

A licensed boiler operator or stationary steam engineer must report an unsafe condition involving a boiler or pressure vessel to the chief inspector immediately and in any event not later than twenty-four (24) hours after becoming aware of the condition. Notification to the chief inspector must include the licensee’s name and telephone number, the location and registration number of the boiler or pressure vessel, the name of the owner, and the nature of the unsafe condition. The licensee must provide the chief inspector any additional information requested regarding the unsafe condition of the boiler or pressure vessel.

**SECTION 7.** **Engineers-in-Charge (Duties and Responsibilities)**

1. Persons designated engineers-in-charge are responsible for the safe and proper operation and maintenance of the power boilers over which they have charge. The engineer-in-charge has the responsibility to ensure that each plant is properly staffed for safe operation. The guidelines established in rule for attendance requirements are a minimum.

2. Duties relating to the operation and maintenance of a power boiler must be performed by a stationary steam engineer under the direct authority of the engineer-in-charge.

3. On each regularly scheduled work day, the engineer-in-charge must visit the plant and leave instructions for the stationary steam engineers who will operate the power boiler. On those days that the engineer-in-charge is not scheduled to work, the engineer-in-charge must leave written instructions for the stationary steam engineers. The instructions provided by the engineer-in-charge must be made available to the chief inspector upon request.

4. The engineer-in-charge must train other stationary steam engineers under the supervision of the engineer-in-charge.

5. The engineer-in-charge must maintain a bound engineer’s log book in ink and must ensure that the log book is maintained to adequately document plant operating parameters. An electronic log book is acceptable. A copy must be maintained for a minimum of five (5) years.

AUTHORITY: 32 M.R.S. §§ 15103-A, 15109

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