

Updated WSSC Exams :

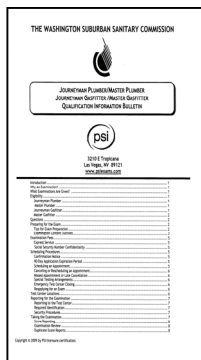
Effective April 1 the WSSC plumbing and fuel gas exams will be based to the new 2011 WSSC Plumbing & Fuel Gas Code and the 2009 versions of the International Plumbing Code and International Fuel Gas Code.

Please pass along to interested candidates.

To register, go online to www.psiexams.com or phone PSI at 800-733-9267.

For further details, you may contact Beverly Houser on 301-206-8588 or via email at bhouser@wsscwater.com

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The Enforcer: Violations & Citations:



A concerned WSSC customer contacted the Plumbing Inspection Unit Coordinator with concerns about having a gas range replaced in her residence purchased from a large "Box Store". One of the store manager's was advised by Ed James of the permit and licensing requirements prior to the installation on March 22, 2011.

Mr. James on March 25, 2011 arrived at the address and stopped the installation and found the following violations:

1. Attempting to install a gas range without the required WSSC permit.
2. The two individuals sent to do the installation did not have a WSSC Gasfitter License of any type.
3. The company that the installers work for does not have a WSSC licensed master.

4. The other "Box Store" manager was not aware that a WSSC permit and inspection was required.

5. The dispatcher in Georgia stated that the wrong contractor was sent to do the installation. The company name provided was also found not to have a WSSC licensed master. Subsequently Notice of Violations (3) have been written to all parties involved and list of all gas appliances, sold and installed, along with the addresses has been noted in the violation to the "Box Store" and the unlicensed contractor. Additional violations and civil citations are pending.

As a result of the February WSSC press release a total of at least 10 Notices of Violations' have been sent out to the companies involved. One WSSC Master Gasfitter will have it added to his record for doing plumbing work without a plumbing license and installing a gas water heater without WSSC permit. A formal complaint will be filed for each unlicensed (no WSSC License) HVAC contractor with the appropriate State Licensing Board.

It also appears that some companies are failing to comply with WSSC Section **113.13 License Display**. Each Master or Sewer and Drain Cleaner licensee-of-record shall display the license number conspicuously in the principal place(s) of business, on each vehicle used at the jobsite for providing services, and in each business advertisement in the name of the business or licensee of record per Sections 113.3 and 113.4.

Please expect the Plumbing Inspection Staff to begin checking all jobsites for supervision as required by Code.

From the Permit Counter:

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Effective February 28, 2011 WSSC now offers SpeedPay through Western Union for online purchases of **short form permits** and **cross connection test reports** via WSSC e-Services.

What does this mean to you?

- 1) You may now purchase a **maximum of FIFTY (50) short form permits** per one payment transaction online.
- 2) You may use a Credit card/Debit card/ATM card/ACH (E-Check) to purchase short form permits and cross connection test reports online via WSSC e-Services.
- 3) The processing fee associated with paying online has been reduced to \$3.00. SpeedPay will collect a fee of \$3.00 for each transaction. The money goes to Western Union for providing the service, not to WSSC.

One Stop Shop – Permit Services counter: Short form permits and cross connection test reports may still be purchased directly from a permit agent at the Permit Services counter using cash or check.

Please Note: Credit card/Debit card/ATM card/ACH (E-Check) purchases cannot be made through a permit agent. Only the master licensee or a listed proxy for that licensee may purchase short form permits and cross connection test reports from the Permit Services counter. A photo ID will be required.

Message from the Industrial Discharge Control Unit:

Cooling Towers

Working on a cooling tower? If so, is there a makeup water sub-meter and do you know where the wastewater from the tower goes? Discharges from a cooling tower typically occur from blow-down, basin drain, and basin overflow. There are two possible options for discharge; the County's storm drainage system (connected via pipe or discharged to grade) or the WSSC sanitary sewer.

If the cooling tower discharges to the ground or storm drainage system, then an NPDES permit is needed. This permit can be secured from the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) by contacting Mr. Ed Gertler at 410-537-3323.

The tower makeup water requires backflow prevention. When outfitted with a WSSC sub-meter there will be a specific code on the WSSC account to allow for sewer credits. A plumbing permit is required for a sub-meter and/or the backflow preventer as well as any modifications to the tower discharge plumbing.

A 100% sewer credit for the sub-meter registered flow is allowed when discharging to the ground or storm drainage system with an NPDES permit. The NPDES permit number will be required on the plumbing permit application.

A 73% sewer credit for the sub-meter registered flow is allowed when discharging to the sanitary sewer.

For sub-meter information visit WSSC's website at www.wsscwater.com or contact the WSSC with any questions or comments at 301-206-4003.



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Cross-Connection:

You have spoken; we are listening (*and we are acting on it*):

Improvements to the on-line cross connection program are moving along nicely. Plumbers can now view and/or print your completed test reports after submittal. Simply click on the test report number in your “used” queue and the archived report will appear for your viewing or printing needs.

Also, final implementation is underway that will allow a registered e-service user to change your PIN to what ever you would like it to be. Stay tuned for a roll out date.

Do not submit test reports for failed backflow tests. Clean and/or rebuild, re-test, then submit your report. Please report cases were property owners refuse to rebuild or replace assemblies to Don Smith: (301) 206-8601 or dsmith1@wsscwater.com.

Except for fire sprinkler systems, systems served by ASSE 1013 backflow assemblies, where both checks fail during a test, shall not be put back in service. These instances should also be reported to Don as well.

Meet our staff:



Meet Ted Podles. Ted is the Plans Review & Licensing Supervisor. He has been with WSSC for 19 years. Prior to his current position as the Plans Review & Licensing Supervisor, Ted held the titles of Plumbing Inspector and Plans Reviewer. He has spent all 19 years in the Regulatory Services Group. Before coming to WSSC, Ted worked in the plumbing trade for over 12 years.

In his spare time, Ted enjoys being outdoors, particularly biking and boating.

Updated WSSC Exams continued :

Note: the WSSC’s exam application bulletin on PSI’s website has not been updated to reflect the current books needed for the WSSC exams. The books needed are:

Plumber Exam: (Journeyman or Master)
WSSC Plumbing & Fuel Gas Code 2011
ICC Plumbing Code 2009

Gasfitter Exam: (Journeyman or Master)
WSSC Plumbing & Fuel Gas Code 2011
ICC Fuel Gas Code 2009

Where to purchase these books:

ICC books are available at the ICC Store (1-800-786-4452) or at www.iccsafe.org

WSSC book is available at WSSC Permits Counter, by phone (301-206-8634), or view code online at www.wsscwater.com

Master Plumber & Master Gasfitter Newsletter

FOG Unit Tips for NOV's part 2:

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The FOG (Fats Oils and Grease) Unit's job is to get every working, qualified food service establishment (FSE) in the WSSD initially inspected by the end of this year. By working, we mean "open for business" and by qualified we mean they appeared on the 2010 Health Department list of permitted food serving businesses and they meet minimum standards for FOG production, of any quantity.

Part of the initial inspection includes noting any and all WSSC Plumbing Code violations, the majority being related to specific FOG-related items. Last month we covered common violations and how an FSE is to go about selecting a plumber to do the applicable work.



Whenever an NOV is issued, besides clarifying the NOV verbally, the FSE representative is given fact/procedure sheets for responding to their NOV.

One information sheet is entitled "Instructions to Plumbers". Although it is the responsibility of the FSE representative to provide a copy of this paper to their selected plumber, we thought it appropriate to provide this same information here:

FOG VIOLATION INSTRUCTIONS TO PLUMBERS:

- Please read the specific requirements of the NOV that was issued to your Customer. Note the deadline dates specified for complying with the NOV and the specific items that must be corrected.
- Contact the issuing FOG Investigator to discuss the requirements of the NOV
- **IMPORTANT:** All plumbing plans related to grease (FOG) violations must be reviewed and approved by the issuing Investigator. The WSSC Plans Review staff does not review plans for grease (FOG) violation work.
- All plan submittals shall consist of, at a minimum, a sketch of the kitchen floor plan plumbing; fixture drain and pipe sizes labeled; make/model and volume (via static holding capacity in gallons) of the proposed grease (FOG) recovery (abatement) device, grease trap or interceptor; WSSC Code waiver form (if applicable); and a copy of the NOV issued to your Customer.
- **(FOG NOV) PLAN REVIEW:**
 1. Walk-ins: You must make an appointment with the issuing Investigator for same-day plans review.
 2. If you do not want to make an appointment, you can drop the plans off at the FOG Unit Office located near the Plans Review counter in WSSC's One Stop Shop (room 1098). The issuing Investigator will notify you by phone when the approved plans are ready for pick-up.
 3. Please refer all questions concerning the status of your plans to the issuing Investigator.

IMPORTANT: Call the issuing Investigator to schedule your final inspection. Do not schedule your inspection through the automated system or by calling the general inspection scheduling line!

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FOG Unit Tips for NOV's part 2 continued:

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A few notes about these unique procedures:

Although all coordination is intended to go through the original Investigator on the job (the NOV issuer), it is very likely that the Senior Investigator for the County will have to be involved in final plans review and/or inspection and approval. The current Sr. investigators are Hope Frammer for Montgomery County and Ed Hairfield for Prince Georges County. Either can act on the other's behalf if the other one is out of the office for an extended time. Although your initial contact is to be with the issuing Investigator, you may also be required to correspond with the appropriate Sr. investigator if they insist. Your primary investigator should know their limitations and/or conditions for any particular job and can assist you here.

The Sr. Investigators have decades of knowledge, experience, procedures and conditions for most any FOG NOV situation and they can provide valuable tips and advice for assuring the NOV is properly fixed. While not telling you how to do your job, they certainly can work with you to assure WSSC and the Customer are satisfied.

Recall that we are a Regulatory Unit responsible for concrete laws, permits and conditions. Our priorities are not with the cost or "practicality" of complying with an NOV---our priority is solely compliance with the NOV.

In 2010, over 60 plumbing firms had FOG NOV work that was submitted to the FOG Unit from nearly 500 NOV's issued.

We look forward to continued cooperation between the FSEs, plumbing contractors and vendors to keep the FOG out of the WSSC sewer system.

Contact Us:

Plan Review.....	301-206-8886
CC/Bkflw.....	301-206-8601
Licensing.....	301-206-8588
Short Form Inspection.....	301-206-4004
Long Form Inspection.....	301-206-8383
Gaithersburg/Seneca Depot.....	301-206-7365
Lyttonsville Depot.....	301-206-7340
Temple Hills Depot.....	301-206-7302
FOG.....	301-206-8575
Permits.....	301-206-4003

Trade Trivia

Sir John "the john" Herrington is credited with inventing the flushable toilet in 1596. He called it the "Ajax" a shortened version of "a jakes." "Jakes" was a common old slang for toilet at that time. Unfortunately, Sir John's designation for the flushable toilet didn't stick, but *his* name did.



We would like to hear from you:

Tell us what you think about this newsletter. Email your comments to: bhouser@wsscwater.com



Good-bye Winter ~ Hello Spring!

