

REQUEST FOR CHANGES PURSUANT TO G.S. 150B-21.10

AGENCY: State Board of Examiners of Plumbing, Heating and Fire Sprinkler Contractors

RULE CITATION: 21 NCAC 50 .0301

DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT: May 14, 2026

PLEASE NOTE: This request may extend to several pages. Please be sure you have reached the end of the document.

The Rules Review Commission staff has completed its review of this Rule prior to the Commission's next meeting. The Commission has not yet reviewed this Rule and therefore there has not been a determination as to whether the Rule will be approved. You may email the reviewing attorney to inquire concerning the staff recommendation.

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Introductory Statement, line 1: Please move the period in the rule citation to come immediately before "0301".

(d), second sentence: You state that the Board shall "accept" these other exams. Are these other exams being used by applicants in lieu of the Board's exam? If so, please clarify this in the rule. You use similar language in (e).

(m), line 9: For consistency with the rest of the rule, consider starting with: "Applicants for licensure as a ...".

(m), line 9: Remove the second "license" on this line. It is not needed.

(m), line 10: Add "of this Section" after "Rule .0306".

Please retype the rule accordingly and resubmit it to our office at 1711 New Hope Church Road, Raleigh, North Carolina 27609.

Christopher S. Miller
Commission Counsel

Date submitted to agency: May 1, 2026

1 21 NCAC 50. 0301 is amended as published in NCR 40: 14, pages 1215-1218, as follows:

2

3 **21 NCAC 50 .0301 QUALIFICATIONS DETERMINED BY EXAMINATION**

4 (a) In order to determine the qualifications of an applicant, the Board shall administer a written or computer-based
5 examination covering the following categories:

- 6 (1) Plumbing Contracting, Class I
- 7 (2) Plumbing Contracting, Class II
- 8 (3) Heating, Group No. 1 - Contracting, Class I
- 9 (4) Heating, Group No. 1 - Contracting, Class II
- 10 (5) Heating, Group No. 2 - Contracting, Class I
- 11 (6) Heating, Group No. 3 - Contracting, Class I
- 12 (7) Heating, Group No. 3 - Contracting, Class II
- 13 (8) Fuel Piping Contractor
- 14 (9) Fire Sprinkler Installation Contractor
- 15 (10) Fire Sprinkler Inspection Contractor
- 16 (11) Residential Fire Sprinkler Installation Contractor
- 17 (12) Restricted Limited Plumbing Contractor
- 18 (13) Fire Sprinkler Inspection Technician
- 19 (14) Limited Fire Sprinkler Maintenance Technician
- 20 (15) Plumbing Technician, Class I
- 21 (16) Plumbing Technician, Class II
- 22 (17) Heating Group No. 1 Technician, Class I
- 23 (18) Heating Group No. 1 Technician, Class II
- 24 (19) Heating Group No. 2 Technician
- 25 (20) Heating Group No. 3 Technician, Class I
- 26 (21) Heating Group No. 3 Technician, Class II
- 27 (22) Fuel Piping Technician
- 28 (23) Private Educational Institution Plumbing Technician
- 29 (24) Private Educational Institution Heating Group 1 Technician
- 30 (25) Private Educational Institution Heating Group 2 Technician
- 31 (26) Private Educational Institution Heating Group 3 Technician
- 32 (27) Residential Fire Sprinkler Design Contractor
- 33 (28) Limited Plumbing Water Heater Replacement

34 (b) Each person being examined by the Board for a contractor license, other than a Fire Sprinkler Installation or Fire
35 Sprinkler Inspection Contractor license, shall be required to pass both the business and law part and the technical part
36 of the examination required by G.S. 87-21(b).

- 1 (c) Applicants for licensure as a Fire Sprinkler Installation Contractor shall submit evidence of current certification
2 by the National Institute for Certification of Engineering Technologies (NICET) for Automated Sprinkler System
3 Layout as a prerequisite for licensure. Applicants for licensure as a Fire Sprinkler Installation Contractor shall pass
4 the business and law part of the examination administered by the Board. Persons licensed based upon NICET
5 certification shall maintain such certification as a condition of license renewal.
- 6 (d) Applicants for licensure in the Fire Sprinkler Inspection Technician classification shall pass the technical
7 examination offered by the Board. The Board shall accept the results of NICET examinations resulting in Level II
8 Certification in "Inspection and Testing of Water-based Systems" by NICET or from Academy Certification Exams
9 (ACE) examination resulting in Level II Certification in "Inspection and Testing of Water-based Systems". Persons
10 who obtain a license as a Fire Sprinkler Inspection Technician based on NICET or ACE certification shall maintain
11 such certification as a condition of license renewal.
- 12 (e) Applicants for licensure as a Fire Sprinkler Inspection Contractor shall submit evidence of Level III certification
13 in "Inspection and Testing of Water-based Fire Systems" by NICET or by Academy Certification Exams (ACE) in
14 lieu of the technical part of the Board-administered examination. Applicants for licensure as a Fire Sprinkler Inspection
15 Contractor shall also pass the business and law part of the examination administered by the Board. Contractors who
16 obtain a license by NICET or ACE certification shall maintain such certification thereafter as a condition of license
17 renewal.
- 18 (f) Applicants for licensure in the Limited Fire Sprinkler Maintenance Technician classification shall obtain a license
19 based on maintenance experience, education, and job classification, as set forth in Rule .0306 of this Section and pass
20 a test administered by the Board.
- 21 (g) Applicants for licensure as a Residential Fire Sprinkler Installation Contractor shall obtain a license based on
22 experience, as set forth in Rule .0306 of this Section, and shall pass the technical part of the Residential Fire Sprinkler
23 Installation Contractor examination.
- 24 (h) Applicants for licensure as a Plumbing, Heating, or Fuel Piping Technician shall obtain a license based on
25 experience, as set forth in Rule .0306 of this Section, and shall pass the Class I or the Class II technical and Board
26 laws and rules parts of the Board-administered examination related to the category for which a technician license is
27 sought.
- 28 (i) Applicants who hold an active Plumbing, Heating, or Fuel Piping Technician Class I or Class II license obtained
29 by examination, may obtain the Plumbing, Heating or Fuel Piping Contractor Class I or Class II license in the same
30 category and class by meeting the experience requirement listed in Rule .0306 of this Section for the specific contractor
31 license sought and by passing only the business portion of the examination.
- 32 (j) Applicants for licensure as a Restricted Limited Plumbing Contractor shall obtain a license based on experience,
33 as set forth in Rule .0306 of this Section, and shall be required to pass both the business and law part and the technical
34 part of the Restricted Limited Plumbing Contractor examination.
- 35 (k) In lieu of the requirements of Paragraph (j) of this Rule, applicants for a Restricted Limited Plumbing Contractor
36 License who present a current active License from the North Carolina Irrigation Contractor Licensing Board may take
37 the examination, provided the applicant demonstrates that he or she holds certification as a Backflow Inspector from

1 one of the municipalities in North Carolina, or demonstrates 500 hours of experience in the maintenance, service, or
2 repair of components of plumbing systems.

3 (l) In lieu of the requirements of Paragraph (j) of this Rule, applicants for a Restricted Limited Plumbing Contractor
4 License who present a current active certification as an On-site Wastewater Contractor, issued by the North Carolina
5 On-Site Wastewater Contractors and Inspectors Certification Board, may take the examination, provided the applicant
6 demonstrates that he or she has attended a minimum of 8 semester hours of education in a plumbing program through
7 a North Carolina Community College program or demonstrates 500 hours of experience in the maintenance, service,
8 or repair of components of plumbing systems.

9 (m) Applicants for a license as a Limited Plumbing Water Heater Replacement Contractor license shall obtain a
10 license based on experience set forth in Rule .0306 and shall be required to pass both the business and law part and
11 the technical part of the Limited Plumbing Water Heater Replacement Contractor examination.

12
13 *History Note: Authority G.S. 87-18; 87-21(a); 87-21(b);*
14 *Eff. February 1, 1976;*
15 *Readopted Eff. September 29, 1977;*
16 *Amended Eff. July 1, 1991; May 1, 1989; August 1, 1982;*
17 *Temporary Amendment Eff. September 15, 1997;*
18 *Amended Eff. March 1, 2005; January 1, 2004; July 1, 2003; August 1, 2002; July 1, 1998;*
19 *Emergency Amendment Eff. December 5, 2005;*
20 *Emergency Amendment Expired February 13, 2006;*
21 *Amended Eff. April 1, 2014; July 3, 2012; January 1, 2010; May 1, 2006;*
22 *Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. August 22,*
23 *2015;*
24 *Amended Eff. June 1, 2026; October 1, 2024; July 1, 2020.*
25
26

REQUEST FOR CHANGES PURSUANT TO G.S. 150B-21.10

AGENCY: State Board of Examiners of Plumbing, Heating and Fire Sprinkler Contractors

RULE CITATION: 21 NCAC 50 .0306

DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT: May 14, 2026

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Form 0400: You used an outdated version of the Form 0400. There is a new version available on OAH's website at <https://www.oah.nc.gov/rules-form-0400-submission-permanent-rule>. Please use the updated form.

In addition, can you please direct me to the Rulemaking Notice on your website, that complies with the requirements of § 150B-19.1(c)? I could not find it.

Introductory Statement, line 1: This is not the correct format for citing to the Register. Please see a proper example at <https://www.oah.nc.gov/documents/rules/permanent-amendment-no-change-publication/download?attachment>. Please update accordingly.

*(a): You mention an application form here as part of the licensure requirements. Please confirm that your rules and G.S. 87-21 spell out **all** of the required information that is included in this form. If not, you will need to incorporate this (to comply with § 150B-2(8a)(d)).*

(m), line 5: For consistency with the rest of the rule, consider starting with: "Applicants for licensure as a ..." or "Applicants for a Limited Plumbing Water Heater Replacement Contractor license ...".

(m), line 5: Remove the second "license" on this line. It is not needed.

(m), line 7: Add "are" before "in good standing".

(m), lines 7 and 8: Capitalize "board".

(m), line 7: Add a comma before "and has attended and completed ...".

Christopher S. Miller
Commission Counsel

Date submitted to agency: May 1, 2026

(m), line 8: Add a comma after “sizing”.

(m), line 9: Remove “an” before “existing potable water heaters”.

Please retype the rule accordingly and resubmit it to our office at 1711 New Hope Church Road, Raleigh, North Carolina 27609.

Christopher S. Miller
Commission Counsel
Date submitted to agency: May 1, 2026

1 21 NCAC 50 .0306 is amended as published in NCR 40: 14, pages 1215-1218, as follows:

2
3 **21 NCAC 50 .0306 APPLICATIONS: ISSUANCE OF LICENSE**

4 (a) All applicants for licensure or examination shall submit an application, setting forth the information required in
5 G.S. 87-21 and the rules of this Chapter, on a form available on the Board website, <http://www.nclicensing.org>. or at
6 the Board office.

7 (b) Applicants for a plumbing or heating examination shall present evidence when submitting an application to
8 establish completion of two years of full-time experience in the installation, maintenance, service, or repair of
9 plumbing or heating systems related to the category for which a license is sought, whether or not a license was required
10 for the work performed. Applicants for a fuel piping examination shall present evidence when submitting an
11 application to establish completion of one year of experience in the installation, maintenance, service, or repair of fuel
12 piping, whether or not a license was required for the work performed. Up to one-half of the experience may be in
13 academic or technical training related to the field of endeavor for which examination is requested. The Board shall
14 prorate part-time work of less than 40 hours per week or part-time academic work of less than 15 semester or quarter
15 hours.

16 (c) The Board shall issue a license certificate bearing the license number assigned to the qualifying individual.

17 (d) Fire Sprinkler Installation Contractors shall meet experience requirements in accordance with the National
18 Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies (NICET) examination criteria.

19 (e) Applicants for examination or licensure in the Fire Sprinkler Inspection Technician classification shall submit
20 evidence adequate to establish that the applicant has either:

21 (1) 4000 hours of experience in inspection and testing of previously installed fire sprinkler systems,
22 consistent with NFPA-25: Standard for the Inspection Testing and Maintenance of Water-Based
23 Fire Protection Systems of the National Fire Protection Association, adopted by the North Carolina
24 Building Code, which is hereby incorporated by reference, including all subsequent editions and
25 amendments, as a full-time employee of a Fire Sprinkler Inspection Contractor or fire insurance
26 underwriting organization. The document may be accessed free of charge at
27 <http://www.nfpa.org/codes-and-standards/>;

28 (2) 4000 hours of experience as a full-time employee of a hospital, manufacturing, government, or
29 university facility under direct supervision of Fire Sprinkler Inspection Contractor or a Fire
30 Sprinkler Inspection Technician involved in inspection and testing of previously installed fire
31 sprinkler systems, consistent with NFPA 25: Standard for the Inspection, Testing, and Maintenance
32 of Water-Based Fire Protection Systems of the National Fire Protection Association, which is hereby
33 incorporated by reference, including all subsequent editions and amendments. The document may
34 be accessed free of charge at <http://www.nfpa.org/codes-and-standards/>;

35 (3) 4000 hours of experience in installation of fire sprinkler systems as a full-time employee of a Fire
36 Sprinkler Installation Contractor; or

37 (4) a combination of 4000 hours of experience in any of the categories listed in this Paragraph.

- 1 (f) Applicants for licensure in the Fire Sprinkler Inspection Contractor classification shall meet experience
2 requirements in accordance with the National Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies (NICET) or the
3 Academy Certification Exams (ACE) certification criteria.
- 4 (g) Applicants for initial licensure in the Limited Fire Sprinkler Maintenance Technician classification shall submit
5 evidence of 2000 hours experience at the place for which license is sought as a full-time maintenance employee in
6 facility maintenance with experience in periodic maintenance of fire protection systems, as described in Rule .0515
7 of this Chapter. Applicants who have held a Limited Fire Sprinkler Maintenance Technician license previously are
8 not required to demonstrate experience in addition to the experience at the time of initial licensure, but shall submit a
9 new application if relocating to a new location.
- 10 (h) Applicants for licensure in the Residential Fire Sprinkler Installation Contractor classification shall hold an active
11 Plumbing Class I or Class II Contractor license issued by the Board for a minimum of two years and shall document
12 attendance at a 16-hour course approved by the Board pursuant to the Rules in this Chapter covering NFPA 13D:
13 Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems in One-and Two-Family Dwellings and Manufactured Homes,
14 which is hereby incorporated by reference, including all subsequent editions and amendments. The document may be
15 accessed free of charge at <http://www.nfpa.org/codes-and-standards/>. Residential Fire Sprinkler Installation
16 Contractors shall maintain a Plumbing Contractor license as a condition of renewal of the Residential Fire Sprinkler
17 Installation Contractor license.
- 18 (i) Applicants for Licensure as a plumbing or heating Class I technician shall present evidence adequate to establish
19 3000 hours of full-time experience in the installation, maintenance, service, or repair of plumbing or heating systems
20 related to the category for which a technician license is sought, whether or not a license was required for the work
21 performed. Applicants for a license as a plumbing or heating Class II technician shall present evidence adequate to
22 establish 2500 hours of full-time experience in the installation, maintenance, service, or repair of plumbing or heating
23 systems related to the category for which a technician license is sought, whether or not a license was required for the
24 work performed. Applicants for a license as a fuel piping Class I technician shall present evidence adequate to establish
25 1500 hours of experience in the installation, maintenance, service, or repair of fuel piping, whether or not a license
26 was required for the work performed. Applicants for a license as a fuel piping Class II technician shall present evidence
27 adequate to establish 1500 hours of experience in the installation, maintenance, service, or repair of fuel piping,
28 whether or not a license was required for the work performed. Up to one-half of the experience may be in academic
29 or technical training related to the field of endeavor for which the examination is requested.
- 30 (j) Applicants for a Restricted Limited Plumbing Contractor license shall present evidence at the time of application
31 to establish 1500 hours of full-time experience in the installation, maintenance, service, or repair of plumbing systems,
32 whether or not a license was required for the work performed. Up to one-half of the experience may be in academic
33 or technical training related to the field of endeavor for which examination is requested. The Board shall prorate part-
34 time work of fewer than 40 hours per week or part-time academic work of less than 15 semester or quarter hours.
- 35 (k) In lieu of the requirements of Paragraph (j) of this Rule, applicants for a Restricted Limited Plumbing Contractor
36 License who present a current active License from the North Carolina Irrigation Contractor Licensing Board may take
37 the examination, provided the applicant demonstrates that he or she holds certification as a Backflow Inspector from

1 one of the municipalities in North Carolina, or demonstrates 500 hours of experience in the maintenance, service, or
2 repair of components of plumbing systems.

3 (l) Applicants for license based on completion of an apprenticeship program as described in G.S. 93B-8.6(b) shall
4 meet the same experience and training requirements for the category of license sought as is set forth in this Rule.

5 (m) Applicants for a license as a Limited Plumbing Water Heater Replacement Contractor license shall present
6 evidence at the time of application to establish that they have held a heating or fuel piping technician or contractor
7 license for a minimum of two years, in good standing with the board and has attended and completed a 6-hour course
8 approved by the board that covers North Carolina State Residential Plumbing codes requirements, sizing and
9 installation techniques that relate to the replacement of an existing potable water heaters.

10
11 *History Note: Authority G.S. 87-18; 87-21(b);*
12 *Eff. February 1, 1976;*
13 *Readopted Eff. September 29, 1977;*
14 *Amended Eff. January 1, 2004; July 1, 2003; August 1, 2002; July 1, 1998; September 1, 1994;*
15 *November 1, 1993; April 1, 1991; May 1, 1990;*
16 *Temporary Amendment Eff. August 31, 2004;*
17 *Amended Eff. April 1, 2014; July 3, 2012; January 1, 2010; June 1, 2006; March 1, 2005;*
18 *Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. August 22,*
19 *2015;*
20 *Amended Eff. June 1, 2026; October 1, 2024; July 1, 2020; April 1, 2018.*

REQUEST FOR CHANGES PURSUANT TO G.S. 150B-21.10

AGENCY: State Board of Examiners of Plumbing, Heating and Fire Sprinkler Contractors

RULE CITATION: 21 NCAC 50.0521

DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT: May 14, 2026

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Introductory Statement, line 1: Please move the period in the rule citation to come immediately before "0521".

(3): Consider changing "cannot" to "shall not".

(4): Are the North Carolina Building Codes already properly incorporated into your rules? If so, can you point me to that rule(s)? You may want to add language here.

History Note, line 19: Change the semi-colon at the end to a period.

Please retype the rule accordingly and resubmit it to our office at 1711 New Hope Church Road, Raleigh, North Carolina 27609.

Christopher S. Miller
Commission Counsel
Date submitted to agency: May 1, 2026

1 21 NCAC 50. 0521 is adopted with changes as published in NCR 40: 14, pages 1215-1218, as follows:

2

3 **21 NCAC 50 .0521 LIMITED PLUMBING WATER HEATER REPLACEMENT CONTRACTOR**
4 **LICENSE**

5 Licensure in the Limited Plumbing Water Heater Replacement classification is required of persons who do not possess
6 a license as a plumbing contractor, but contract the replacement of a potable water heater under the following
7 limitations:

- 8 (1) The water heater is being installed in a single family detached residential dwelling.
- 9 (2) The contractor shall install the water heater in the same area as the water heater being replaced and
10 can install no more than a total of 10 lineal feet of water distribution piping to properly connect the
11 water heater to the existing water distribution system.
- 12 (3) The ~~Restricted Limited Plumbing~~ Water Heater Replacement Contractor licensee cannot install
13 recirculating loop piping but may reconnect to existing loop piping as long as the total lineal footage
14 of water distribution pipe for the water heater replacement does not exceed 10 lineal feet.
- 15 (4) All work meets the minimum standard of the North Carolina Building Codes and permitting
16 requirements.

17

18 *History Note: Authority G.S. 87-18; 87-21;*

19 *Eff. June 1, 2026;*

20

REQUEST FOR CHANGES PURSUANT TO G.S. 150B-21.10

AGENCY: State Board of Examiners of Plumbing, Heating and Fire Sprinkler Contractors

RULE CITATION: 21 NCAC 50 .1101

DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT: May 14, 2026

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(a): Add a comma after "partnership".

(c), line 11: In the rule citation, please move the period to immediately come before "1102".

Please retype the rule accordingly and resubmit it to our office at 1711 New Hope Church Road, Raleigh, North Carolina 27609.

Christopher S. Miller
Commission Counsel
Date submitted to agency: May 1, 2026

1 21 NCAC 50 .1101 is amended as published in NCR 40: 14, pages 1215-1218, as follows:

2

3 **21 NCAC 50 .1101 EXAMINATION FEES**

4 (a) An application to reissue or transfer a license to a different corporation, partnership or individual name requires a
5 fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00).

6 (b) An application to issue or transfer a license to the license of an existing licensee requires a fee of twenty-five
7 dollars (\$25.00).

8 (c) An application for a license by examination requires a fee of ~~one hundred dollars (\$100.00)~~, one hundred-fifty
9 dollars (\$150.00), consisting of an application fee of ~~twenty-five dollars (\$25.00)~~ seventy-five dollars (\$75.00) and an
10 examination fee of seventy-five dollars (\$75.00), which is nonrefundable. Upon passage of the examination, the
11 license fee set forth in 21 NCAC 50. 1102 must be paid to obtain the license within 45 days of notification of the result
12 of the examination, except that anyone passing the examination on or after October 1 of any year may elect to obtain
13 a license for the following year rather than the year in which the exam was passed.

14

15 *History Note: Authority G.S. 87-18; 87-22.1; 87-22; 87-26;*

16 *Eff. May 1, 1989;*

17 *Temporary Amendment Eff. November 17, 1989 for a period of 77 days to expire on February 1,*
18 *1990;*

19 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2000; November 1, 1993; March 1, 1990;*

20 *Temporary Amendment Eff. August 31, 2001;*

21 *Amended Eff. March 1, 2005; December 1, 2003; April 1, 2003; December 4, 2002;*

22 *Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. August 22,*
23 *2015;*

24 *Amended Eff. June 1, 2026; March 1, 2023.*

25

26