

1 ~~21 NCAC 50.0301~~ 21 NCAC 50.0301 is amended with changes as published in ~~NCR 40-14, pages 1215-1218, 40:14~~
2 NCR 1215 as follows:

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4 **21 NCAC 50.0301 QUALIFICATIONS DETERMINED BY EXAMINATION**

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

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

35 (b) Each person being examined by the Board for a contractor license, other than a Fire Sprinkler Installation or Fire
36 Sprinkler Inspection Contractor license, shall be required to pass both the business and law part and the technical part
37 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"-] Systems"
10 in lieu of the technical part of the Board-administered examination. Applicants Persons who obtain a license as a Fire
11 Sprinkler Inspection Technician based on NICET or ACE certification shall maintain such certification as a condition
12 of license renewal.
- 13 (e) Applicants for licensure as a Fire Sprinkler Inspection Contractor shall submit evidence of Level III certification
14 in "Inspection and Testing of Water-based Fire Systems" by NICET or by Academy Certification Exams (ACE) in
15 lieu of the technical part of the Board-administered examination. Applicants for licensure as a Fire Sprinkler Inspection
16 Contractor shall also pass the business and law part of the examination administered by the Board. Contractors who
17 obtain a license by NICET or ACE certification shall maintain such certification thereafter as a condition of license
18 renewal.
- 19 (f) Applicants for licensure in the Limited Fire Sprinkler Maintenance Technician classification shall obtain a license
20 based on maintenance experience, education, and job classification, as set forth in Rule .0306 of this Section and pass
21 a test administered by the Board.
- 22 (g) Applicants for licensure as a Residential Fire Sprinkler Installation Contractor shall obtain a license based on
23 experience, as set forth in Rule .0306 of this Section, and shall pass the technical part of the Residential Fire Sprinkler
24 Installation Contractor examination.
- 25 (h) Applicants for licensure as a Plumbing, Heating, or Fuel Piping Technician shall obtain a license based on
26 experience, as set forth in Rule .0306 of this Section, and shall pass the Class I or the Class II technical and Board
27 laws and rules parts of the Board-administered examination related to the category for which a technician license is
28 sought.
- 29 (i) Applicants who hold an active Plumbing, Heating, or Fuel Piping Technician Class I or Class II license obtained
30 by examination, may obtain the Plumbing, Heating or Fuel Piping Contractor Class I or Class II license in the same
31 category and class by meeting the experience requirement listed in Rule .0306 of this Section for the specific contractor
32 license sought and by passing only the business portion of the examination.
- 33 (j) Applicants for licensure as a Restricted Limited Plumbing Contractor shall obtain a license based on experience,
34 as set forth in Rule .0306 of this Section, and shall be required to pass both the business and law part and the technical
35 part of the Restricted Limited Plumbing Contractor examination.
- 36 (k) In lieu of the requirements of Paragraph (j) of this Rule, applicants for a Restricted Limited Plumbing Contractor
37 License who present a current active License from the North Carolina Irrigation Contractor Licensing Board may take

1 the examination, provided the applicant demonstrates that he or she holds certification as a Backflow Inspector from
2 one of the municipalities in North Carolina, or demonstrates 500 hours of experience in the maintenance, service, or
3 repair of components of plumbing systems.

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

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

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15 *History Note: Authority G.S. 87-18; 87-21(a); 87-21(b);*
16 *Eff. February 1, 1976;*
17 *Readopted Eff. September 29, 1977;*
18 *Amended Eff. July 1, 1991; May 1, 1989; August 1, 1982;*
19 *Temporary Amendment Eff. September 15, 1997;*
20 *Amended Eff. March 1, 2005; January 1, 2004; July 1, 2003; August 1, 2002; July 1, 1998;*
21 *Emergency Amendment Eff. December 5, 2005;*
22 *Emergency Amendment Expired February 13, 2006;*
23 *Amended Eff. April 1, 2014; July 3, 2012; January 1, 2010; May 1, 2006;*
24 *Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. August 22,*
25 *2015;*
26 *Amended Eff. June 1, 2026; October 1, 2024; July 1, 2020.*
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1 21 NCAC 50 .0306 is amended with changes as published in NCR 40: 14, pages 1215-1218, 40:14 NCR 1215 as
2 follows:

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4 **21 NCAC 50 .0306 APPLICATIONS: ISSUANCE OF LICENSE**

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

- 8 (1) Licensure and exam type requested;
- 9 (2) Last name, first name, and middle name of applicant;
- 10 (3) Date of application;
- 11 (4) Social Security Number;
- 12 (5) Date of Birth;
- 13 (6) Mailing address;
- 14 (7) Telephone numbers;
- 15 (8) Email address;
- 16 (9) Applicant's dated signature;
- 17 (10) Any tax documents evidencing experience as an employee of a licensed contractor;
- 18 (11) Experience description including number of hours of experience claimed and whether the
19 experience involved maintenance, installation, or repair;
- 20 (12) Experience verification with notarized signature of current or former employers;
- 21 (13) Exam fee (credit card, check, or money order);
- 22 (14) Whether the applicant has ever been charged or convicted of a crime and description of the
23 same;
- 24 (15) Whether the applicant is incarcerated, paroled, or on probation;
- 25 (16) Signed authorization for a criminal background check;
- 26 (17) License type and number if applicant holds other licenses issued by Board;
- 27 (18) Whether the applicant requests to take the examination outside of North Carolina;
- 28 (19) Signed authorization for release of social security number to the United State Social Security
29 Administration for purposes of verification of social security number; and
- 30 (20) If applicable, any military or military spouse experience claimed.

31 (b) Applicants for a plumbing or heating examination shall present evidence when submitting an application to
32 establish completion of two years of full-time experience in the installation, maintenance, service, or repair of
33 plumbing or heating systems related to the category for which a license is sought, whether or not a license was required
34 for the work performed. Applicants for a fuel piping examination shall present evidence when submitting an
35 application to establish completion of one year of experience in the installation, maintenance, service, or repair of fuel
36 piping, whether or not a license was required for the work performed. Up to one-half of the experience may be in
37 academic or technical training related to the field of endeavor for which examination is requested. The Board shall

1 prorate part-time work of less than 40 hours per week or part-time academic work of less than 15 semester or quarter
2 hours.

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

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

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

8 (1) 4000 hours of experience in inspection and testing of previously installed fire sprinkler systems,
9 consistent with NFPA-25: Standard for the Inspection Testing and Maintenance of Water-Based
10 Fire Protection Systems of the National Fire Protection Association, adopted by the North Carolina
11 Building Code, which is hereby incorporated by reference, including all subsequent editions and
12 amendments, as a full-time employee of a Fire Sprinkler Inspection Contractor or fire insurance
13 underwriting organization. The document may be accessed free of charge at
14 <http://www.nfpa.org/codes-and-standards/>;

15 (2) 4000 hours of experience as a full-time employee of a hospital, manufacturing, government, or
16 university facility under direct supervision of Fire Sprinkler Inspection Contractor or a Fire
17 Sprinkler Inspection Technician involved in inspection and testing of previously installed fire
18 sprinkler systems, consistent with NFPA 25: Standard for the Inspection, Testing, and Maintenance
19 of Water-Based Fire Protection Systems of the National Fire Protection Association, which is hereby
20 incorporated by reference, including all subsequent editions and amendments. The document may
21 be accessed free of charge at <http://www.nfpa.org/codes-and-standards/>;

22 (3) 4000 hours of experience in installation of fire sprinkler systems as a full-time employee of a Fire
23 Sprinkler Installation Contractor; or

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

25 (f) Applicants for licensure in the Fire Sprinkler Inspection Contractor classification shall meet experience
26 requirements in accordance with the National Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies (NICET) or the
27 Academy Certification Exams (ACE) certification criteria.

28 (g) Applicants for initial licensure in the Limited Fire Sprinkler Maintenance Technician classification shall submit
29 evidence of 2000 hours experience at the place for which license is sought as a full-time maintenance employee in
30 facility maintenance with experience in periodic maintenance of fire protection systems, as described in Rule .0515
31 of this Chapter. Applicants who have held a Limited Fire Sprinkler Maintenance Technician license previously are
32 not required to demonstrate experience in addition to the experience at the time of initial licensure, but shall submit a
33 new application if relocating to a new location.

34 (h) Applicants for licensure in the Residential Fire Sprinkler Installation Contractor classification shall hold an active
35 Plumbing Class I or Class II Contractor license issued by the Board for a minimum of two years and shall document
36 attendance at a 16-hour course approved by the Board pursuant to the Rules in this Chapter covering NFPA 13D:
37 Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems in One-and Two-Family Dwellings and Manufactured Homes,

1 which is hereby incorporated by reference, including all subsequent editions and amendments. The document may be
2 accessed free of charge at <http://www.nfpa.org/codes-and-standards/>. Residential Fire Sprinkler Installation
3 Contractors shall maintain a Plumbing Contractor license as a condition of renewal of the Residential Fire Sprinkler
4 Installation Contractor license.

5 (i) Applicants for Licensure as a plumbing or heating Class I technician shall present evidence adequate to establish
6 3000 hours of full-time experience in the installation, maintenance, service, or repair of plumbing or heating systems
7 related to the category for which a technician license is sought, whether or not a license was required for the work
8 performed. Applicants for a license as a plumbing or heating Class II technician shall present evidence adequate to
9 establish 2500 hours of full-time experience in the installation, maintenance, service, or repair of plumbing or heating
10 systems related to the category for which a technician license is sought, whether or not a license was required for the
11 work performed. Applicants for a license as a fuel piping Class I technician shall present evidence adequate to establish
12 1500 hours of experience in the installation, maintenance, service, or repair of fuel piping, whether or not a license
13 was required for the work performed. Applicants for a license as a fuel piping Class II technician shall present evidence
14 adequate to establish 1500 hours of experience in the installation, maintenance, service, or repair of fuel piping,
15 whether or not a license was required for the work performed. Up to one-half of the experience may be in academic
16 or technical training related to the field of endeavor for which the examination is requested.

17 (j) Applicants for a Restricted Limited Plumbing Contractor license shall present evidence at the time of application
18 to establish 1500 hours of full-time experience in the installation, maintenance, service, or repair of plumbing systems,
19 whether or not a license was required for the work performed. Up to one-half of the experience may be in academic
20 or technical training related to the field of endeavor for which examination is requested. The Board shall prorate part-
21 time work of fewer than 40 hours per week or part-time academic work of less than 15 semester or quarter hours.

22 (k) In lieu of the requirements of Paragraph (j) of this Rule, applicants for a Restricted Limited Plumbing Contractor
23 License who present a current active License from the North Carolina Irrigation Contractor Licensing Board may take
24 the examination, provided the applicant demonstrates that he or she holds certification as a Backflow Inspector from
25 one of the municipalities in North Carolina, or demonstrates 500 hours of experience in the maintenance, service, or
26 repair of components of plumbing systems.

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

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

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36 *History Note: Authority G.S. 87-18; 87-21(b);*
37 *Eff. February 1, 1976;*

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Readopted Eff. September 29, 1977;
Amended Eff. January 1, 2004; July 1, 2003; August 1, 2002; July 1, 1998; September 1, 1994;
November 1, 1993; April 1, 1991; May 1, 1990;
Temporary Amendment Eff. August 31, 2004;
Amended Eff. April 1, 2014; July 3, 2012; January 1, 2010; June 1, 2006; March 1, 2005;
Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. August 22,
2015;
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1 ~~21 NCAC 50.0521~~ 21 NCAC 50.0521 is adopted with changes as published in NCR 40-14, pages 1215-1218, 40:14
2 NCR 1215 as follows:

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4 **21 NCAC 50.0521 LIMITED PLUMBING WATER HEATER REPLACEMENT CONTRACTOR**
5 **LICENSE**

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

- 9 (1) The water heater is being installed in a single family detached residential dwelling.
10 (2) The contractor shall install the water heater in the same area as the water heater being replaced and
11 can install no more than a total of 10 lineal feet of water distribution piping to properly connect the
12 water heater to the existing water distribution system.
13 (3) The ~~Restricted~~ Limited Plumbing Water Heater Replacement Contractor licensee ~~cannot~~ shall not
14 install recirculating loop piping but may reconnect to existing loop piping as long as the total lineal
15 footage of water distribution pipe for the water heater replacement does not exceed 10 lineal feet.
16 (4) All work meets the minimum standard of the North Carolina Building Codes and permitting
17 ~~requirements.~~ requirements as incorporated by reference in 21 NCAC 50.0414.

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19 *History Note: Authority G.S. 87-18; 87-21;*
20 *Eff. June 1, 2026; Eff. June 1, 2026.*
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1 21 NCAC 50 .1101 is amended with changes as published in NCR 40: 14, pages 1215-1218, 40:14 NCR 1215 as
2 follows:

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4 **21 NCAC 50 .1101 EXAMINATION FEES**

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

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

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

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

17 *Eff. May 1, 1989;*

18 *Temporary Amendment Eff. November 17, 1989 for a period of 77 days to expire on February 1,*
19 *1990;*

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

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

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

23 *Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. August 22,*
24 *2015;*

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