

Chapter 60CERTIFICATION OF PLUMBERS, ELECTRICIANS AND BUILDING-RELATED
MECHANICAL WORKERS**Sections:**

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Adopted by the Town Council of the Town of Front Royal 8-13-84 as Ord. No. 9-84. Amendments noted where applicable.

60-1 DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter, the following words and terms shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

AGENT - The designated authority charged by the governing body to examine and determine a person's qualifications for certification in accordance with standards and procedures established pursuant to Title 15.1, Chapter 1, Section 15.1-11.4, of the Code of Virginia.

BUILDING-RELATED MECHANICAL WORKER - Any person who engages in or offers to engage in, for the general public for compensation, the installation, maintenance or alteration of mechanical systems, including: heating systems; ventilating systems; cooling systems; steam- and hot-water heating systems; water heaters; process piping; boilers and pressure vessels; appliances utilizing gas, liquid or solid fuel; chimneys and vents; mechanical refrigeration systems; fireplaces; barbecues; incinerators; crematories; fire-suppression systems; and air pollution systems.

CERTIFICATION - The process whereby a duly appointed local agent issues a certificate to an applicant certifying that person's accordance with the standards and procedures established pursuant to Title 15.1, Chapter 1, Section 15.1-11.4, of the Code of Virginia.

ELECTRICIAN - Any person who engages in or offers to engage in, for the general public for compensation, erecting, installing or repairing all forms of electric wiring, electric devices,

electric fixtures, electric motors and electric materials, but who shall not engage in the designing of electrical layouts or systems.

HELPER (LABORER) - Any person who is under the supervision of and assists a plumber, electrician or building-related mechanical worker in the performance of their duties and by reason of experience and education is not able to satisfy the ability and proficiency standards established in this chapter for a Level One certification.

PLUMBER - Any person who engages in or offers to engage in, for the general public for compensation, installing, maintaining, extending and altering all piping, fixtures, plumbing appliances and plumbing appurtenances in connection with sanitary drainage or storm drainage, venting systems and public or private water supply systems; within or adjacent to any building or structure.

60-2 APPLICABILITY

This chapter shall apply to any person who engages in or offers to engage in, for the general public for compensation, plumbing, electrical or building-related mechanical work in the Town of Front Royal, such that his practice requires specialized skill or training, and that the public needs, and will benefit by, assurance of his professional and occupational ability. Furthermore, no helper or laborer shall be employed to assist with any electrical, plumbing or building-related mechanical work requiring a building permit unless a certified plumber, electrician or building-related mechanical worker is present.

60-3 EXEMPTIONS

The following are exemptions from certification:

- A. Any person holding a valid certification issued after July 1, 1978, by another county, city or town in the commonwealth in accordance with the provision of Section 15.1-11.4 of the Code of Virginia.
- B. Any person certified or licensed in his trade prior to July 1, 1978, in accordance with provisions made by any local governing body in the commonwealth.
- C. Any person who shall have paid for a local license to the city, town or county in which his principal office and branch offices may be located, and who is thereby exempt from obtaining a Front Royal business license under the provisions of Section 58-299 of the Code of Virginia.
- D. Any person holding a valid Class A contractor's license in the appropriate classification, as duly registered by the State Registration Board for Contractors, pursuant to Title 54, Chapter 7, of the Code of Virginia.
- E. Any person employed as a helper or laborer, as defined within this chapter.

F. Any person issued a certificate of journeymanship after completing an apprenticeship program approved by the Virginia Apprenticeship Council.

G. Any person doing work on his or her own property.

60-4 ADMINISTRATIVE AND ENFORCEMENT AGENT

The Town Manager, or his designee, is hereby appointed as the agent for the purpose of examining and determining applicants' qualifications for certification in their trade. The agent shall have the power and it shall be his duty to receive applications for certification as plumbers, electricians or building-related mechanical workers, to examine all such applicants, to grant certificates in accordance with the standards established pursuant to Title 15.1, Chapter 1, Section 15.1-11.4, of the Code of Virginia, and to deny certification to those applicants who fail to meet these standards. The agent shall enforce all the provisions of this chapter and shall utilize the procedures for certification as prescribed herein.

60-5 CERTIFICATE REQUIRED; APPLICATION; FEE; LEVELS OF CERTIFICATION

A. Every person desiring to engage in plumbing, building-related mechanical work or electrical work in the Town of Front Royal first must obtain a Level One (journeyman) or a Level Two (master) certificate in accordance with the provisions of this chapter, unless otherwise exempted herein.

B. Application for certification shall be in writing, on forms provided by the town's agent and obtainable at the Town Hall. All applications shall be accompanied by a fee of fifty dollars (\$50.).

C. Application for certification in specified areas of competence shall be for one (1) of two (2) levels of certification:

1. Level One (journeyman): a certificate issued to a person who possesses the necessary ability, proficiency and qualifications to perform the work of installing, repairing and maintaining specific types of equipment and related apparatus and who is capable of performing such tasks utilizing a working knowledge sufficient to comply with the pertinent provisions of the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code and according to plans and specifications complying with the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code. The holder of a Level One certificate shall be limited to the type of work and types of equipment and related apparatus for which certification is granted.

2. Level Two (master): a certificate issued to a person who possesses the necessary ability, proficiency and qualifications to supervise the work of installing, repairing and maintaining specific types of equipment and related apparatus utilizing a working knowledge sufficient to comply with the pertinent provisions of the Uniform Statewide Building Code and to plan and lay out the details of installation of specific types of equipment and related apparatus according to plans and specifications complying with the Virginia Uniform Statewide

Building Code. The holder of a Level Two certificate shall be limited to the type of work and types of equipment related to apparatus for which certification is granted.

60-6 CERTIFICATION STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES

Each applicant for certification shall be required to fulfill the standards established for determining ability and proficiency and qualifications in the area of expertise specified on the application.

A. Ability and proficiency.

1. Level One (journeyman). Applicants desiring to obtain certification at Level One shall provide evidence that one (1) of the following experience and education standards have been attained:

a. Four (4) years of practical experience in the specified trade or directly related area of expertise for which certification is desired.

b. Successful completion prior to July 1, 1981, of a registered apprenticeship established in accordance with the Virginia Voluntary Apprenticeship Act in trade for which certification is desired.

c. An associate degree in a curriculum related to the trade for which certification is desired and two (2) years of practical experience in the trade for which certification is desired.

d. A bachelor's degree in the study of engineering in a curriculum related to the trade for which certification is desired and one (1) year of practical experience in the trade for which certification is desired.

2. Level two (master). Applicants desiring to obtain certification at Level Two shall furnish evidence that they have met the following experience or standards: one (1) year of experience supervising the installation or repair of the specific types of materials, equipment or related apparatus utilized in the trade for which certification is desired and either:

a. Four (4) years of practical experience in the specific trade or directly related area of expertise for which certification is desired.

b. Successful completion prior to July 1, 1981, of a registered apprenticeship established in accordance with the Virginia Voluntary Apprenticeship Act in the trade for which certification is desired.

c. An associate degree in the trade for which certification is desired and two (2) years of practical experience in the specific area of expertise for which certification is desired; or

d. A bachelor's degree in the study of engineering in a curriculum related to the trade for which certification is desired.

B. Qualifications.

1. The applicant shall be examined by the agent or board in order to determine his qualifications. The examination shall be based on current pertinent provisions of the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code and shall correspond to the level of certification specified in the application.

a. The examination may be, in the discretion of the agent or board, in a written or oral format.

b. The examination shall be offered at least once every three (3) months.

c. An applicant must correctly answer seventy-five percent (75%) of the questions on the examination to be deemed qualified.

2. Should an applicant fail the qualifications examination, such person shall be eligible to retake the examination at the next regularly scheduled testing date.

3. If the applicant fails the examination on the second attempt, then such person shall not be reconsidered for certification within twelve (12) months of the date of such failure.

C. Certificate. If upon examination an applicant fulfills the ability, proficiency and qualification standards within the area and level of certification specified, the agent or board shall deliver to such person a certificate to that effect.

60-7 CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Every worker certified pursuant to the provisions of this chapter shall give immediate notice to the agent or board of any change of address.

60-8 REVOCATION OF CERTIFICATE

A. The agent shall have the power to revoke the certificate of any individual who misrepresents his qualifications or who supplies materially false information in obtaining a certificate under this chapter or who is found to have violated the provisions of the Uniform Statewide Building Code in the practice of his trade.

B. A revoked certificate shall not thereafter be reissued without satisfactory compliance with the certificate standards of this chapter, including reexamination.

60-9 VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES

Violation of any of the provisions of this chapter shall be punishable by a fine of not more than five hundred dollars (\$500.).