

Board of Boiler Rules Meeting Minutes
May 10 – 11, 2022
Department of Labor & Industries, Virtual Meeting

Board Members:

Lisa Hawkins
Tim Barker
Stephanie Gross
Steve Pacheco
Mike Carlson, Secretary

Other Attendees:

Mike Low, State of Washington
Jamie Brown, State of Washington
Donald Sage, State of Washington
Alicia Curry, State of Washington**
Steve Frazier, City of Seattle**
Sophia Steele, Associated Builder Contractors*

- * Attended Study Session only
- ** Attended Board Meeting only
- *** Attended Public Hearing only

Chairperson Terry Chapin was not in attendance for this meeting. Tim Barker acted as chairperson.

The Board of Boiler Rules meeting was called to order by the Chair at 10:03 am.

Agenda Item 1.

Stephanie motioned to approve agenda. Steve seconded. All voted aye, motion carried. Agenda approved.

Agenda Item 2.

Lisa motioned to approve minutes as written. Steve seconded. Tim abstained from voting, as he was not in attendance at February meeting. Stephanie voted aye, motion carried. Minutes approved.

Agenda Item 3

WAC 296-104-010 – Administration – What are the definitions of terms used in this chapter?

This was presented by Mike Carlson. The department is submitting a request to clarify requirements for installers and inspectors with regards to the definition of “Open to the atmosphere”. The new wording will make it simpler for installers, inspectors, and stakeholders to understand the requirements. After some discussion between Mike Carlson and the board members, the proposed wording was changed to “Pool heaters without shut off valves on the discharge side are considered open to the atmosphere and therefore are exempt from inspection

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requirements”. Steve motioned to approve revision request as written, Stephanie seconded. All voted aye, motion approved.

Agenda Item 4

WAC 296-104-255 – Installation – What are the required clearances for boilers?

This was presented by Mike Carlson. The department is submitting this revision request to provide better direction for newly installed boilers. A large amount of new boiler designs don't require 18 inch clearance. After some discussion, it was agreed that requirements 1 and 5 should be switched to make the minimum clearance requirement the first requirement that installers will see. Mike questioned whether line item #5 should be moved to line item #2 and have remaining items 1, 2, 3, and 4 move to line items 2, 3, 4, and 5. Lisa motioned to approve the noted line item changes as well as the updated language of “If no recommendations are stated by the manufacturer, then eighteen inches shall be the minimum clearance”. Steve seconded, all voted aye. Motion carries.

Agenda Item 5

WAC 296-104-260 – What are the required clearances for unfired pressure vessels?

This was presented by Mike Carlson. The board initially did not have an issue with the proposed revision, but Tim Barker brought up a point regarding corner air tanks requiring a variance based on the wording of this request. Manufacturers may not list clearance requirements, and owners will often want to install up against the wall. Mike Low said he agreed with Tim. Mike Carlson state that this requirement was instituted originally because inspector discretion was leading to improper clearances. He decided to pull the revision back and re-word the request to make it clearer. Mike Carlson officially withdrew the request and will resubmit at a future meeting.

Department Notes:

Terry Chapin's term as chairperson has expired and the board member position for boilermakers/stationary engineers/pressure vessel operators is still open to be filled. Steve Frazier did speak with someone who said they were going to apply for the position. There was also discussion regarding posting the open position on the boiler webpage and also on the WSBIA website. Tim also asked for the definition of a boilermaker – is that an R stamp holder or representative of an R stamp holder? Mike clarified that it is a pressure vessel operator or boilermaker.

Tim also brought up replacing Terry as chair and said that he would be interested in taking on the chairperson role. Will place item on agenda for next meeting.

Future meetings may move to a hybrid environment with in person and virtual options.

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Mike Carlson provided quarterly program reports.

Inspections completed February 1, 2022 – April 30, 2022, for 121 commissioned inspectors:

273 Internal boiler inspections
+ 1,962 External boiler inspections
+ 12,184 Pressure vessel inspections
= 14,419 Total inspections

New objects:

178 Boilers
+ 1,118 Pressure Vessels
= 1,296 New objects

Current total of objects is 116,733.

Statewide overdue rate is 11.6%, with about 13,601 objects (60 days or more overdue) without a valid certificate.

Violations:

There were 334 violations opened, 113 violations closed.

228 boiler and 850 pressure vessels with open violations for a total of 1,078.

2 red tag violations opened.

Lisa motioned to adjourn meeting, Steve seconded. All voted aye, motion carries. Meeting adjourned at 10:38am.