

**ALABAMA PLUMBERS AND GAS FITTERS EXAMINING BOARD**  
**ADMINISTRATIVE CODE**

**720-X-1-.01 Description Of The Board.**

The Board is a seven (7) member Board appointed by the Governor. The referenced statute describes the organization, general course, method of operation and method of public information. The public may make submissions and requests to the Board in writing through the mailing address:

Alabama Plumbers and Gas Fitters Examining Board  
216 Aquarius Dr., Suite 319  
Homewood, Alabama 35209

**Author:** James M. Morgan

**Statutory Authority:** Code of Ala. 1975, §34-37-2.

**History:** Filed February 6, 1991. **Amended:** Filed June 14, 2018; effective July 29, 2018.

**720-X-1-.02 Minimum Standards for Installation, Service, and Repair.**

(1) In the absence of locally adopted codes, or minimum standards for the installation, service, and repair of plumbing, gas, and medical gas, the board, pursuant to its authority under Section 34-37-2

(a), Code of Ala. 1975, adopts the following minimum standards for the installation, service, and repair of plumbing, gas, and medical gas for all certified plumbing, gas, and medical gas contractors: (a) All certified plumbing and gas contractors shall comply with the minimum technical standards required by the 2015 International Residential Code for residential plumbing and gas installations, service, and repairs. The administrative sections in Chapter 1 shall not be applicable. Where there is a conflict between this code and a locally adopted code, this code shall govern.

(b) All certified plumbing contractors shall comply with the minimum standards of the 2015 International Plumbing Code for commercial plumbing installations, service, and repairs.

(c) All certified gas contractors shall comply with the minimum standards of the 2015 International Fuel Gas Code for commercial gas installations, service, and repairs.

(d) All certified medical gas contractors shall comply with the minimum standards of the 2015 International Plumbing Code for Nonflammable Medical Gases and the NFPA 99 for flammable medical gases. Requires certification from NITC or other board approved agency or entity.

**Author:** James M. Morgan

**Statutory Authority:** Code of Ala. 1975, §34-37-2, as amended

**History: New Rule:** Filed June 14, 2018; effective July 29, 2018

**720-X-1-.03 Compliance.**

The board may at any time conduct compliance checks via site visit, office visit, or by any other legal means as necessary to determine compliance with the Plumbers and Gas Fitter Examining Board's laws, and rules, and regulations. The board shall have the authority to inspect records,

documents, personnel files, and any other documentation necessary to determine compliance with its laws, rules, and regulations.

**Author:** James M. Morgan

**Statutory Authority:** Code of Ala. 1975, §34-37-2, as amended

**History: New Rule:** Filed June 14, 2018; effective July 29, 2018

**720-X-2-.01 Definition Of Plumbing.**

(1) With respect to the single-family residential dwelling domestic water supply, the water line from the meter to the building or from the outlet side of a well pump to the building is considered plumbing. With respect to the sewer, the building sewer begins at the connection with the building drain and is considered plumbing until it reaches the property line, an individual disposal system, or a point within an easement or right-of-way.

(2) Non-residential domestic water supply and sewer represented by mechanical drawings signed and sealed by an engineer licensed in the State of Alabama shall be considered plumbing. Non-residential domestic water supply four inches in diameter and greater, and sewer lines six inches in diameter and greater, represented by civil drawings signed and sealed by an engineer licensed in the State of Alabama shall not be considered plumbing.

(3) Sewage grinder pumps and sewage lift stations with discharge lines four inches and greater, and force mains four inches and larger shall not be considered plumbing.

(4) Cutting, boring, and removal of concrete shall not be considered plumbing.

**Author:** James M. Morgan

**Statutory Authority:** Code of Ala. 1975, §34-37-2.

**History:** Filed February 6, 1991. **Amended:** Filed February 5, 2016; effective March 21, 2016.

**Amended:** Filed June 14, 2018; effective July 29, 2018.

**720-X-2-.02 Onsite Wastewater.**

(1) Onsite wastewater disposal systems which are represented by drawings signed and sealed by an engineer licensed in the State of Alabama shall not be considered plumbing.

(2) Any other onsite wastewater disposal systems which are permitted by the Alabama Department of Public Health shall not be considered plumbing. For the purpose of this rule, the building sewer, as defined by Alabama Department of Public Health Administrative Rule 420-3-1-.01 (19), shall be considered part of the onsite wastewater disposal system.

(3) Sewage grinder pumps or sewage lift stations or pumps of any type that are installed or maintained as a component of an onsite wastewater disposal system shall not be considered plumbing and shall require an installer licensed by the Alabama Onsite Wastewater Board.

**Author:** James M. Morgan, Kelly Butler

**Statutory Authority:** Code of Ala. 1975, §34-37-2.

**History: New Rule:** Filed February 5, 2016; effective March 21, 2016.

**Amended:** Filed September 18, 2019; effective January 14, 2020.

**720-X-3-.01 Exchange Of Water Heaters.**

(1) Water heaters may be exchanged by a certified plumbing contractor or by a certified gas fitting contractor.

**Author:** Ed Lawrence

**Statutory Authority:** Code of Ala. 1975, §34-37-2.

**History:** Filed February 6, 1991.

**720-X-3-.02 Exchange Or Installation Of Gas Fixtures And Appliances.**

(1) Supply piping from the shut off valve to the fixture or appliance, except for gas fired water heaters, shall not be considered gas pipe fitting. Any supply piping to, and including, the isolation valve shall be considered gas pipe fitting, and must comply with all codes currently adopted by the Board.

**Author:** David H. Wilcox

**Statutory Authority:** Code of Ala. 1975, §34-37-2.

**History: New Rule:** Filed February 5, 2016; effective March 16, 2016.

**720-X-4-.01 Forms, Requirements, And Fee Schedule.**

The following forms shall be available in the Board office as well as on the Board website:

1. Information Update Form
2. Application for Examination
3. Application for Waiver of Annual Penalties and Fees
4. Apprentice Registration
5. Complaint Form
6. Application for Inactive Status
7. Application for Active Status
8. Proof of Citizenship or Lawful Presence of Non-Citizen Forms
9. Reciprocation Request
10. Registration of Legal Entity (Company Registration Form)
11. Work Experience Affidavit

<b>Requirements</b>	<b>Renewal Fees</b>	<b>Non-Refundable Exam Fees</b>
Apprentice	\$25.00 (Initial w/ Registration) \$25.00 (Annually)	
No Written Exam Required. Complete Registration Form and include a copy of Proof of Citizenship or Lawful Presence of Non-Citizen Form.		
Journeyman Plumber	\$50.00	\$110.00
Requires 2 years current work experience as Apprentice or completed Board Approved Apprentice Training Program, or other experience that, in the opinion of the board, qualifies the applicant to take required exam.		



(c) Applicant must provide verification from the other state's examining/certifying agency that the applicant is in good standing and has no pending disciplinary actions in said state.

(d) Applicant must receive a minimum score of seventy (70) on the board's test for the corresponding level of certification in Alabama.

(2) All information must be provided on forms approved by the board. Once all required documentation has been submitted, the board or its designee will review and verify the accuracy thereof. No application will be considered complete and forwarded for review until all information and official documentation has been received at the board's office. Applications expire ninety (90) days after initial submission.

**Authors:** Kelly Butler, James M. Morgan Chapter

**Statutory Authority:** Code of Ala. 1975, as amended, §34-37-2(a).

**History: New Rule:** Filed July 1, 2019; effective August 15, 2019.

#### **720-X-4-.03 Military Family Jobs Opportunity Act Applicants.**

(1) Pursuant to the statutory requirements found in Act 2018-540, as codified at Code of Ala. 1975, §31-1-6, any applicant for certification as a journeyman plumber, journeyman gas fitter, master plumber, or master gas fitter who is considered an "eligible individual" under Code of Ala. 1975, §31-1-6(c) shall be issued a certificate under the following conditions:

(a) he or she must possess a valid license or certificate issued by another state, district, or territory of the United States, or from any branch of the United States Armed Forces, including the National Guard; and

(b) the licensing or certification requirements of the issuing body must be greater than or substantially similar to the certification requirements of this board, as determined by the executive director's review; and

(c) the applicant must submit a completed application which documents compliance with the board's certification requirements.

Upon satisfaction of these conditions, the application will be submitted to the executive director for review. Approval will result in the issuance of the appropriate certificate to the eligible individual allowing him or her to continue working at the same certification level for one (1) year. All approvals will be reported to the board at its next regularly scheduled meeting.

(2) In the event the applicant's certifying jurisdiction did not promulgate certification requirements greater than or substantially similar to the certification requirements of this board, as determined by the executive director's review, the applicant will be notified of the specific requirements which must be met prior to receiving certification from the State of Alabama. In accordance with Code of Ala. 1975, §31-1-6(b)(2), the eligible individual concurrently will be granted a temporary permit to continue working in the same field and at the same certification level for one hundred eighty (180) days while he or she completes the specific requirements Plumbers and Gas Fitters Chapter 720-X-4 Supp. 9/30/19 4-5 necessary to obtain a certificate from this board. Subject to the approval of the executive director, such temporary certification period may be extended as necessary to promote the intent of the Military Family Jobs Opportunity Act. All temporary certifications will be reported to the board at its next regularly scheduled meeting.

(3) Any applicant for certification as a journeyman plumber, journeyman gas fitter, master plumber, or master gas fitter who is considered an “eligible individual” under Code of Ala. 1975, §31-1-6(c) and who properly submits a request for waiver of the initial license fee shall receive the same within thirty (30) days of the board’s receipt of the required documentation for waiver.

(4) A completed application submitted pursuant to this section will be administratively expedited.

**Authors:** Kelly Butler, James M. Morgan

**Statutory Authority:** Code of Ala. 1975, as amended, §34-37-2 and §31-1-6.

**History: New Rule:** Filed July 1, 2019; effective August 15, 2019.

#### **720-X-4-.04 Emergency Certifications.**

(1) When a state of emergency is declared by the Governor of the state of Alabama pursuant to Code of Ala. 1975, §31-9-8, the Executive Director is authorized to waive requirements for the issuance of a certificate for journeyman plumber, journeyman gas fitter, master plumber, or master gas fitter for an out-of-state applicant, provided the applicant can produce a current equivalent license or certificate from another state, district, or territory of the United States, or from any branch of the United States Armed Forces, including the National Guard. At the request of the Executive Director, any applicant for emergency certification shall produce verifiable evidence of the applicant’s good standing in the state of origin as a condition precedent to consideration of an application.

(2) The Executive Director is also authorized to waive one-half (1/2) of the applicable fee set forth in r. 720-X-4-.01.

(3) Where the state of emergency does not affect the entire state, any certification issued pursuant to this regulation shall be valid only in the counties designated in the Governor’s proclamation.

(4) Certification granted pursuant to this regulation may be issued for the duration of the state of emergency, beginning at the declaration of the state of emergency and ending when the state of emergency is declared by the Governor to have ceased, or, in the alternative, when the state of emergency expires under its own terms.

(5) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (3), no certification granted pursuant to this regulation shall be valid for longer than sixty (60) days.

(6) Certifications granted hereunder are non-renewable and non-transferable.

(7) Certifications granted hereunder shall be governed by the same statutory and regulatory requirements which govern any other certification issued by this board.

(8) At all times during the state of emergency, each emergency certificate holder shall keep available for inspection his board-issued proof of certification granted hereunder.

**Authors:** Kelly Butler, James M. Morgan

**Statutory Authority:** Code of Ala. 1975, as amended, §34-37-2.

**History: New Rule:** Filed July 1, 2019; effective August 15, 2019.

**720-X-5-.01 Work Permitted By Journeyman Plumbers.**

(1) It shall be unlawful and a violation of Act No. 2015-496 as amended for a journeyman plumber, certified in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Alabama Plumbers and Gas Fitters Examining Board to perform any plumbing, as provided in Act No. 2015-496 as amended or as may be further defined by the Board in rules passed by the Board, unless said journeyman plumber performs said work for a company that is properly registered with the Board and under the general supervision of a certified master plumber.

**Authors:** Ed Lawrence; David H. Wilcox

**Statutory Authority:** Code of Ala. 1975, §34-37-2.

**History:** Filed September 16, 1992. **Amended:** Filed February 5, 2016; effective March 21, 2016.

**720-X-6-.01 Work Permitted By Journeyman Gas Fitters.**

(1) It shall be unlawful and a violation of Act No. 2015-496 as amended for a journeyman gas fitter, certified in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Alabama Plumbers & Gas Fitters Examining Board to perform any gas fitting work, as provided in Act No. 2015-496 as amended or as may be further defined by the Board in rules passed by the Board, unless said journeyman gas fitter performs said work for a company that is properly registered with the Board and under the general supervision of a certified master gas fitter.

**Author:** David H. Wilcox

**Statutory Authority:** Code of Ala. 1975, §34-37-2.

**History:** Filed September 16, 1992. **Amended:** Filed February 5, 2016; effective March 21, 2016.

**720-X-7-.01 Administration Of Examinations.**

(1) All examinations for which the Board has authority to require shall be administered by an independent examining agency as selected by the Board.

(a) Examinations shall be based on the 2015 International Plumbing Code and the 2015 International Fuel Gas Code.

**Author:** James M. Morgan

**Statutory Authority:** Code of Ala. 1975, §34-37-2.

**History:** Filed September 16, 1992. **Amended:** Filed June 14, 2018; effective July 29, 2018.

**720-X-8-.01 Venting Of Gas Heating Equipment.**

Any contractor certified by the Alabama Board of Heating and Air Conditioning Contractors may install vents on natural gas burning heating equipment without certification by this Board.

**Author:** Ed Lawrence.

**Statutory Authority:** Code of Ala. 1975, §34-37-2.

**History:** Filed September 16, 1992.

**720-X-9-.01 Penalty For Late Renewal Of Certificate Or Registration.**

(1) All certificates and registrations expire on December 31 of each year. Certificate and registration fees must be paid prior to December 15 of the current year to be effective and otherwise in good standing the following calendar year. In the event the certificate or registration is renewed after December 31, but prior to February 1, the late renewal penalty

shall be equal to 50% of the renewal rate for the respective certificate or registration. Late renewals received after February 1 shall be subject to a late renewal penalty equal to the renewal rate for the respective certificate or registration. The late renewal penalty is due at the time the current year's certificate or registration fee is paid.

(2) In addition to the current year's certificate or registration fee and late renewal penalty, the certificate fees for all unpaid back years shall be paid in accordance with Code of Ala. 1975, §34-37-9. The certificate or registration fees for all unpaid back years are due at the time the current year's certificate or registration fee and late renewal penalty are paid.

**Authors:** James M. Morgan

**Statutory Authority:** Code of Ala. 1975, §34-37-2.

**History:** Filed November 23, 1992. **Amended:** Filed September 18, 2002, effective October 23, 2002. **Amended:** Filed May 12, 2003; effective June 16, 2003. **Amended:** Filed July 21, 2004; effective August 25, 2004. **Amended:** Filed February 5, 2016; effective March 21, 2016.

**Amended:** Filed June 14, 2018; effective July 29, 2018.

#### **720-X-10-.01 Waiver Or Proration Of First Year Certificate Fee.**

(1) The Board shall be allowed to waive the first year fee for issuing a certificate for Journeyman and Master Plumbers and Gas Fitters who pay the examination fee and pass the examination for the respective classification.

(2) The Board shall be allowed to prorate the first year fee for issuing a certification or registration after July 1 of the calendar year in which the certification or registration is issued for Apprentice, Journeyman, and Master Plumbers and Gas Fitters who register with the Board or pay the examination fee and pass the examination for the respective classification.

**Author:** David H. Wilcox.

**Statutory Authority:** Code of Ala. 1975, §34-37-2.

**History:** Filed November 23, 1992. **Amended:** Filed February 5, 2016; effective March 21, 2016.

#### **720-X-11-.01 Work Permitted By Apprentice Plumber/Gas Fitters.**

(1) It shall be unlawful and a violation of Act No. 2015-496, as amended, for an Apprentice Plumber/Gas Fitter, certified in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Alabama Plumbers and Gas Fitters Examining Board to perform any plumbing/gas fitting work, as provided in Act No. 2015-496, as amended, and as may be further defined by the Board in rules passed by the Board, unless said Apprentice Plumber/Gas Fitter performs said work for a company that is properly registered with the Board and under the direct supervision of a certified Journeyman Plumber, Journeyman Gas Fitter, Master Plumber or Master Gas Fitter who remains on the job/work site at all times while such work is being performed by the Apprentice Plumber/Gas Fitter. An Apprentice Plumber/Gas Fitter is a trainee, therefore, it shall be unlawful, and a violation of Act No. 2015-496, as amended, for any one Journeyman Plumber, Journeyman Gas Fitter, Master Plumber or Master Gas Fitter to directly supervise on any job site more than three Apprentice Plumber/Gas Fitter.

**Author:** David H. Wilcox

**Statutory Authority:** Code of Ala. 1975, §34-37-2



**History: New Rule:** Filed September 27, 1995; effective November 1, 1995. **Amended:** Filed November 15, 2007; effective December 20, 2007. **Amended:** Filed May 15, 2008; effective June 19, 2008. **Amended:** Filed February 5, 2016; effective March 21, 2016.

**720-X-12-.01 Responsibility Of Master Plumber.**

(1) It shall be unlawful and a violation of Act No. 2015-496, as amended, for a Master Plumber, certified in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Alabama Plumbers & Gas Fitters Examining Board as provided in Act No. 2015-496, as amended, or as may be further defined by the Board in rules passed by the Board, to supervise or direct any person in the performance of plumbing or gas fitting work as defined in Section 34-37-1 (Code of Ala. 1975, as amended) where the person performing such work does not hold current certification with the Alabama Plumbers and Gas Fitters Examining Board.

**Author:** David H. Wilcox

**Statutory Authority:** Code of Ala. 1975, §§34-37-2; 34-37-17, as amended.

**History: New Rule:** Filed September 27, 1995; effective November 1, 1995. **Amended:** Filed February 5, 2016; effective March 21, 2016.

**720-X-12-.02 Registration As Principal Master Plumber.**

(1) As defined in Code of Ala. 1975, §34-37-1(13), a “principal master plumber” is responsible for the business conducted by the legal entity with which he or she is “actively and continuously connected.” In order to affirmatively establish these required parameters and to be registered as the principal for a legal entity, an individual must:

- (a) be duly registered and certified by the State of Alabama as a master plumber;
- (b) be an active employee of the legal entity and not an independent contractor; and
- (c) provide verifiable documentation to substantiate the above as requested by the board or board staff.

(2) No individual shall be registered as the principal master plumber for more than one legal entity regulated by the board.

**Authors:** Kelly Butler, James M. Morgan

**Statutory Authority:** Code of Ala. 1975, as amended, §34-37-2.

**History: New Rule:** Filed July 1, 2019; effective August 15, 2019.

**720-X-13-.01 Responsibility Of Master Gas Fitter.**

(1) It shall be unlawful and a violation of Act No. 2015-496, as amended, for a Master Gas Fitter, certified in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Alabama Plumbers & Gas Fitters Examining Board as provided in Act No. 2015-496, as amended, or as may be further defined by the Board in rules passed by the Board, to supervise or direct any person in the performance of plumbing or gas fitting work as defined in Section 34-37-1 Code of Ala. 1975, as amended, where the person performing such work does not hold current certification with the Alabama Plumbers & Gas Fitters Examining Board.

**Author:** David H. Wilcox

**Statutory Authority:** Code of Ala. 1975, §34-37-2

**History: New Rule:** Filed September 27, 1995; effective November 1, 1995. **Amended:** Filed February 5, 2016; effective March 21, 2016.

**720-X-13-.02 Registration As Principal Master Gas Fitter.**

(1) As defined in Code of Ala. 1975, §34-37-1(13), a “principal master gas fitter” is responsible for the business conducted by the legal entity with which he or she is “actively and continuously connected.” In order to affirmatively establish these required parameters and to be registered as the principal for a legal entity, an individual must:

(a) be duly registered and certified by the State of Alabama as a master gas fitter;  
(b) be an active employee of the legal entity and not an independent contractor;  
(c) provide verifiable documentation to substantiate the above as requested by the board or board staff.

(2) No individual shall be registered as the principal master gas fitter for more than one legal entity regulated by the board.

**Authors:** Kelly Butler, James M. Morgan

**Statutory Authority:** Code of Ala. 1975, as amended, §34-37-2.

**History: New Rule:** Filed July 1, 2019; effective August 15, 2019.

**720-X-14-.01 Definition Of Medical Gas Piping Systems.**

Due to the threat to human life, no one shall install any medical gas piping or breach the integrity of any medical gas piping system unless the person has first received an endorsement for medical gas piping from the Alabama Plumbers and Gas Fitters Examining Board and such endorsement is affixed to the current certificate for competency issued to said person and the certificate is in their possession. No endorsement from the Alabama Plumbers and Gas Fitters Examining Board shall be issued or shall be valid unless said certificate holder also holds a current National Inspection Testing Certification (NITC), or other board approved agency or entity in medical gas fitting and is in possession of a valid NITC card, or card from another board approved agency or entity evidencing current certification. Annual renewal of the medical gas fitter endorsement requires submission to the Board of the medical gas fitters NITC, or other board approved agency or entity card evidencing a current, valid NITC certification, or other board approved agency or entity certification. Replacing cylinders and filters, and performing routine and preventive maintenance that does not breach the integrity of the medical gas piping system and does not constitute the installation, repair, or replacement of medical gas piping shall not require a medical gas piping endorsement.

**Author:** James M. Morgan

**Statutory Authority:** Code of Ala. 1975, § 34-37-2.

**History: New Rule:** Filed August 5, 1999; effective September 9, 1999. **Amended:** Filed July 21, 2004; effective August 25, 2004. **Amended:** Filed June 14, 2018; effective July 29, 2018.

**720-X-15-.01 Definition Of Maintenance Engineer**

(Repealed 3/21/16)

**Author:** Alfred P. Tunstill

**Statutory Authority:** Code of Ala. 1975, §§34-37-2.

**History: New Rule:** Filed July 21, 2004; effective August 25, 2004. **Repealed:** Filed February 5, 2016; effective March 21, 2016.

### **720-X-16-.01 Bad Checks.**

If a check or negotiable instrument is dishonored, the writer of the check or instrument will be required to tender payment of the full amount of such check or instrument plus a service charge of \$30.00 as established by Section 8-8-15 of the Code of Ala. 1975.

(1) If the dishonored check or instrument was tendered for the purposes of sitting for an examination, payment of the full amount of such check or instrument plus a service charge of \$30.00 must be paid in full prior to the individual being allowed to take the said examination. If the individual has already taken the examination prior to the Board's office receiving notification of the dishonored instrument, the individual's results will be held until such time as payment is made in full including the service charge. (2) If the dishonored check or instrument was tendered for the purposes of renewing an individual certification, registration, or payment of fines or penalties, the certification or registration shall be invalid and will not be considered in good standing unless the full amount of such check or instrument plus a service charge of \$30.00 is paid within thirty (30) days.

(3) If the dishonored check or instrument was tendered for the purposes of applying for a certification or registration, the application will not be processed until such time as the payment is made in full, including the applicable \$30.00 service charge.

**Author:** David H. Wilcox

**Statutory Authority:** Code of Ala. 1975, §§34-37-2

**History: New Rule:** Filed March 24, 2009; effective April 28, 2009. **Amended:** Filed June 6, 2014; effective July 11, 2014. **Amended:** Filed February 5, 2016; effective March 21, 2016.

### **720-X-17-.01 Registration Of Legal Entities.**

Beginning October 1, 2016, all legal entities, as defined in Code of Ala. 1975, §34-37-1(14), engaging in the business of plumbing and/or gas fitting within the State of Alabama shall be required to register annually upon forms provided by the Board, upon first paying all prescribed fees.

**Author:** David H. Wilcox

**Statutory Authority:** Code of Ala. 1975, §§34-37-2

**History: New Rule:** Filed February 5, 2016; effective March 21, 2016.

### **720-X-18-.01 Reissuing Of Revoked Certification Or Registration.**

(1) The Board, for reasons it may deem sufficient, may reissue a certification or registration to any person whose certification or registration has been revoked provided that a majority of the Board vote in favor or reissuing in accordance with Code of Ala. 1975, §34-37-12. The person requesting reissue must submit an application, pay all prescribed fees, and comply with the terms set forth by the Board.

**Author:** David H. Wilcox

**Statutory Authority:** Code of Ala. 1975, §§34-37-2

**History: New Rule:** Filed February 5, 2016; effective March 21, 2016.