Apprentice Well Driller Exam Prep Course

Board of Well Drillers Regulations Overview: Licensing Process

1. Definitions
   a. Practice well drilling – engaging in any of the following activities for profit:
      i. Making, altering, repairing, or sealing a well, or
      ii. Installing, altering, repairing, or disconnecting well system equipment.
   b. Apprentice – a person licensed by the Board to work under the direction of a
      principal licensee (Master Well Driller) for the specific purpose of training to
      practice well drilling.
   c. Helper – a person who assists a licensee, but does not practice well drilling.
   d. Well Rig Operator – a person licensed to practice well drilling restricted to
      i. Location of wells
      ii. Excavation of wells
      iii. Installation of
         1. casing
         2. grout
         3. screens
         4. pumps
      iv. Development of wells
      v. Testing of wells

2. Prohibitions – unlicensed practice
   a. A person may not practice well drilling or represent to the public that they are
      authorized to practice well drilling unless they are licensed by the Board.
   b. Exception - Master Plumber may install or repair
      i. Water pump
      ii. Water tank
      iii. Water conditioning equipment

3. Process to become licensed as an Apprentice Well Driller (AWD)
   a. Qualify to take exam
      i. 1 year as a helper
      ii. A sponsor, a Licensed Master Well Driller
   b. Submit application and $75 fee (this is the fee for all exams)
   c. When application is complete
      i. You are scheduled to take the exam
      ii. You will receive an exam packet
         1. Exam entrance letter – bring a copy to the exam
         2. Copy of Well Construction regs
         3. Copy of Board of Well Driller regs
         4. Study guide
5. Directions to MDE
d. Study, Study, Study!
   i. Well Construction Regulations COMAR 26.04.04.01
   ii. Board of Well Driller Regulations COMAR 26.05.01.01-04
   iii. Technical drilling materials
e. Take exam. Afterward you will receive a letter with your score and instructions.
   i. Pass – 70% and above
      1. Mail a copy of the letter to address indicated
      2. Include a check or money order for the $50 licensing fee
   ii. Fail once – 69% and lower
      1. May take exam again
      2. Mail copy of letter to address indicated with $75 exam fee
   iii. Fail twice
      1. Take 20 hours of approved continuing education (see Board home page for current list)
      2. Submit a new application form with fee and training documentation
4. Terms of apprenticeship
   a. 5 years
   b. You may request an extension of an additional 6 months
   c. Inactive status is not available
5. After 3 years’ experience as an Apprentice, you are qualified to take the Journeyman exam
   a. Exception - education credit – up to 2 years’ experience credit for degree/documented training. Submit transcripts or other documentation with application
   b. Submit an application with the $75 exam fee
6. Loss of sponsorship
   a. Apprenticeship terminated
   b. If you change jobs, immediately notify the Board
7. After 5 years, apprenticeship converts to Well Rig Operator (WRO)
   a. WRO does not expire
   b. WRO is not a path to the Journeyman license
8. How a WRO gets to Journeyman
   a. Submit an application to take the apprentice exam again
      i. You already meet the experience qualification
   b. Pass the apprentice exam again
      i. Mail a copy of the letter to address indicated
      ii. Include a check or money order for the $50 licensing fee
   c. Receive your new AWD license
   d. Apply to take the Journeyman exam
9. Renewal of Apprentice license
   a. All Board issued licenses expire June 1 of odd numbered years
   b. Exception – less than 2 years’ of the apprenticeship remaining
      i. Renewal license expiration date is apprenticeship expiration date
   c. Process – look for renewal form and instructions in mail
      i. Contact Board if you do not receive one by 1/31/19
         ii. To renew, send asap
             1. Completed and signed renewal form
             2. $100 renewal fee
             3. Documentation of 20 Board approved CEU hours
             4. Completed and signed sponsorship form
             5. Documentation of liability insurance coverage

10. Training credits
    a. To receive credit, course or event must be approved by the Board – check
        website for current list
    b. If not on the list, submit information to the Board
       i. Syllabus
       ii. Schedule
       iii. Trainer biography
    c. Anyone can submit courses to the Board for review
    d. Acceptable attendance documentation
       i. Certificate
          1. Name of course/event
          2. Date of course/event
          3. Signed by trainer
       ii. Course sign-in sheets (provided by course sponsor)
       iii. Yellow card signed by trainer

11. Always notify the Board if
    a. Your contact information changes
       i. Mailing address
       ii. Home address
       iii. Email address
       iv. Daytime phone number
    b. You change employers
    c. Your name changes

12. Restricted licenses
    a. Pump Installer
       i. Apprenticeship minimum is 2 years
       ii. No Journeyman option
b. Water Conditioner Installer
   i. Apprenticeship minimum is 2 years
   ii. No Journeyman option

c. 13. Board website
    http://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Permits/EnvironmentalBoards/Pages/boardofwelldrillers.aspx