

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>