

# **Master Natural Gas Fitter & Natural Gas Fitter Licensure - ACT 297**

## **Answers to Contractor Questions by the Louisiana State Plumbing Board**

**February 27, 2018**

- 1. Who is required to have a license and in order to perform what type of work? (i.e. master vs. journeyman and service vs. installation)**

Gas Fitting – the work or business of installing, repairing, improving, altering or removing natural gas piping, fittings, valves, or tanks used for conveying fuel gas for appliances on or in premises or in buildings annexed to real property.

Gas fitting does not include:

- The installation or maintenance of piping by any entity or municipal or gas district that is subject to the regulatory authority of the Public Service Commission, the New Orleans City Counsel or the office of Pipeline Safety in the Department of Natural Resources.
- Any services performed pursuant to a person licensed by the Louisiana Liquefied Petroleum Gas Commission.

- 2. What kind of license is required for differing types of businesses? (i.e. a sole proprietor, a full-service plumbing/HVAC company with both master gas fitters and journeymen, or a family business where the parent may want the next generation to inherit the business)**

**Master Natural Gas Fitter** – A person who possesses the necessary qualifications and knowledge to plan and lay out natural gas systems, supervises gas fitters in the installation, alteration and/or repair of natural gas systems and is licensed as such by the board.

**Natural Gas Fitters** – a person who possesses necessary qualifications and knowledge to install, alter, and/or repair natural gas systems; is licensed as such by the board; is supervised by a master natural gas fitter; and is in the employ of an employing entity.

- 3. What are the criteria for grandfathering of an existing gas fitter license?**

Master Natural Gas Fitter may pre-qualify by one of three ways; Hold a mechanical contractors license prior to July 1, 2016, hold a city or municipal master or class A gas fitters license prior to July 1, 2016 or in areas where there was no gas license you may pre-qualify with three invoices or permits showing proof that natural gas work was performed prior to July 1, 2016.

Natural Gas Fitters may pre-qualify by either showing proof of a journeyman or class B natural gas municipal or city license prior to July 1, 2016 OR the employer may complete the voucher affidavit swearing that the applicant has done the work of a natural gas fitter under your authority prior to July 1, 2016

- 4. What are the application requirements for each type of license? (i.e. master, journeyman, and active/inactive)**

**Master Natural Gas License –**

- 2"X2" picture (a color copy of your driver's license or ID is acceptable)
- Copy and/or copies of acceptable proof of pre-qualification,
- Insurances (general, vehicle, worker's compensation)
- Affidavit of experience (only if filing with invoices and/or permits) must be completed and notarized.
- Application must be notarized and payment by check or money order.

**Natural Gas License –**

- 2"X2" picture (a color copy of your driver's license or ID is acceptable)
- Copy and/or copies of acceptable proof of pre-qualification.

- Affidavit of experience must be completed, signed by supervisor or MNGF and notarized.
- Application must be notarized and payment by check or money order.

**5. What is the deadline for grandfathering of an existing gas fitter license? (i.e. extension into 2018 and whether this is published anywhere, such as [www.spbla.com](http://www.spbla.com))**

The deadline for a pre-qualifying applicant is June 30, 2018. The extension date is posted under license information on the SPBLA website.

**6. Are there any extra criteria required by the State Plumbing Board of Louisiana that were not required by other jurisdictions who previously licensed gas fitters? (i.e. service vehicle, permanent signage, auto insurance, etc.)**

Master Natural Gas Fitters are responsible for keeping current proof of general liability, service vehicle liability and workers' compensation insurance with the SPBLA office. Master Natural Gas Fitters are also responsible for ensuring that their service vehicles and job site signs include the following; Company name, company address, telephone number and license number. These requirements can be found under Title 46 – Professional and Occupational Standards – Part LV.

**7. What are the Continuing Professional Education requirements? (i.e. for existing license holders, for license holders who grandfathered before 1/1/17, and for license holders who will grandfather in 2018. Also, whether there any concerns about obtaining supplies, such as test booklets)**

Persons who obtain licensure in one year will not need CPE to renew their next year license, however after that the license holder will be responsible for taking CPE every year in order to renew their license.

Example: Persons who obtained licensure in 2017 did not need CPE to renew their 2018 license. Persons who obtained licensure in 2018 will not need CPE to renew their 2019 license. CPE hours for Master Natural Gas Fitter: 4hrs

CPE hours for Natural Gas Fitter: 2.5 hrs

All approved CPE providers can be found on the SPBLA website.

**8. What is the process for someone who grandfathered to an inactive license, who may someday wish to convert to an active license?**

Persons who hold an inactive master natural gas license are only required to take the 2.5 CPE hours to renew their license each year as inactive status allows you to work as a natural gas fitter. In order to convert from inactive to active the license holder only needs to ensure that he takes the master natural gas fitter CPE hours (4) and file the proper documents with the board.

**9. How does a licensed master gas fitter ensure a new employee complies with the State Plumbing Board of LA rules? (i.e. apprenticeship vs. journeyman and what work on gas equipment an employee may/may not perform without having a journeyman license, such as service or hook up).**

To ensure compliance, master gas fitters should be checking gas fitting licensure or apprenticeship licenses when hiring new employees to perform the work of a natural gas fitter.