ORDINANCE NO. 17840

AN ORDINANCE introduced by Mayor Harry Felker relating to mechanical trade, amending City of Topeka Code § 26-252, Grandfather provisions for certain mechanical licenses; § 26-254, Application and examination; § 26-256, Same-Master, § 26-257, Same-Journeyman, and specifically repealing said original sections.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TOPEKA, KANSAS:

Section 1. That City of Topeka Code Section 26-252, Grandfather provisions for certain mechanical licenses, is hereby amended to read as follows:

Grandfather provisions for certain mechanical licenses.

(a) Any individual who as of the effective date of this ordinance has a current master mechanical license or journeyman mechanical license may renew the license in the category in which the current license was issued and in accordance with the provisions of Topeka City Code section 26-259. The categories of license are as follows:

1. Comprehensive, all items covered by code.
2. Combination warm heating system/air conditioning systems, including duct work and ventilation.
3. Refrigeration.
5. Commercial hoods.

There shall be no further issuance of new licenses for the mechanical trade by subcategories, except as outlined in parts (b) and (c) of this section commencing with the effective date of this ordinance.
(b) Individuals wanting a master's license for *factory-built* solid fuel or gas fireplace hearth burning appliances shall have passed both an approved fireplace hearth certification exam and a gas hearth appliance certification exam. Only those examinations developed by an independent, nationally recognized testing or educational institution and approved by the Chief Building Inspector will be accepted appear before the mechanical board and demonstrate their knowledge and experience within such area. If the mechanical board is satisfied with the individual's credentials, they shall authorize the building-code enforcement division to issue such individual's master's license within the solid-fuel burning appliance category.

(c) Individuals wanting a sheet metal journeyman's license shall make application for that subcategory exam as given by Experior in accordance with the provisions of the Topeka City Code sections 26-254 and 26-257.

Section 2. That City of Topeka Code Section 26-254, Application and examination, is hereby amended to read as follows:

Application and examination.

(a) Each initial application for examination for journeyman or master license shall be made on forms provided by the building code enforcement division and shall be accompanied by an administrative fee of $20.00 for regularly scheduled examinations. Examinations shall be scheduled bimonthly. Applications for examination shall be made to the board at least four weeks prior to the scheduled examination date. In addition, each applicant for initial examination shall be responsible for paying Experior Block and Associates directly for the cost of the exam where the board has adopted and approved the Experior Block exam.
(b) Examinations for the sheet metal journeyman, an unlimited mechanical
journeyman and unlimited mechanical master shall be the Experior Block-exam, by
Experior Block and Associates, Gainesville, Florida. Limited exams for the mechanical
trade shall be prepared or approved by the mechanical board.

(c) The minimum passing score shall be 75 percent for any of the trade
examinations.

(d) Fees for the licenses shall be as set out in section 30-62.

(e) Water softener/conditioner contractors and those employed to install or
service softener/conditioning equipment shall be required to take an examination prepared
and approved by the water softener committee, plumbing board of appeals and the city
building inspection division. Examinations for both masters and journeymen shall be given
by the city plumbing inspection department and scored by the water quality association with
a minimum passing score of 75 percent. The fee for these exams shall be $50.00 for the
master's exam and $50.00 for the journeyman's.

Section 3. That City of Topeka Code Section 26-256, Same-Master, is hereby
amended to read as follows:

Same--Master.

(a) The requirements to become a licensed master in the plumbing, electrical
and mechanical trades shall be a minimum of three years' experience as a licensed
journeyman within the trade and pass the master's examination or have seven years'
experience owning/operating a shop and appear before the board to have his experience
and knowledge reviewed. If the board determines after such review that the individual has
the necessary experience and knowledge, the individual may take the master's
examination. For the purpose of the mechanical trade only, a licensed master shall have a minimum of two years experience as a licensed journeyman, comprehensive only or grandfathered only, within the trade and pass the masters examination or have four years experience owning and operating a mechanical contractor's business / operating a shop and appear before the mechanical board to have their experience and knowledge reviewed. If the board determines after such review that the individual has the necessary experience and knowledge, the individual may take the masters examination. The requirements to become a licensed master in the water softener/conditioner trade shall be a minimum of one year of experience as a licensed journeyman within the trade and pass the masters' examination. The city shall grant a master's license for those working in the water softener/conditioner field in the capacity of shop owner or manager for a period of five years before January 6, 1998. A master license holder shall be responsible to oversee all work activity to assure compliance with applicable codes and must have direct contact with the job site.

(b) Any owner of a licensed electrical contracting company as of one year prior to the effective date of the ordinance from which this article derives will be issued a master electrician license and shall be responsible for all requirements of a master outlined in this division. Work experience shall be verified by past and current employers on forms provided by the building code enforcement division.

(c) The principal partners of a contracting company formed by a partnership, as defined by state law, shall be licensed as masters, provided these partners fulfill the requirements of that license. If a principal partner is not a licensed journeyman as of the
effective date of the ordinance from which this article derives, he shall be issued a
nonworking master license.

(d) No licenses shall be issued pursuant to the provisions of subsections (b)
and (c) of this section effective November 1, 1991, provided that the license applicant was
otherwise qualified as of January 1, 1991.

(e) For the purposes of the mechanical trade only, a master's license is
categorized as follows:

(1) Comprehensive, all items covered by the code.

(2) Solid fuel-burning appliances.

A contractor employing a mechanical master with a noncomprehensive license shall be
limited to that work which falls within the master's category. A mechanical contractor may
employ more than one mechanical master.

Section 4. That City of Topeka Code Section 26-257, Same-Journeyman, is
hereby amended to read as follows:

Same--Journeyman.

(a) The requirements to become a licensed journeyman in the plumbing,
electrical and mechanical trades shall include, a minimum of four years' experience
working within the trade in conjunction with training of a school approved by the appropriate
board or a minimum of five years' experience working within the trade and pass the
journeyman's examination. For the purpose of the mechanical trade only, the requirements
to become a licensed journeyman, comprehensive or sheet metal, shall include have-a
minimum of two years experience working within the trade in conjunction with training of a
school approved by the board or a minimum of three years experience working within the
trade. The requirements to become a licensed journeyman in the water softener/conditioner trade shall be a minimum six months experience in the trade and pass the journeyman's examination. The city shall grant a journeyman's license for those working in the water softener/conditioner field in the capacity of an installer or service technician for a period of five years before January 6, 1998. Work experience shall be verified by previous and current employers on forms provided by the building code enforcement division.

(b) For the purposes of the mechanical trade only, a journeyman license is categorized as follows:

(1) Comprehensive, all items covered by the code.

(2) Solid fuel burning appliances.

(3) Sheet metal journeyman, limited to perform the following types of installation:

(i) The placement and installation of the furnace, air conditioning or other air handling equipment. This does not include any connections of the line voltage electricity, fuel gas piping or refrigeration piping.

(ii) The installation of the complete air distribution system.

(iii) The installation of the products of combustion venting system.

Section 5. That City of Topeka Code §§ 26-252, 26-254, 26-256, and 26-257 are hereby specifically repealed.

Section 6. This Ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage, approval and publication in the official city newspaper.
PASSED and APPROVED by the City Council

MAY 28 2002

Harry Felker, Mayor

ATTEST:

Iris E. Walker, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY
DATE 5/10/02
TO BE CODIFIED
NOT TO BE CODIFIED