

APA-1

TRANSMITTAL SHEET FOR NOTICE  
OF INTENDED ACTION

Control: 720

Department or Agency: Alabama Plumbers and Gas Fitters Examining Board

Rule No.: 720-X-4-.01

Rule Title: Forms, Requirements, And Fee Schedule

Intended Action Amend

Would the absence of the proposed rule significantly harm or endanger the public health, welfare, or safety? Yes

Is there a reasonable relationship between the state's police power and the protection of the public health, safety, or welfare? Yes

Is there another, less restrictive method of regulation available that could adequately protect the public? No

Does the proposed rule have the effect of directly or indirectly increasing the costs of any goods or services involved? Yes

To what degree?: The amendment to this rule is a fee schedule change for a new business law exam for master level candidates only. It is impossible to say whether or not the fee for this exam would be passed along to a customer, but it is possible.

Is the increase in cost more harmful to the public than the harm that might result from the absence of the proposed rule? No

Are all facets of the rule-making process designed solely for the purpose of, and so they have, as their primary effect, the protection of the public? Yes

Does the proposed action relate to or affect in any manner any litigation which the agency is a party to concerning the subject matter of the proposed rule? No

Does the proposed rule have an economic impact? Yes

If the proposed rule has an economic impact, the proposed rule is required to be accompanied by a fiscal note prepared in accordance with subsection (f) of Section 41-22-23, Code of Alabama 1975.

Certification of Authorized Official

I certify that the attached proposed rule has been proposed in full compliance with the requirements of Chapter 22, Title 41, Code of Alabama 1975, and that it conforms to all applicable filing requirements of the Administrative Procedure Division of the Legislative Services Agency.

Signature of certifying officer

James M. Morgan  
James M. Morgan

Date

Tuesday, May 20, 2025

REC'D & FILED  
MAY 20, 2025

LEGISLATIVE SVC AGENCY

**ALABAMA PLUMBERS AND GAS FITTERS  
EXAMINING BOARD**

**NOTICE OF INTENDED ACTION**

**AGENCY NAME:** Alabama Plumbers and Gas Fitters Examining Board

**RULE NO. & TITLE:** 720-X-4-.01 Forms, Requirements, And Fee Schedule

**INTENDED ACTION:** Amend

**SUBSTANCE OF PROPOSED ACTION:**

Addition of an exam type and associated fee to the existing fee schedule in our administrative rules.

**TIME, PLACE AND MANNER OF PRESENTING VIEWS:**

The public may present views in writing by sending comments to 216 Aquarius Drive Suite 319 Homewood, AL 35209, by email at [feedback@pgfb.alabama.gov](mailto:feedback@pgfb.alabama.gov), or in person at the public hearing on August 14, 2025 at 10:00 AM. The public hearing will be held at the Plumbers & Gas Fitters Examining Board office located at 216 Aquarius Drive Suite 319 Homewood, AL 35209.

**FINAL DATE FOR COMMENT AND COMPLETION OF NOTICE:**

Thursday, August 14, 2025

**CONTACT PERSON AT AGENCY:**

James M. Morgan, Executive  
Director

*James M. Morgan*

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James M. Morgan

(Signature of officer authorized  
to promulgate and adopt  
rules or his or her deputy)

(1) All required forms shall be made available in hard copy at the Board's office as well as in downloadable form on the Board's website.

(2) Requirements for issuance of certificates:

(a) Apprentice:

1. No written exam to be taken.
2. Submit completed Apprentice Registration form.
3. Submit completed and executed form, "Declaration of U.S. Citizenship or Lawful Presence of an Alien".
4. Pay required fee(s).

(b) Journeyman Plumber:

1. Submit completed Application for Examination.
2. Provide verifiable proof of two (2) years of current work experience as an apprentice plumber OR of completion of a Board-approved apprentice training program.
3. Submit completed and executed form, "Declaration of U.S. Citizenship or Lawful Presence of an Alien".
4. Pay required fee(s).
5. Receive a passing score on the written examination.

(c) Journeyman Gas Fitter:

1. Submit completed Application for Examination.
2. Provide verifiable proof of two (2) years of current work experience as an apprentice gas fitter OR of completion of a Board-approved apprentice training program.
3. Submit completed and executed form, "Declaration of U.S. Citizenship or Lawful Presence of an Alien".
4. Pay required fee(s).

5. Receive a passing score on the written examination.

(d) Master Plumber:

1. Submit completed Application for Examination.

2. Provide verifiable proof of one (1) year of current work experience as a journeyman plumber.

3. Submit completed and executed form, "Declaration of U.S. Citizenship or Lawful Presence of an Alien".

4. ~~Pay required fee(s)~~ Receive a passing score on the written examination.

5. Receive a passing score on the ~~written~~ business law examination

6. Pay required fee(s):

(e) Master Gas Fitter:

1. Submit completed Application for Examination.

2. Provide verifiable proof of one (1) year of current work experience as a journeyman gas fitter.

3. Submit completed and executed form, "Declaration of U.S. Citizenship or Lawful Presence of an Alien".

4. ~~Pay required fee(s)~~ Receive a passing score on the written examination.

5. Receive a passing score on the ~~written~~ business law examination.

6. Pay required fee(s):

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(f) Medical Gas Pipe Fitter:

1. Provide verifiable proof of certification at any level by the Board in either plumbing or gas fitting.

2. Provide verifiable proof of certification as a Medical Gas Installer/Brazer from the National Inspection Testing and Certification Corporation (NITC) or equal certification from another Board-approved medical gas certification entity or agency.

3. Pay required fee(s).

(g) Reciprocal Certification under Code of Ala. 1975, §34-37-11:

1. Submit completed request for reciprocal certification.

2. Provide verifiable proof of current licensing/certification in good standing with a state with which the Board has a valid and current reciprocity agreement.

3. Submit completed and executed form, "Declaration of U.S. Citizenship or Lawful Presence of an Alien".

4. Receive a passing score on the business law examination.

5. Pay required fee(s).

(3) Fees:

(a) Apprentice:

1. Initial Registration Fee: \$35.00

2. Annual Registration Renewal Fee: \$35.00

3. Late Annual Registration Penalty: \$35.00

(b) Journeyman Level:

1. Non-Refundable Examination Fee: \$110.00

2. Initial Application Processing Fee: \$50.00

3. Initial Certificate Fee: \$75.00

4. Annual Certificate Renewal Fee: \$75.00

5. Inactive Fee: \$0.00

6. Late Annual Certificate Renewal Penalty: \$75.00

(c) Master Level:

1. Non-Refundable Examination Fee (s):

a. Written Exam: \$160.00

b. Business Law Exam: \$100.00

2. Initial Application Processing Fee: \$50.00
3. Initial Certificate Fee: \$175.00
4. Annual Certificate Renewal Fee: \$175.00
5. Inactive Fee: \$0.00
6. Late Annual Certificate Renewal Penalty: \$175.00

(d) Medical Gas Pipe Fitter:

1. Renewal Fee: \$25.00

(e) Business:

1. Initial Registration Fee: \$25.00
2. Annual Registration Renewal Fee: \$25.00
3. Late Annual Registration Renewal Penalty: \$25.00

(f) Miscellaneous Fees:

1. Records Request: \$15.00 + \$.25 per page
2. License Verification: \$15.00
3. Application for Alternative Assessment: \$15.00

(4) Fines: All violations not related to gas work shall carry a minimum fine of \$500.00. All violations related to gas work shall carry a minimum fine of \$1000.00. Maximum fine limits shall be determined by state law.

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

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

**History:** Filed February 27, 1992. **Repealed and New Rule:** Filed August 5, 1999; effective September 9, 1999. **Amended:** Filed September 18, 2002; effective October 23, 2002. **Amended:** Filed February 18, 2003; effective March 25, 2003. **Amended:** Filed December 11, 2003; effective January 15, 2004. **Repealed and New Rule:** July 21, 2004; effective August 25, 2004. **Amended:** Filed November 15, 2007; effective December 20, 2007. **Amended:** Filed June 6, 2014; effective July 11, 2014. **Amended:** Filed February 5, 2016; effective March 21, 2016. **Amended:** Filed June 14, 2018; effective July 29, 2018. **Repealed and New Rule:** Published June 30, 2020; effective August 14, 2020. **Amended:** Published June 30, 2021; effective August 14, 2021; operative January 1, 2022. **Amended:** Published September 30, 2024; effective November 14,

2024, operative January 1, 2025. Amended: Published ;  
effective January 1, 2025.

**ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT  
FOR APA RULE  
(Section 41-22-23(f))**

Control No: 720

Department or Agency: Alabama Plumbers and Gas Fitters Examining Board

Rule No: 720-X-4-.01

Rule Title: Forms, Requirements, And Fee Schedule

Intended Action: Amend

           This rule has no economic impact.

Yes This rule has an economic impact, as explained below:

**1. NEED/EXPECTED BENEFIT OF RULE:**

The Plumbers & Gas Fitters Examining Board recently entered into its first reciprocal agreement with the State of Mississippi. This agreement waives the technical exam, which currently includes Alabama specific law and administrative rule questions. This has necessitated separation of the Law and Rules portion of the current exam from the technical exam. The benefit to the consumer will be that a contractor from another state will still be required to understand their responsibilities to the consumers of their products or services, even though the technical exam has been waived.

**2. COSTS/BENEFITS OF RULE AND WHY RULES IS THE MOST EFFECTIVE, EFFICIENT, AND FEASIBLE MEANS FOR ALLOCATING RESOURCES AND ACHIEVING THE STATED PURPOSE:**

Cost will only effect applicants for master level exams, which is the category with the least amount of candidates. The benefits of the amendment will be that the public will continue to enjoy the availability of qualified contractors who choose to do business in Alabama, while having assurance that the contractor understands the law that governs their trade. This rule amendment is the most efficient way to accomplish the goal due to our statutory requirement to use a third party for examination services. The board can accomplish this goal efficiently under the existing contract that it has with a vendor who currently provides examination services to the Board.



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**3. EFFECT OF THIS RULE ON COMPETITION:**

None expected.

**4. EFFECT OF THIS RULE ON COST-OF-LIVING AND DOING BUSINESS IN THE GEOGRAPHICAL AREA WHERE THE RULE IS TO BE IMPLEMENTED:**

This change is not expected to increase the cost of living in any area of the state. The amendment to this rule is simply a one-time fee for a new examination that primarily will only apply to individuals who seek to become qualified to own and/or operate a plumbing or gas fitting business in Alabama.

**5. EFFECT OF THIS RULE ON EMPLOYMENT IN THE GEOGRAPHICAL AREA WHERE THE RULE IS TO BE IMPLEMENTED:**

No expected effect.

**6. SOURCE OF REVENUE TO BE USED FOR IMPLEMENTING AND ENFORCING THIS RULE:**

Plumbers & Gas Fitters Examining Board is self-funded. Any and all funding required will be Plumbers & Gas Fitters Examining Board funds.

**7. THE SHORT-TERM/LONG-TERM ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THIS RULE ON EFFECTED PERSONS, INCLUDING ANALYSIS OF PERSONS WHO WILL BEAR THE COSTS AND THOSE WHO WILL BENEFIT FROM THE RULE:**

The short-term economic impact is estimated to be \$46,000.00 per year on the Plumbing & Gas Fitting industry as a whole in Alabama. The only way to substantiate this number is to take the average number of master level exams per year, which is 460. This includes 377 initial examinations, 69 re-examinations, and 14 individuals who will take the exam a third time. Since this is a one-time fee to take an exam, the average cost per individual choosing to take this exam \$122.00. Short-term economic impact to the vendor providing the examination services is estimated to be \$36,800 per year at \$80.00 per exam. Impact on the Plumbers & Gas Fitters Examining Board is estimated to be \$9200.00 per year at a net of \$20.00 per exam application processed. The net of \$20.00 does not include actual labor costs of staff or other resources required to process examination applications.

**8. UNCERTAINTIES ASSOCIATED WITH THE ESTIMATED BENEFITS AND BURDENS OF THE RULE, INCLUDING QUALITATIVE/QUANTITATIVE BENEFITS AND BURDEN COMPARISON:**

While it is virtually impossible to quantify how quickly that the benefits will show up, it is certain that an individual who was required to correctly answer questions about the laws and administrative rules that govern their trade is better prepared to perform work for the public. The burdens in this case would fall solely on the individual taking the exam. The burdens being the exam

fee, gathering of reference materials for the exam and preparing for the exam. The benefits are a better educated, better prepared contractor, less chance that the contractor is cited for a law or rule violation, and consumers who are hiring well educated, better prepared contractors, which long-term could result in less consumer complaints against our licensees.

9. **THE EFFECT OF THIS RULE ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC HEALTH:**

Contractors who perform plumbing and gas work can affect public health positively or negatively in a very significant way. Protection of the water supply and proper sanitation is the basis of the need for proper regulation of the plumbing industry. Gas is very dangerous to the public when it is not handled by qualified professionals. The laws and administrative rules governing plumbing and gas work are in place to make certain that the individuals performing those types of work are qualified to do so. Examination of the applicant is the first step in protecting public health.

10. **DETRIMENTAL EFFECT ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC HEALTH IF THE RULE IS NOT IMPLEMENTED:**

An individual who performs plumbing or gas work who has not been examined upon the laws and administrative rules governing those trades may be unaware of language that has been put into place to protect consumers from waterborne contaminants and diseases, to gas installation standards that protect the public from issues such as carbon monoxide poisoning or a gas leak inside the home or place of business.

Signature of certifying officer

James M. Morgan

James M. Morgan

Date

Tuesday, May 20, 2025