



## MABCD CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY NEWSLETTER

Issue 56—January 2026

<https://www.sedgwickcounty.org/mabcd/mabcd-newsletter/>

Chris Nordick - Editor

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### Administration -

#### ATTENTION TRADE LICENSE AND CERTIFICATE HOLDERS:

On December 31<sup>st</sup> trade licenses and trade certificates that have not been renewed will expire at midnight.

Trade license holders with expired licenses **will not** be able to apply for permits or schedule inspections.

Certificate holders must have the CEUs *COMPLETED* by the expiration of your certificate. There are no exceptions. Twelve CEUs must be completed by the certificate expiration.

Staff continues to work as quickly as possible to process all renewal applications, whether submitted on line or as paper copies.

There are no penalties for late renewal through March 31<sup>st</sup>.

Certificate Renewal After Expiration	Additional Hours Above Required Hours
January 1 through March 31	No penalty hours required (Grace Period)
April 1 through June 30	1.5 hours
July 1 through August 31	3 hours
September 1 through December 31	4.5 hours

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#### Special points of interest

- Trade Certificate Renewal Deadline.
- 2026 NEC Code Review.
- Site Grading Requirements.
- Space Heaters.
- 2025 In The Books.
- Advisory Board calendar.

## Electrical Division -

Please visit our website for more information: [Electrical, Elevator, & Alarm Division](#)

### 2026 National Electrical Code Review Part 1 - Preparing for the NEC 2029 Reformatting.

It's important this year during our code review, to pay close attention to the restructuring of this 2026 NEC in preparation for a complete reformatting of the 2029 NEC Code. What this means?

- The NEC® format has remained unchanged since 1937.
- In 2020, the NEC Corelating Committee formed a Task Group to consider a revised structure that better reflects current technology and digital dissemination.
- In preparation for the reformatting of the 2029 edition, structural changes were implemented during the 2026 code cycle.
- The proposed 2029 NEC® structure will be located in Annex L of the 2026 NEC®.

### Example: 90.3 Re-Arrangement

2023 NEC	Proposed 2029 NEC
Definitions and General Requirements – Ch. 1	Definitions and General Requirements – Ch. 1
Wiring and Protection – Ch. 2	Wiring and Protection – Ch. 2 through 4
Wiring Methods and Materials – Ch. 3	Energy Sources – Ch. 5
Equipment for General Wiring – Ch. 4	Wiring Methods and Materials – Ch. 6 through 11
Special Occupancies – Ch. 5	Equipment – Ch. 12 through 17
Special Equipment – Ch. 6	Specific Locations and Occup. – Ch. 18 through 20
Special Conditions – Ch. 7	Life Safety and Emergency Sys. – Ch. 21
Communication Systems – Ch. 8	Electrified Transportation Equipment – Ch. 22
Tables – Ch. 9	Tables – Ch. 30
Inf. Annex A through K	Informative Annex

## Plumbing Division -

Please visit our website for more information: [Plumbing Division](#)

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

Happy New Year!

The next meeting of the Appeals Board for Plumbers and Gas Fitters is scheduled for January 28, 2026 at 9am.

# Plans Examiners-

## MABCD - Grading Permit and Notice of Intent.

The Metropolitan Area Building and Construction Department does not require a Grading Permit to do dirt work on a building site but does require you to have an approved Notice of Intent from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment when you are disturb one acre or more and approval from the City of Wichita Public Works and Utilities Storm Water Management for building sites located in the City of Wichita Limits or approval from the Sedgwick County Public Works Stormwater Management for building sites located in the unincorporated portions of Sedgwick County before starting the dirt work on the building site.

The Metropolitan Area Building and Construction Department will not issue a Conditional Building Permit to a general contractor until the project has been assigned to a plan reviewer for review and the assigned plan reviewer has done a site review on the building site and occupancy classification review and allowable area and height review on the proposed addition to an existing building or a new proposed building.

The Conditional Building Permit will be restricted to footings, foundations, and slab with utilities at the beginning.

The extension of the original Conditional Building Permit will be based on the situation causing the general contractor to not have a Full Building Permit at the time of the request on the extension of it. The general contractor will need to fill-out a MABCD Conditional Permit Application/Agreement and e-mail to the plan reviewer assigned to the project. The above form will require a signature from the owner before it will be considered valid. The above form is required before a Conditional Building Permit will be issued to the general contractor.

# Wichita Fire Department -

## NFPA 11.5.3.2

Christmas has come and gone, 2025 is now in the rearview but the cold is still here.

While the cold is still visiting, the need for space heaters is present.

NFPA 11.5.3.2, 11.5.3.2 Portable electric heaters shall be designed and located so that they cannot be easily overturned. If a space heater is allowed to be used in your place of business, please take into consideration the following tips

- Although placing a heater under a desk or table lessens the chance of the heater being easily overturned, the heater also can easily be forgotten. Let's not forget to turn them off
- Electric space heaters should be used only where they can be plugged directly into appropriate receptacles or extension cords of adequate current capacity.
- Please make sure the cords are in good working condition and not placed under carpets, mats or any combustibles
- Please make sure space heaters are 3 feet away from anything that can burn



# Assistant Directors Desk-

## **2025 IS IN THE BOOKS**

Hope the Holidays were good for you all. While the industry indicates that construction has slowed down in 2025, MABCD's permitting and inspections indicate that 2025 has been a very successful year. As of this writing, MABCD has issued roughly 6,000 building permits, 5,300 electrical permits, 3,700 mechanical permits, 3,500 plumbing permits and 3,200 sewer permits—along with various others issued by the department.

In addition to all the permit's issued, staff have been busy processing trade renewals and applications for new contractor licenses.

With all this activity, we have also seen an increase in work being conducted without permits and inspections. This has come from both licensed and unlicensed individuals and companies. This is not only a disservice to the consumer, owner or potential buyer of a property, it tends to put a blackeye on the overall industry from the standpoint of public trust. Additionally, this also puts MABCD (as the regulatory entity) in the crosshairs from the standpoint of public trust.

Additionally, while MABCD vets applications to ensure licensing requirements are met and applications are accurate, and while WABA vets its members to the extent possible, neither of these controls the quality of work performed. Quality of work is not a code issue, but rather an ethics issue of the individual(s) completing the work.

As we go forward in 2026, let's work together to police the industry and work to remove the bad players...in order to protect citizens and prevent distrust amongst consumers. MABCD looks forward to a productive 2026, and with your help, to projecting a positive image of the industry. Let's all ensure maintaining consumer trust remains a top priority!

Tim Wagner

Assistant Director

MABCD

## MABCD Advisory Boards - Calendar

- [Board of Building Code Standards and Appeals \(BCSA\)](#)
- [Board of Electrical Appeals \(BEA\)](#)

# January 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 MABCD Mechanical Board Meeting	2	3
4	5 MABCD BSCA Board Meeting	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13 MABCD Electrical Board Meeting	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28 MABCD Plumbing Board Meeting	29	30	31