

BOILER SAFETY LAWS & RULES



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL SERVICES
DIVISION OF STATE FIRE MARSHAL

What is a Boiler?

A boiler is defined as... "a closed vessel in which water or other liquid is heated, steam or vapor is generated, steam is superheated, or any combination of these functions is accomplished under pressure or vacuum, for use external to itself, by the direct application of energy from the combustion of fuels or from electricity or solar energy." This definition also includes hot water heaters that meet or exceed 400,000 BTU/hr heat input; or 210 degrees F water temperature rating; or 120 gallons nominal water containing capacity; and hot water heating systems used for heating spaces, storage tanks and pools. These vessels are all regulated by the Boiler Safety Section of the Bureau of Fire Prevention, Division of State Fire Marshal.

Do We Have a Boiler Law?

In 1987, the state Legislature enacted Florida Statute 554, the Boiler Safety Act. This law is designed for the safety of the public where boilers are installed and operated throughout the state. The law mandates rules for the safe

construction, installation, inspection, repair and maintenance of boilers. The law also defines the various nationally recognized codes adopted, frequency of inspections, qualifications of licensed inspectors and the penalties that can be imposed if the law or the adopted rules are violated.

Boiler Rules:

In 1989, rules were written and adopted to regulate boilers in the state and were updated in 2021. The Boiler Safety Rules are found under Chapter 69A-51 and 69A-70, Florida Administrative Code. They include definitions, codes adopted, administration, requirements for new and existing installations, among other topics. The ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Codes, ASME CSD-1 Codes, ASME B31.1 Power Piping and the National Boiler and Inspection Codes have all been adopted under this rule.

Boiler Owner Responsibilities:

Within the Boiler Codes and Rules the owners are responsible for:

★ Obtaining periodic boiler inspections by scheduling with the boiler insurance company if the boiler is insured or with the Division of State Fire Marshal if the boiler is uninsured.

Note: The inspector is not responsible for scheduling your inspections. It is the owner's responsibility to schedule inspections and obtain a current or "Active" Certificate of Operation.

a) How do I request a boiler inspection?

Most boilers are insured. Insurance is typically called Boiler & Machinery Insurance or Equipment Breakdown Coverage. Companies providing boiler insurance are required to perform inspections of boilers so insured. Your insurance agent can provide information about coverage, the insurance company name and phone number, and can request an inspection on your behalf directly to the underwriter.

b) How often do boilers require inspection?

Boilers located in "Places of Public Assembly" as defined under The Boiler Safety Act require inspection.

- High pressure boilers receive both an internal and external inspection once per year. Certificates are valid for 12 months from the date of the initial inspection.
- Low pressure boilers require external inspection every two years and internal inspection every four years (if construction permits). Certificates are valid for 24 months from the date of the initial inspection.

★ **Remediating all documented code violations**

and scheduling follow-up inspections to clear such code violations.

a) How do I clear cited violations once I have made the required repairs to my boiler?

Call the original inspector back to do a follow-up inspection report to clear the cited violations.

b) How do I know if my boiler has a violation or unpaid fees?

You can access information related to each registered boiler by searching our public portal:

<http://www.myfloridacfo.com/Division/SFM/BFP/BoilerSafety/default.htm>. Enter ONLY the street numbers and county of the boilers location in the search engine. Click on each of the blue file numbers that populate to find current and past information for each boiler including invoice balance, open violations and more.

★ **Paying the Certificate and/or Inspection Fees.**

When a renewal inspection is completed either annually or biannually, a certificate invoice will be generated and mailed. The owner is responsible for ensuring payment is made in order to obtain the Certificate of Operation no matter the structure of their business.

★ **Posting the current or "Active" Certificate of Operation** under glass in the boiler room.

a) Ownership has changed, how do I get Certificates with updated information?

Email or call the Boiler Safety Section:

Boiler.Safety@myfloridacfo.com include the previous owner's information, the new owner's name and address and contact info, where you would like invoices and certificates to be mailed, and the new location name if required. Once the changes are made, new certificates can be printed from our public portal found on the Boiler Safety Section webpage.

b) What do I do if our boiler is no longer in use?

Call your inspecting agency to perform a Status Change Inspection to verify the boiler is disconnected properly so we can update our records.

c) What do I do if our boiler has been replaced?

If you have replaced an old boiler with a new boiler, call your inspecting agency to complete a First Inspection Report. Have available for the inspector the Manufacture Data Report and ASME CSD-1 Report (signed by the installer and manufacturer) which should be located in the users/installation manual documents and also refer to the "[Boiler Installation](#)" pamphlet for more detailed information about installations.

How do I contact the Boiler Safety Section if I have more questions? Where can I get a copy of the law and the rules? The Boiler Safety Section is available from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday except for legal holidays. Copies of the law and the rules are available free of charge and can be found online at the Boiler Safety Section website. The Chief Boiler Inspector, Deputy Boiler Inspectors and staff are readily available to answer any further questions and keep Florida a safer place for everyone.



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