



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Department of Public Safety
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**DESCRIPTION OF REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTIFICATES
OF COMPETENCY AS OIL BURNER TECHNICIANS**

- **Group #1**, Unrestricted Power Burners. This is the highest grade of oil burner certificate. To obtain this grade an applicant must be able to demonstrate proficiency in the lower grades, namely Group #2, Power Burners #1 and #2 oil, and in Group #3, Gravity Feed. The applicant must also demonstrate a thorough knowledge of 527 CMR 4.00, as well as knowledge of safety devices, automatic, pneumatic and electronic controls. A knowledge of pipefitting and heating is essential. He must pass a strenuous written examination and an oral examination on whatever deficiencies are discovered in the written examination. The applicant for Group #1 needs from five to seven years of well-rounded experience before applying, as well as considerable classroom instruction.
- **Group #2**, Power Burners #1 and #2 oil is the in-between grade of license or certificate and the most popular, or the one most often applied for. It requires an intricate knowledge of oil burners, safety devices, electrical and electronic controls. An applicant for this certificate should have attended classroom instruction for at least one-half year (twenty-six weeks) and should have obtained an apprentice license to learn how to clean boilers and install equipment in a safe and workmanlike manner. He must also take a written examination and an oral examination to follow, to explain any deficiencies that appeared in the written examination. He must also have attained the age of eighteen years. He is also required to exhibit a knowledge of testing equipment such as the Bachrack CO₂ test, smoke test and O₂ test.
- **The Group #3**, or gravity feed is now to a large extent outmoded in the city, however, in the country or campsite locations the sleeve burner and the pot burner are still used. That is why we require Group #2 and Group #1 to be able to display their knowledge of Group #3. To obtain the Group #3 certificate it is necessary to have considerable knowledge of 527 CMR 4.00. The use of small hand tools such as levels, wrenches, measuring and metering devices is necessary, as well as cleaning the stoves, burners and chimneys. The proper handling of wicks, water heating devices and side arm heaters is necessary.

In summary, to obtain a Group #2 certificate it is necessary to be able to perform the work of group #3, and to obtain Group #1 certificate it is necessary to be able to perform all the work of both #3 and #2 Group. The apprentice certificate does not have any prerequisites, only some person with a higher grade of license to agree to employ him.

527 CMR 4.00 can be purchased from the State House Book Store, State House, Boston, Ma 02133. By telephoning (617) 727-2834, or Secretary of State Bookstore, 436 Dwight St., Springfield, Ma. 01103, (413) 784-1376, the current price can be obtained. The manuals can be mailed out providing a certified bank check or money order, with the required amount, is forwarded.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCE MATERIALS FOR STUDY MAY BE FOUND AT:

- **Basic Oilheat Technician's Manual:** National Oil Heat Resource Alliance (NORA), P.O. Box 314 • Watertown, MA 02471-0314 Ph: 1-866-924-1100 / Fax: 1-866-924-1200 / www.norastore.org
- **Residential Oil Burners:** Author: Herb Weinberger, Publisher: Delmar Cengage Learning; 3 edition (September 11, 2007) ,ISBN-10: 1418073970,ISBN-13: 978-1418073978

All applicants must provide:

- 1 photo 1"x1.25", or a colored copy of Drivers License
- A legible copy of a valid driver's license,
- Application processing fee is a Non-Refundable \$75.00.
- Applicants: You must be at least 18 years of age.