



# AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PLUMBING ENGINEERS

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

## BOSTON CHAPTER

CHARTERED 1973

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## MASS PLUMBING BOARD DECISIONS

I have been approached by some of our Society Members regarding my articles dealing with Mass Plumbing Board (the Board) decisions and especially the article regarding the clarification of the responsibilities for "ownership" of subsoil drains.

What has happened is that our members have changed their documents and then during the process of both design and construction they have been challenged by the Architect, other design team professionals, and in at least one case that I have heard about; the local Plumbing Inspector.

I brought the question to a Board Member who is my liaison to the Board asking if these Board interpretations are valid as code changes. The answer that I received:

*"It is a Board Decision voted on by the Full Board and becomes a Board Policy until the Code is changed after the public hearing Process, A policy is a binding decision and must be followed."*

If you are faced with a challenge on any of these articles that have appeared, you can resolve it by contacting the Plumbing Board or you can e-mail me at [Mgarcia43@comcast.net](mailto:Mgarcia43@comcast.net) and I will share my information with you. In one recent case, the Engineer who was challenged used a fax communication that I received from the Plumbing Board and that satisfied the Inspector. The challenges by the Design Professional such as the Landscape Architect or the Civil Engineer particularly on the sub-soil drain situation (which they previously "owned"), have not been as easy to resolve. I will be happy to try to help you.

There are other such Board Policy decisions which have been made and are, in effect, code changes as per the above quote. I am working with the Board to obtain these changes so that we can share them with our members.

In the meantime, in response to a question from one of our members, I inquired about a new code. I was informed that a new code is months away. In order to do a new code there will be public hearings on the draft. I am informed that a working draft is not yet ready so the process has not started.

Manuel B. Garcia, P.E., C.P.D.