
General MPA Jurisdictional Requirements

The Massachusetts Port Authority is a public instrumentality, performing an essential governmental function, and is not subject to the supervision or regulation of any state agency, except as may be specifically provided by statute. It does not pay taxes, although it makes in-lieu-of-tax payments to Chelsea, Boston and Winthrop.

As an Authority of the Commonwealth, Massport is not subject to direction or control by any municipality.

A significant Opinion of the Attorney General in 1979 concluded that Authorities including Massport with responsibilities not limited to a single town are not subject to local regulation. Like the state, Massport is subject to the state Department of Public Safety for review of plans and specs, building permits and certificates of occupancy.

The Board of Examiners of Plumbers now has authority to approve plans, inspect plumbing and issue permits on Massport projects, consistent with the State Plumbing Code.

Jurisdiction of electrical inspections shall be verified with the Project Manager.

Although Massport is not bound by municipal by-laws or regulations and is not subject to direction from municipal officials except as above noted, requests or issues of a substantive nature that may be directed to the consultant or contractor on a Massport project by local officials should be brought to the attention of the Director of Capital Programs. Massport may wish to examine the possible worthiness of the local officials' position, and may choose to carry out what is being proposed.