



ADVISORY

Attention Home Builders & Remodelers

New Rules Affect Eligibility to Pull Permits

January 1, 2008: New Builder Education Rules in Effect

The Wisconsin Builders Association® (WBA) is advising all home builders and remodelers to be aware of new rules affecting builders' eligibility to acquire building permits after January 1, 2008. The new rules were enacted as part of state contractor education legislation in April 2006.

Beginning January 1, 2008, contractors and remodelers will need a new credential in order to pull building permits in Wisconsin – a Qualifier Credential, issued by the Department of Commerce. Individuals who did not hold a state Dwelling Contractor Financial Responsibility Credential on April 11, 2006 will be required to take an initial 12 hours of coursework in construction laws, codes, and business practices.

The WBA "New Builder" 12-hour course meets the requirements of the state's contractor education law for initial qualifiers. A memo issued by the Wisconsin Department of Commerce states, "at least one-third of the subject matter... shall cover subject matters in construction law/business practices and at least one-third in construction codes." The WBA New Builder course has three separate, but integrated 4-hour "phases." The first and third phases cover construction laws and business practices, while the second module covers building codes and construction practices. Each concludes with an objective test with a passing score of 70 percent.

Additional information and listings of courses offered statewide can be found at the Department of Commerce web site. More information about the courses offered by WBA in addition to online registration for enrollment can be found at www.wisbuild.org by clicking the "New Builder Education" banner advertisement. WBA's New Builder education courses are scheduled for November 14-15 (Madison); December 4-5 (Stevens Point); December 18-19 (Eau Claire).

Attention Home Builders and Remodelers: Are You a Grandfather?

The Wisconsin Builders Association® (WBA) is advising all home builders and remodelers to be aware of new rules affecting builders' eligibility to acquire building permits after January 1, 2008. The new rules were enacted as part of state contractor education legislation in April 2006.

Beginning January 1, 2008 no person or business may obtain a building permit for a one or two-family dwelling unless that person or business holds a dwelling contractor certification AND holds or employs someone who holds a dwelling contractor qualifier credential. The newly created dwelling contractor qualifier credential will be the credential that shows proof of continuing education.

The contractor education law, in essence, created two tiers of contractors: those who held their Dwelling Contractor Financial Responsibility certification on April 11, 2006, and those who did not. Those who did hold their credential on April 11, 2006 (the effective date of the law) will be "grandfathered" builders. Those who did not hold the credential on that date will be looked at as "new" builders.

The rule states that the "new" builders will have to take a 12 hour class with an exam in order to pull a building permit beginning in 2008. After having taken the original 12 hour class, they will be required to take 12 hours of approved education every two years. Individuals who did not hold a state Dwelling Contractor Financial Responsibility Credential on April 11, 2006 will be required to take an initial 12 hours of coursework in construction laws, codes, and business practices.

The "grandfathered" builders will only be required to take 12 hours of approved education every two years – these classes will most likely not include a test. The Department of Commerce will be sending a qualifier credential application to all "grandfathered" builders in the latter part of 2007.

The WBA is currently offering a "New Builder" 12-hour course meeting the requirements of the state's contractor education law for initial qualifiers. Additional information and listings of courses offered statewide can be found at the Department of Commerce web site. WBA's New Builder education courses are scheduled for November 14-15 (Madison); December 4-5 (Stevens Point); December 18-19 (Eau Claire).

This advisory is a special service of the Wisconsin Builders Association

For more information about WBA and other contractor education opportunities, please visit: www.wisbuild.org