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Safety and Buildings Division - Dwelling Contractor Certification and Education

Starting January 1, 2008, dwelling contractors will need an additional certification to take out building permits for one- and two-family homes. (News posted July 13, 2007.)

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What will be the new dwelling contractor certification process? - The Safety and Buildings Division intends to continue most of the previous process pertaining to the Dwelling Contractor Financial Responsibility Certification. Any contractor wishing to obtain a one- or two-family dwelling building permit will need to hold the Dwelling Contractor Financial Responsibility Certification. The requirements for the certification will remain the same.

Beginning January 1, 2008, that contractor also must hold or employ someone holding a Dwelling Contractor Qualifier Certification. As of January 1, 2008, the local official issuing the permit will be required to check for both of the certifications. A property owner will still be able to obtain a building permit for their residence without holding either certification.

(These dwelling contractor certification requirements do not apply to plumbing, electrical, or heating work, or to work on commercial or multifamily dwellings.)

There will be two ways to obtain the Dwelling Contractor Qualifier Certification.

1. People who were part of a Dwelling Contractor Financial Responsibility Certification current in mid-April, 2006, will be able to receive a Dwelling Contractor Qualifier Certification because of their status. They may have been the certificate applicant, the contact, or an eligible business owner or officer. They will be "grandfathered in." The Safety and Buildings Division will send letters in August 2007 to people on record with the division in April 2006 as being the applicant or contact for the Dwelling Contractor Financial Responsibility Certification. The letter will inform the recipient of their options concerning the Dwelling Contractor Qualifier Certification. The letter will also describe who else

Advisory Council meeting July 16, 2007 - There will be a teleconference meeting of the Contractor Certification Advisory Code Council on Monday, July 16, at 10 a.m. For information on the meeting, see the [agenda](#). The members of the Contractor Certification Advisory Council are Craig Rakowski, Wauwatosa, Wisconsin Builders Assoc.; Jay Statz, Middleton, National Association of Remodeling Contractors; and Joseph Welch, Pewaukee, Wisconsin State Council of Carpenters. The S&B staff person organizing the meeting is Jim Quast, jim.quast@wisconsin.gov, 608-266-9292.

What is this information? - This is the current description of the Dwelling Contractor Certification process that will be put into place for [recently adopted Comm 5, Licenses, Certifications, and Registrations Code changes](#). (If this information is updated, the date above will be revised.)

These Comm 5 changes, expected to be effective September 1, 2007, were directed by [2005 Wisconsin Act 200](#). That 2005 Act 200 later was affected by the legislature through [2007 Wisconsin Act 14](#), which changed the educational term of the dwelling

at the company may be eligible to obtain the qualifier certification. In September, S&B will begin processing grandfathered (and new) Dwelling Contractor Qualifier Certification applications. In September, S&B will post on the Internet lists of people holding Dwelling Contractor Qualifier Certifications, <http://commerce.wi.gov/SB/SB-CredList.html>.

2. People who obtain a new Dwelling Contractor Financial Responsibility Certification after mid-April, 2006 need to hold a Dwelling Contractor Qualifier Certification or employ someone holding a Dwelling Contractor Qualifier Certification, in order to obtain a one- or two-family dwelling building permit after January 1, 2008.

If someone (is not "grandfathered-in" and) wishes to obtain a new Dwelling Contractor Qualifier Certification, they will need to take and pass a contractor initial training class approved by the Safety and Buildings Division. People who now hold a Dwelling Contractor Financial Responsibility Certification and are not eligible to be "grandfathered-in" should receive a letter from S&B informing them of their need to take an initial training class.

Approved Dwelling Contractor Qualifier Certification courses may be organized by various entities and may charge varying fees for attendance. Criteria for those training classes will be decided upon at the July 16, 2007, code advisory council meeting. S&B will begin approving initial training classes in July 2007 and will announce online as soon as possible which classes have been approved: <http://commerce.wi.gov/SB/SB-DivContinuingEducation.html>.

After taking the initial training class, someone will need to apply to the Safety and Buildings Division to obtain a Dwelling Contractor Qualifier Certification.

- In the future, anyone renewing any Dwelling Contractor Qualifier Certification will need to attend 12 approved continuing education hours during the two-year education cycle that parallels the two-year term of the certification.

_What has been the Dwelling Contractor certification process? - The Dwelling Contractor Financial Responsibility Certification since the 1990s was required for any contractor wishing to obtain a one- or two-family dwelling building permit. The local official issuing a building permit has been required to check for the certification. A property owner could obtain a building permit for their residence without holding the certification.

The Dwelling Contractor Financial Responsibility Certification has been a one-year certification, not requiring any continuing education to renew. To obtain the

contractor credential from one to two years. Together, those two acts established educational obligations for dwelling contractors wishing to obtain one- or two-family dwelling building permits.

certification, the contractor needed to prove they were bonded or insured to a certain dollar amount and were to attest that their business complied with unemployment and worker's compensation requirements.

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