

Code News

Creating a Green Building Standard

There are already a half-dozen green building standards, but the International Code Council's (ICC) Shari Shapiro argues the world needs at least one more. Many

of the existing standards violate the building codes set up by ICC, Shapiro writes, but if the ICC created its own set of

rules, it could help make green architecture the new standard for all buildings.

[GreenerBuildings](#)



UL Qualified Contractor Program Update

The UL qualified contractor program, which covers contractors installing firestop systems and those installing spray-applied fire-resistive materials (SFRMs), was recently established to provide architects, code authorities, general contractors, building owners and others with a way to identify contractors that comply with the qualified contractor program requirements.

As demand for these services increased, the number of companies obtaining qualification under the programs have also been increasing. To date, eleven companies have qualified as firestop contractors, and one company has qualified as a SFRM contractor.

For additional information on this program, including a list of the qualified contractors, and how to become a qualified contractor, please see www.ul.com/qualifiedcontractorprogram.

EPA Lead-Safe Program Begins

The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Lead-safe Renovation, Repair, and Painting (RRP) program has begun.

By April 2010, all firms who disturb lead paint as part of their work in pre-1978 homes, schools, and other buildings must be EPA-certified. All of these jobs must be supervised by a certified renovator who has completed an EPA-accredited one-day training course, and other employees will have to receive specific on-the-job training. This new program will help reduce childhood lead poisoning by working lead-safe.

Hundreds of contractors across the country have already taken the one-day accredited RRP training course and have become EPA-certified renovators. They learned how to protect themselves and their clients from lead contamination during renovation, repair, and painting activities. They also realize that working clean can mean working profitably. They will be able to advertise that they are certified by EPA under the RRP program.

You may already be familiar with EPA requirements, and may even be certified lead abatement contractors. But you may not yet be aware that even contractors with previous training and certification must be trained and certified under this new program. In some cases, a shorter "refresher" course may be adequate.

All contractors must be trained and certified by April 2010. Although it may be difficult to find an accredited training

course if you wait until just before the deadline, there are courses available now. You can continue to work with confidence if you take a one-day accredited course in the next few months.

Finding an accredited course is easy. The EPA's website now lists over 50 accredited trainers at <http://epa.gov/lead/pubs/trainingproviders.htm>. Check back often if you do not find one near you today, as this list grows weekly. A number of trainers have been approved to travel to your site, making training even more convenient. Individual certification as a "certified renovator" is automatic upon completion of training, at no additional charge. This certification is valid anywhere in the country. As state and tribal programs become authorized, the Agency will work closely with certified renovators and the authorized state or tribe to ensure a smooth transition.

Both individuals and contracting firms must be certified. Firm certification is straightforward – you need to complete a short application, and submit it with fee to EPA. The application is now posted on at <http://www.epa.gov/lead/pubsfirmapp.pdf>. We will start processing applications in October, in the order they have been received. Again, after April 2010, you will need both firm certification and individual renovator certification.

If you have questions about the RRP rule or the certification process, you can visit EPA's website at www.epa.gov/lead or call the National Lead Information Center (NLIC) at (800) 424-LEAD [5323].

OSHA Launches Texas Construction Safety Initiative

Texas experiences more construction industry fatalities than any other state, so OSHA launched a new construction safety initiative throughout Texas. A team of OSHA compliance safety and health officers from around the country will inspect Texas construction sites to help keep Texas construction workers alive and healthy.

Consultation Services is Featured in Latest OSHA Brochure

OSHA's newest brochure on consultation services demonstrates how this free, confidential service can help a small business improve workplace safety and health. Printed copies can be ordered from OSHA's publications website.

