

PENNBOC Quarterly

— Pennsylvania Building Officials Conference —

STATEWIDE NEWS & VIEWS

Summer 2005

2005 PENNBOC EDUCATIONAL OFFERINGS

REGISTER TODAY!

PENNSYLVANIA
BUILDING
OFFICIALS
CONFERENCE
2005

Training is Vital to Job Security, Preparedness

I F YOU KNEW YOU COULD LOSE YOUR JOB IN LESS THAN TWO YEARS if you didn't have the proper training, you'd scramble to correct that, wouldn't you? That scenario is a real possibility if building inspectors and plan reviewers don't have the minimum UCC certification requirements.

NO joking! As of April 2007, code enforcement officers will no longer be able to rely on the "grandfathering" grace period for their required residential certifications to be in place.

PENNBOC has you covered. Now it's your turn to step up to the plate and get the training you need. Based on training courses identified by the leadership of each PENNBOC region, our 2005 line-up of educational offerings provides an across-the-board mix of what you need, when you need it. Some sessions may require you to travel and submit requests for payment in advance at your municipality, however. Planning is key.

PENNBOC leaders repeatedly hear that members require training. With a building boom that has been long-lasting, it is often difficult to break away from a jam-packed inspection schedule. But proper training and compliance with the law cannot wait!

The top-notch line-up we've scheduled requires a minimum of 20 participants/session. That number of registrants must be reached more than a week before the scheduled training date to secure the proper supplies and make all necessary last-minute accommodations.

IT IS CRITICAL YOU REGISTER NOW! Delaying your registration directly jeopardizes our ability to hold the session—costing you valuable opportunity and denying immediate training to those who have registered in advance. While walk-in registrations are ordinarily welcome, everyone furthers the guarantee that a session will be held if we know you plan to come in advance.

Waiting to register risks that the session will be cancelled and you have not registered in advance, you may waste a day travelling to a session that has been cancelled. We can't know to call you if there is a cancellation of the session if we don't know you're coming!

Download the registration form at www.pennboc.org.
Registration is not guaranteed until your payment is received.

President's Corner



JAMES MATSCHERZ,
PENNBOC
President

Will You Have a Job in 2007? PENNBOC Training is the Answer

Dear Building Official:

WILL YOU HAVE A JOB ON APRIL 10, 2007? April 9, 2007 is the day “grandfathered” code enforcement officers will lose their residential registration credentials...and possibly their jobs! Your job and your future are in your hands!

Building inspectors and plan examiners (plan reviewers) must meet the minimum certification requirements in the Uniform Construction Code by April 9, 2007. To perform the mandated inspections, the Uniform Construction Code requires training and testing to attain certification in all of these areas:

- ✓ Residential or Commercial Building Inspector
- ✓ Residential or Commercial Plumbing Inspector
- ✓ Residential or Commercial Mechanical Inspector
- ✓ Residential or Commercial Electrical Inspector
- ✓ Building Code Official (Certificate of Occupancy)

Remember, first the plans for, then every new housing start must pass five field inspections. You must be appropriately credentialed to perform each!

- ✓ Foundation inspection
- ✓ Plumbing, mechanical and electrical inspection
- ✓ Frame and masonry inspection
- ✓ Wallboard Inspection
- ✓ Final inspection

PENNBOC is helping hundreds of building officials get ready for April 10, 2007 and we want to help you be ready too. PENNBOC offers training and certification testing at a variety of locations throughout the year. The Annual conference (October 12 - 14) delivers the greatest concentration of training and testing opportunities available anywhere in Pennsylvania!

For more information on regional training or the annual conference, visit us at www.pennboc.org.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO REGISTER NOW?

PENNBOC **MUST** have a minimum of 20 registrants per session or risk its cancellation! It often takes municipalities several weeks to process a building official's request to finance their attendance at a training session. Don't delay in the processing of your training!

WHAT SHOULD REGIONAL LEADERS BE DOING?

Regional leadership must be “shaking the trees” to encourage local participation! It is critical that local leadership regularly survey what types of training their members need when they submit their requests for coursework. We need to make certain supply meets demand where it is needed!

2005 PENNBOC TRAINING SCHEDULE

JULY 19, Allentown
2003 IBC BUILDING PLANNING

JULY 22, Harrison City
2003 IECC FUNDAMENTALS

JULY 28, 2005, Williamsport
2003 IECC FUNDAMENTALS

NOVEMBER 1, Days Inn, Allentown
IMC FUNDAMENTALS

NOVEMBER 18, Harrison City
IFC FUNDAMENTALS

NOVEMBER 18, Harleysville
IECC FUNDAMENTALS

VISIT

www.pennboc.org

to register today!

ICC Region 7 News

AT RECENT ICC REGION 7 MEETINGS held in Hagerstown, MD, there was adoption of basic organizational structure and formation of some committees. The last meeting was held on Friday May 13th. ICC staff (Roland Hall, Laura Scott) were present to facilitate the meeting and answer questions regarding organizational rules. There are 22 state, local and professional ICC chapters in ICC Region 7 (NJ, PA, DC, DE, MD, VA, WVA); thirteen were present at the initial meeting. There are no chapters in D.C.; no representatives were present from DE or WVA.

The **structure committee** recommended the initiation of a coalition of chapters within Region 7, with a board of directors comprised of four members from each state in the region. Obviously, not every ICC chapter will have a representative on this board, but all chapters may send representatives to meetings and serve on committees. Maryland will chair first, since it was the first state in attendance in alphabetical order. The chair will rotate annually based upon alphabetical order; if DE becomes active, that state is in line next. The interim board will act as a steering or coordinating committee until formal rules are adopted. If all states become active, the number of delegates from each state will probably be reduced to keep the board size manageable.

The Pennsylvania delegation at the meeting decided that PACO, LanCode, CBO and PENNBOC would each provide a director. We need to report our PENNBOC delegate by **July 11th** and adopt a chapter resolution that opts PENNBOC into ICC Region 7 membership by **July 25th**.

There are no dues or formal rules, simply a means by which Region 7 can formally function. The remaining three committees reflect the initial goals and objectives: **code change, education and ICC relations (web site, ICC board)**

The primary objective of the code change committee is to facilitate the code change process (Region 7 initiated code changes, plus support or opposition regarding code changes initiated by individuals or groups within Region 7, and from outside the region). Networking will be set up on the Region 7 chapter page of the ICC web site.

The education committee does not foresee regional conferences or seminars in the near future; rather, the desire is to focus on future demands for online courses to meet the demanding work schedules of code officials. The committee will also explore the use of FEMA facilities at the National Fire Academy in Emmittsburg, since that location is fairly centralized in the region.

The ICC committee will focus on expanding PENNBOC's use of the ICC web site and customizing it for chapters' bulletins on code issues, etc. It was noted that the existing bulletin board should be made easier to use and access. The committee will also make recommendations for ICC officer/delegate endorsements. Action was taken to support John Terry of NJ (one of the key motivators in the formation of Region 7) for a position on the ICC board. Steve Shapiro, our current ICC Chapter Liaison from VA, was supported for his bid to become ICC Secretary/Treasurer.

PENNBOC Region 1 News

PENNBOC REGION 1 held its winter quarterly meeting on March 17, 2005 at the Lower Salford Township Building in Harleysville. Rob Reilly, Education Chairman, introduced the day's program sponsored by Basement Systems. This company sells and installs products used to reinforce basement walls, make crawl spaces cleaner and more usable, and ward off mold and mildew. Rob announced that the next Region 1 meeting would be held June 16 on "The Art of Building Science 2" as a follow-up to a very informative program introduced last year to the membership by Certainteed Corporation.

Lee Jennings, Vice President, mentioned the recent death of Geoff Hall, ICC's Roland Hall's son and the education fund that had been established for Geoff's young son. The members agreed to send a contribution to the fund. Earlier in the year, Region 1 decided to send a \$100 gift certificate to Roger, who is on medical leave from his job as Building & Plumbing Inspector for Upper Dublin Township. Roger is recuperating from a bone marrow transplant.

Finally, copies of House Bill 881, which would place limits on permit fees, and a letter from PHRC were distributed and discussed.

the Hill

Around

The following is a summary of legislative items of interest to PENNBOC members. Bill status and amendments may have changed as of press time. For current bill tracking and status, refer to the PA General Assembly at: www.legis.state.pa.us

RECENT BILL INTRODUCTIONS

HB1508—Pending in the House Local Government Cmt.

This bill would give the Department of Labor and Industry the authority to enter into contracts with municipalities, COGS, construction code officials, and third party agencies for the administration and enforcement of the UCC for state-owned buildings including state-affiliated entities and state-related institutions. It would also establish a permanent, restricted fund into which the Department would deposit all fees collected through its enforcement of the Act. This restricted fund would help defray costs of administering the UCC.

HB1507—Pending in the House Local Government Cmt.

This bill would provide a means whereby “illegally occupied structures” (existing buildings on April 10, 2004 which did not have a certificate of occupancy prior to that date) would be issued occupancy permits if it met the following conditions:

- ✓ the entire building meets the requirements of Chapter 3 (IBC but not stated as such) for fire protection systems and means of egress (both fire protection systems and means of egress are defined in HB1507);
- ✓ the building is not unsafe, unsanitary or judged to be a fire hazard or dangerous to human life or public welfare
- ✓ Code administrators shall not require changes which are technically infeasible for the purpose of meeting means of egress requirements.
- ✓ Code administrators shall construe this section liberally to allow a property owner to maintain occupancy of a building under this section.

HB1522—Pending in the House State Government Cmt.

This bill would amend the UCC by eliminating the ability of a municipality to administer and enforce the UCC exclusively through the use of municipal employees and/or exclusive contracts with third party agencies.

As drafted, this bill would no longer allow municipalities to require permit applicants to use municipal employees or exclusive third parties for UCC administration and enforcement. Municipalities would be required to retain at least two other third party agencies (in addition to one third party (previously exclusive) or in addition to existing municipal employees. Permit applicants would be free to choose who they wish to use for their UCC services.

ICC Answers the Question

Continuous Vapor Barriers?

THE INTERNATIONAL RESIDENTIAL CODES COMMITTEE of the International Code Council has officially addressed the issue of a continuous vapor barriers.

An inquiry was made by PENNBOC member J. Timothy Stout of South Middletown Township, as to whether or not the installation of a vapor retarder was required continuously across the face of the wall studs. (Requirements in Section R318.1 stipulate that a vapor retarder must be installed on the warm-in-winter side of the thermal insulation.)

ICC says NO. “The word continuous is not used in the referenced code section. Therefore, a vapor retarder is not required to be installed in a manner that will provide a continuous barrier on the warm-in-winter side of the exterior wall. The performance criteria of a vapor retarder establishes that material must have a permeance rating not exceeding 1 perm in order to limit the amount of moisture vapor that passes through a material.”

While this committee interpretation represents the official position of the ICC, it is advisory only and is not intended to be binding on any code official administering the referenced International Code. Direct further inquiries on this issue to Roddy Barrett - AIA, Senior Staff Architect, ICC at (888) ICC-SAFE.

BILL INTRODUCTIONS, CONT'D.

Intermunicipal agreements (COG or otherwise) would be required to provide permit applicants with the choice of at least three construction code officials or third party agencies from whom they could obtain their UCC services, in addition to whomever the intermunicipal agreements designate as the UCC administrator.

1507 and 1522, in particular, would have dramatic implications for UCC administration and enforcement, in comparison to the status quo.

Thank you to PENNBOC member Bob Buddenbohn of PABCO for this legislative information.

VALUABLE TIP

If PENNBOC members are accepting Great Stuff Foam as firestopping, there are specific products by Great Stuff that meet the requirement of ASTM E814 and regular Great Stuff is not it. Go to ICC website under ES reports and look for NER-645 for details.

Thanks to PENNBOC member Jeff Shultz for sharing this valuable tip.

Conference News

31st ANNUAL

**Mark Your Calendars for the
31st Annual PENNBOC Conference
October 11-14, 2005
Holiday Inn, Harrisburg East**

Golf Outing:

Tuesday, October 11, nearby golf course

Conference Sessions:

Wednesday, October 12—Friday, October 14

Location:

Holiday Inn, Harrisburg East

(PA 283, 2 miles north of PA Tpk exit #247)

*This newly renovated facility is appropriately code compliant,
courtesy of Swatara Township Code Enforcement!*

VISIT www.pennboc.org for continually updated information and registration materials.

Preliminary Conference Seminars & Testing

Wednesday, Oct. 12 (p.m. only):

- ✓ Hilti Fire Stop
- ✓ 2003 IFC Premiere Overview of changes of the 2000 IFC to the 2003 IFC

Wednesday, Oct. 12 (pm) and Thursday, Oct. 13 all day:

- ✓ Understanding the International Mechanical Code

Thursday, Oct. 13 , full-day classes

- ✓ Preparing for the Commercial Energy Exam
- ✓ Building Code Official Prep Course and Exam
- ✓ Commercial Aspects of Concrete and Masonry Construction

Friday, Oct. 14, (a.m. only)

- ✓ 2003 IPMC Premiere Overview of the changes from the 2000 IPMC to the 2003 IPMC

TESTING (Friday, Oct. 14)

- ✓ M2 Commercial Mechanical Inspector
- ✓ 77 Commercial Energy Inspector

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USEFUL WEB SITES

PENNBOC
www.pennboc.org
STATE BILL TRACKING
www.legis.state.pa.us
PA DEPT. LABOR & INDUSTRY
www.dli.state.pa.us
PA TRAINING CONSORTIUM
www.engr.psu.edu/ctc
INTERNATIONAL CODE COUNCIL
www.iccsafe.org
PENNBOC Region 1
www.orgsites.com/pa/pennbocr1
PENNBOC Region VI/CBO
www.penncbo.com

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