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## **FBC Education Administrator Report**

**September 21, 2011**

- A. Provided administrative support for FBC Education POC for July 27, 2011 meeting
- B. Drafted minutes for FBC Education POC July 27, 2011 meeting
- C. Prepared agenda for FBC Education POC meeting on September 27, 2011
- D. Inquiries from the public July 18, 2011 to September 20, 2011 as follows:

11 inquiries: 1 telephone; 5 email; 5 telephone and email

### Category of inquirers:

7 Provider	1 Accreditor	1 Contractor
1 Building Official	1 Consumer	

### Types of Inquiries:

- 1 Core course
- 7 Provider questions (course renewal, update, submission deadline, BCIS options)
- 1 Accreditor question (course renewal)
- 1 Consumer (energy courses)
- 1 Construction Lien Law

E. FBC Education POC Agenda Item 7 for review and discussion of two course update/modification mechanisms commonly known as “reviewed, no change” or “self-affirmed” for updating or making a technical change to a course.

The purpose of these provisions is to allow providers an opportunity to save time and steps in keeping approved courses active and current as to the current version of the Florida Building Code. The intent of the FBC Education POC is that these provisions be used in good faith and for their intended purpose only.

### QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. Does the “reviewed, no change” provision in rule 9B-70.002(3)(f), F.A.C., meet requirements of chapters 468 (part XII), 471, 481, or 489, Florida Statutes, and any related administrative rules, for courses to be “approved by the Florida Building Commission?” (Please see specific provisions from these laws and rules reprinted below.)

2. Do all interested parties understand that the “reviewed, no change” tool does not include any approval by the Florida Building Commission (instead, relying on the word of the provider, maintaining the course as active)?

3. Do all interested parties understand that, at any given time, a licensure board with a requirement of “approved by the Florida Building Commission” may refuse to accept codes courses that have been “updated” using the “reviewed, no change” tool? (This is most likely to happen for a course that has expired or will expire at the board level.)

4. If any board does deny a course that has been “updated” through the use of the “reviewed, no change” tool, what is the remedy for the provider?

**RECOMMENDATION:** Providers may want to use the “self-affirmation” tool in rule 9B-70.002(3)(g), F.A.C., instead as this mechanism requires administrative approval then ratification by the Florida Building Commission. This will not result in delay of course approval.

#### ARCHITECTS

61G1-24.001 Continuing Education for Architects.

(1) Each architect in Florida shall be required to reestablish the architect’s professional knowledge and competency in conformity with this rule by the completion of 20 contact hours of continuing professional education per biennium. This requirement shall be met through either:

(a) Programs approved by the Board, provided that a minimum of two (2) of the 20 required contact hours must be obtained by completing an approved provider’s specialized or advanced course, approved by the Florida Building Commission, on the Florida Building Code, relating to the architect’s respective area of practice; or

(b) Submission of proof of compliance with the continuing education requirements of another state in which the architect is licensed, provided that the requirements of the other state equal or exceed the completion of 20 contact hours in a two year period, be that the education build upon the basic knowledge of architecture, and require that a minimum of two (2) of the 20 required contact hours be obtained by completing an approved provider’s specialized or advanced course, approved by the Florida Building Commission, on the Florida Building Code, relating to the architect’s respective area of practice.

#### INTERIOR DESIGNERS

61G1-21.001 Continuing Education for Interior Designers.

(1) Each interior designer in Florida shall be required to reestablish the interior designer’s professional knowledge and competency in conformity with this rule by the completion of 20 contact hours of continuing professional education per biennium. This requirement shall be met through either:

(a) Programs approved by the Board, provided that a minimum of two (2) of the 20 required contact hours must be obtained by completing an approved provider’s specialized or advanced course, approved by the Florida Building Commission, on the Florida Building Code, relating to the interior designer’s respective area of practice; or

(b) Submission of proof of compliance with the continuing education requirements of another state in which the interior designer is licensed, provided that the requirements of the other state equal or exceed the completion of 20 contact hours in a two year period, be that the education build upon the basic knowledge of interior design, and require that a minimum of two (2) of the 20 required contact hours be obtained by completing an approved provider’s specialized or advanced course, approved by the Florida Building Commission, on the Florida Building Code, relating to the interior designer’s respective area of practice.

#### CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTORS

489.115 Certification and registration; endorsement; reciprocity; renewals; continuing education.—

(4)(b)2. In addition, the board may approve specialized continuing education courses on compliance with the wind resistance provisions for one and two family dwellings contained in the Florida Building Code and any alternate methodologies for providing such wind resistance which have been approved for use by the Florida Building Commission. Division I certificateholders or registrants who demonstrate proficiency upon completion of such specialized courses may certify plans and specifications for one and two family dwellings to be in compliance with the code or alternate methodologies, as appropriate, except for dwellings located in floodways or coastal hazard areas as defined in ss. 60.3D and E of the National Flood Insurance Program.

3. The board shall require, by rule adopted pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54, a specified number of hours in specialized or advanced module courses, approved by the Florida Building Commission, on any portion of the Florida Building Code, adopted pursuant to part IV of chapter 553, relating to the contractor’s respective discipline.

#### ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS

489.517 Renewal of certificate or registration; continuing education.—

(6) The board shall require, by rule adopted pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54, a specialized number of hours in specialized or advanced module courses, approved by the Florida Building Commission, on any portion of the Florida Building Code, adopted pursuant to part IV of chapter 553, relating to the contractor’s respective discipline.

### **“REVIEWED, NO CHANGE”**

**9B-70.002** (3)(f) On or before the effective date of changes to the Florida Building Code, providers shall either designate on the Building Code Information System at [www.floridabuilding.org](http://www.floridabuilding.org) that the course is not affected by the code changes or update the existing accredited courses affected by the code changes and submit for accreditation. If the course is not affected by the code changes, the course’s status shall remain active. The code version that initiated the update and reaccreditation process must be noted on the application. Accreditation of revisions to approved accredited courses shall be accomplished in the same manner as described in paragraphs (a) through (f) hereof, except that only the revision submitted shall be subject to review and these courses shall be approved by the administrator of the education program subject to ratification by the Florida Building Commission.

#### *EXPLANATIONS/NOTES:*

- This mechanism is used when there are changes to the Florida Building Code*
- When the Florida Building Code changes, ALL approved courses must be “accessed” and either designated “reviewed, no change” or updated*
- “Reviewed, no change” means the course stays active*
- A course updated must be accredited, administratively approved, and ratified by the FBC as to the changes only (it is important to specify the changes made)*
- Failure to designate “reviewed, no change” or update a course (i.e. leaving it as is on the BCIS) means the course will expire on the effective date of the new Florida Building Code*

### **“SELF-AFFIRMED”**

**9B-70.002** (3)(g) If an approved accredited course requires revision to correct or update a reference, table, diagram, or quoted provision of code, law, or administrative rule, the training provider may submit the revised course and complete Form FBC-ED-002, effective September 10, 2010, adopted herein by reference and available from the Building Code Information System at [www.floridabuilding.org](http://www.floridabuilding.org). The training provider must list the exact change, the specific location of the change, and reason for the change in the course and affirm this is the only change. The changes to the course shall be approved by the administrator of the education program subject to ratification by the Florida Building Commission.

#### *EXPLANATIONS/NOTES:*

- This mechanism is used when there is ONE “technical” correction or update needed (which may or may not be when there are changes to the Florida Building Code)*
- The purpose of this tool is to correct or update ONE reference, table, diagram, or quote (i.e. not several or a long list of these – updating and accreditation is the appropriate tool for multiple changes)*
- This tool may be used for correction or update of ONE reference, table, diagram, or quote in multiple places in a course*
- The provider must list the exact change, specific location(s) of change, and reason for change (ex: mistake in original course, correction in FBC) and must affirm this is the only change*
- A course self-affirmed must be administratively approved and ratified by the FBC as to the correction or update*

F. As of August 21, 2011, we have 198 training providers\* and 12 accreditors  
As of August 21, 2011, we have 340 approved courses (some are likely obsolete)

\*Increase in this number (from 112 in November, 2010 may be, in part, based on how counted (system or manually))