

Announcement: New Certifications

Building Plans Examiner certification category Effective Jan. 1 the Board of Housing and Community Development offers a comprehensive Building Plans Examiner certification category to include residential, commercial, and a combination building plans examiner. Presently code enforcement personnel conducting either or both residential or commercial plans review are required to obtain the only available certification - building plans examiner. The previous certification was heavily concentrated in commercial and offered minimal residential plan review content. With the establishment of a more complete plans examiner category, code enforcement personnel seeking certification will benefit from the specific certification relative to commercial or residential. In addition, plan examiners conducting both residential and commercial building plans review can obtain a combination certification. With the introduction of the ICC R3 (Residential Plans Examiner) test and the recently added two-day residential plan review course to the Jack A. Proctor Virginia Building Code Academy (VBCA) schedule, all the necessary components of this certification are in place.

Code enforcement personnel hired or assigned on or after Jan. 1, 2010 to conduct commercial, residential, or combination plan reviews are required to obtain the appropriate certification within 18 months of hire or appointment based on specific job duties/responsibilities.

Currently certified Building Plans Examiners may continue to conduct both the commercial and residential building plans review under the existing certification for the same locality and in the same capacity until such time that the individual accepts employment in a different locality or in a different capacity for the same locality. At such time, the current certification requirements will apply.

Permit Technician certification (optional)

Effective immediately the Board of Housing and Community Development (BHCD) is pleased to offer an optional certification in the category of Permit Technician. Although the Virginia Building Code Academy has offered the two-day Permit Technician course for a number of years, this course will now be required for those individuals seeking the optional Permit Technician certification.

This is an optional certification not required by the BHCD for the Permit Technician; however, individuals obtaining this certification will adhere to the continuing education and ongoing training requirements as required for mandated certifications.

Please refer to the Certification Matrix for specific requirements for these and all certifications offered at <http://www.dhcd.virginia.gov/BuildingandFireCodesTraining/PDFs/Matrix.pdf>

Announcement: Certification Exam Update

ICC - Effective immediately ICC exams, administered by Pearson VUE, are now based on the 2009 I-Codes. Refer to the [ICC Candidate Bulletin](#) for specific allowable exam resource materials and additional exam information.

ICC will continue to offer exams based on the *2006 International Codes* through 2010. These 2006 code-based exams will be available via paper-and-pencil testing only. Visit www.iccsafe.org/inspector for more details.

NCPCCI - Effective March 15, 2010 all NCPCCI exams, administered by Prometric, will be based on the 2009 I-Codes. Please refer to the [NCPCCI Candidate Bulletin](#) for additional information.

Contact us

For more information or with questions regarding the Building Plans Examiner or Permit Technician certifications, or exam updates please contact the DHCD/TASO Training and Certification Unit at (804) 371-7180 or visit the www.dhcd.virginia.gov .

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On-line registration system:

<https://dmz1.dhcd.virginia.gov/TASO/TASOTCO/Default.aspx>