



Mid-Shores Home Builders Association Inc.
Celebrating 15 Years! 1998-2013

State Credentialing in Wisconsin

Construction businesses working in Wisconsin under the following State Codes need a contractor credential issued by the state Department of Safety & Professional Development:

Electrical, Uniform Dwelling, Smoke Detectors, Passenger Ropeways, Amusement Rides, Gas Systems, Boilers and Pressure Vessels, Anhydrous Ammonia, Mechanical Refrigeration, Commercial Buildings, Plumbing, Public Swimming Pools, Sanitation.

Credentialing has a number of purposes:

- to support fair competition, provides identification for state agencies to share info about those claiming contractor tax status and paying for workers compensation and unemployment insurance
- provides a means for getting information to contractors about codes and training opportunities
- allows property owners to find established, not transient, contractors
- identifies contractors to help protect against employers misclassifying employees as subcontractors

A business may hold one or more of these contractor credentials:

- Building Contractor Registration
- Dwelling Contractor Certification
- Dwelling Contractor-Restricted Certification
- Electrical Contractor Certification
- Electrical Contractor-Restricted Certification
- Elevator Contractor License
- HVAC Contractor Registration
- Liquefied Gas Supplier License
- Liquefied Gas Supplier-Restricted License
- Manufactured Home Dealer License
- Manufactured Home Installer License
- Manufactured Home Manufacturer License

The two most common contractor credentials in Wisconsin are the Dwelling Contractor Certification and the Building Contractor Registration. A Dwelling Contractor Certification (issued to the business) must be partnered with a Dwelling Contractor Qualifier Certification (issued to the individual) in order to get Uniform Dwelling Code (UDC) building permits. Both certifications are needed to pull UDC permits.*

The Building Contractor Registration (BCR) is needed if a construction business, including a one-person business, does not have any other contractor credential and works under one of the 13 building construction codes. The work must affect a public building, place of employment, one- or two-family dwelling, or public swimming pool/water attraction. The BCR is for businesses, including, one-person businesses, not for individual employees.

* Since January 1, 2008, to obtain a one- or two-family dwelling building permit in Wisconsin, a contractor must have a Dwelling Contractor Credential (DCC) and have, or employ someone with, a Dwelling Contractor Qualifier Credential (DCQC).

Owners of companies that held DCCs as of mid-April 2006 were able to obtain the Qualifier Credential without having to take a prerequisite qualifier course. Companies that obtained a DCC after mid-April 2006 must designate an owner or representative to take a prerequisite course in order to obtain the Qualifier Credential or must employ someone who already holds the Qualifier Credential.

A company applying for a Dwelling Contractor Credential must provide evidence that the company complies with worker's compensation requirements, unemployment compensation requirements and liability or bond insurance requirements as specified in State statutes. The person applying for a DCC must be the owner of the contracting business, a partner in the contracting business applying on behalf of a partnership or the chairman of the board or chief executive officer applying on behalf of the contracting corporation.

Once an individual obtains a Dwelling Contractor Qualifier Credential, s/he must attend 12 hours of approved continuing education over the two-year certification cycle.

All Mid-Shores Home Builders Association (MSHBA) Builder members hold these state credentials. MSHBA assists its members in partnership with the Wisconsin Builders Association, as well as contractors at large, by offering the 12-hour course required to obtain a DCQC and additional courses throughout the year that have been approved by the State for continuing education credits toward the renewal of the DCQC.

Online verification of the Dwelling Contractor Credential, searchable by company name, and verification of the Dwelling Contractor Qualifier Credential, searchable by individual name, is available at the Wisconsin Dept. of Safety & Professional Services's website at <http://dsps.wi.gov/Home>.