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**Blackburn, Thomas**

RECEIVED

**From:** Kocher, Terrie

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 06, 2009 3:18 PM

**To:** Blackburn, Thomas

**Subject:** FW: New requirements for PE license renewal - preapproval of courses/providers

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Abrams, Joyce [mailto:JAbrams@ashrae.org]

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 06, 2009 2:12 PM

**To:** ST, ENGINEER

**Subject:** New requirements for PE license renewal - preapproval of courses/providers

Hello.

I work for the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) as the Group Manager of Education and Certification. Just in case you are not familiar with our organization, ASHRAE was founded in 1894 and is an international organization of 51,000 persons. ASHRAE's mission is the advancement of heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration to serve humanity and promote a sustainable world through research, standards writing, publishing and continuing education.

I understand that the Pennsylvania state legislature is in the process of passing new continuing education requirements for licensed professional engineers. As I interpret proposed Section 37.114 (which I've pasted and highlighted at the bottom of this message), the technical courses that ASHRAE offers would be considered within the scope of "The list of preapproved courses/providers" inasmuch as ASHRAE is a "professional society." In addition, our courses have been approved by the American Institute of Architects (AIA), which is, of course, a professional licensing authority. Is my interpretation of the proposed legislation correct? If so, and if this section of the proposed legislation does not change substantively before passage, then will ASHRAE be required to do anything in order to ensure that individuals who attend our courses will receive continuing education credit toward license renewal? We want to make sure that we meet the needs of our Pennsylvania-licensed customers.

Thank you, in advance, for your help.

Best regards,

Joyce

*Proposed § 37.114 (relating to approval of continuing education courses)*

Section 4.5(e) of the act requires that "all courses, locations, instructors and providers of mandatory continuing education shall be approved by the Board." The Board anticipates that, for its approximately 37,000 licensees each taking 24 hours of continuing education in each renewal period, between 7,500 and 10,000 courses, will be offered for licensees each year. Because the Board does not have the resources to evaluate in full this large a number of courses in advance, while still complying with the statutory commandment to approve courses and the like, proposed § 37.114(a) would relieve from the obligation to apply for approval courses offered by various pre-approved providers, so long as the course is in appropriate subject matter and the course provider issues to each attending licensee a certified continuing education record. **The list of preapproved courses/providers includes:** advanced level courses offered by those programs whose graduates would qualify to sit for the various licensure examinations; graduate level courses in engineering, land surveying or geology; courses offered by accredited colleges or

universities that are designed for continuing education, rather than qualification for licensure; courses offered by providers certified by an organization approved by the United States Department of Education to certify providers of continuing education; courses offered or approved by professional licensing authorities or organizations of professional licensing authorities; courses offered by agencies of the Federal government; courses offered by agencies of the various state governments; **courses offered by the various professional societies**; and courses offered by organizations recognized in their field to set standards of design, construction or practice. It must be kept in mind that, as provided in proposed § 37.113, credit may be obtained only for courses in subject matter within the scope of practice of engineering, land surveying or geology, as appropriate to the license.

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