

RHODE ISLAND STATE BUILDING CODE

SBC-11 Certification and Continuing Education



JANUARY 1, 2003

Amend Regulation SBC-11-88
Dated January 1, 1992

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

**Department of Administration
BUILDING CODE STANDARDS COMMITTEE
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Section 1.0 GENERAL

The Rhode Island State Legislature has found that a State Building Code is essential to protect the public health, safety and welfare by establishing adequate and uniform rules and regulations governing the construction and alteration of buildings and structures within the State of Rhode Island.

To increase the efficiency of the building industry and the safety of its products, an increasing trend is needed towards uniformity of interpretation and enforcement of a statewide code. It is the intent of the State Building Commissioner and the Building Code Standards Committee to aid the code enforcement profession by assisting it in the areas of professionalism and the performance of its duties.

To enforce the State Building Code effectively, code officials require sufficient knowledge and competence to administer and interpret the Code standards. This can be best achieved through the creation of an education and training program and through the development of certification requirements and a continuing education program.

1.1 ADMINISTRATION

The Certification Program shall control all matters relating to qualification for and the certification of all code enforcement officials engaged in the administration and enforcement of the Rhode Island State Building Code, procedures for application, issuance and revocation of certificates, and approval of training and educational programs offered to meet the requirements for the certification and continuing education credits of code enforcement officials.

No individual shall be certified or claim to be certified unless that person has received a letter of appointment to that position by the respective appointing authority and has satisfied the Committee through interview or examination that he meets the minimum requirements for that position and continues to serve in that position.

The Committee shall interview all applicants for the position of Building Official, Building Inspector or Alternate Building Inspector to determine whether the applicant satisfies the provisions of Section 2.1.

1.2 DEFINITIONS

CODE – The Rhode Island State Building Code

COMMISSIONER – State Building Commissioner

COMMITTEE – The Building Code Standards Committee

BUILDING OFFICIAL – The officer or other designated authority charged with the administration and enforcement of this code at the local level.

ALTERNATE BUILDING OFFICIAL – The officer or other designated authority charged with the administration and enforcement of this code in the absence of the building official.

BUILDING INSPECTOR – The authorized representative of the Building Official acting as his assistant.

PLUMBING INSPECTOR – The authorized representative of the Building Official charged with enforcing the provisions of the plumbing code under the direction of the Building Official.

ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR – The authorized representative of the building official charged with enforcing the provision of the electrical code under the direction of the Building Official.

MECHANICAL INSPECTOR – The authorized representative of the building official charged with enforcing the provisions of the mechanical code under the direction of the Building Official.

SECTION II QUALIFICATIONS

The State Building Code, General Law 23-27.3, stipulates the prerequisites for appointment as a state or local official or inspector. The provisions are as follows:

2.1 BUILDING OFFICIAL – The Building Official, to be eligible for appointment, shall have had at least five (5) years experience in construction, design, or supervision. The Building Official shall be

generally informed on the quality and strength of building materials, on the accepted requirements of building construction, on good practice in fire prevention, on the accepted requirements regarding light and ventilation, on the accepted requirements for safe exit facilities, and on other items of equipment essential for the safety, comfort, and convenience of occupants. The Building Official shall pass upon any question relative to the mode, manner of construction, or materials to be used in the erection or alteration of buildings or structures. The Building Official shall require compliance with the provisions of the State Building Code of all rules lawfully adopted and promulgated thereunder, and of laws relating to construction, alteration, repair, removal, demolition and integral equipment, and location, use, occupancy, and maintenance of buildings and structures, except as may be otherwise provided for.

BUILDING INSPECTOR – The Building Inspector shall have at least (3) years experience in construction, the knowledge of generally accepted building practices, the ability to read building construction plans and specifications and to recognize deviations from such plans in the field, and the ability to write concise narrative reports for correction of violations observed on job sites.

PLUMBING, ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL INSPECTORS – Each of these specialized inspectors shall have had at least five (5) years of practical experience in his own particular field. He shall have the ability to read and understand codes and ordinances relating to his specialized work, the ability to read plans and specifications and to recognize deviations from such plans or specifications in the field, ability to write concise narrative reports for correction of violations observed on job sites, and the ability to enforce regulations firmly and impartially and to maintain satisfactory working relations with contractors and property owners. The plumbing inspector shall have a masters or journeyman license from the Rhode Island Board of Examining Plumbers. The Electrical Inspector shall have a Class A or B license from the Rhode Island Board of Electricians. The Mechanical Inspector shall have a Pipefitter Master I Contractor or journeyman, or a Refrigeration Master I Contractor or journeyman contractors license from the Rhode Island Bureau of Pipefitters and Refrigeration Technicians.

2.2 An applicant for the certification program may have less than the

required number of years experience as stipulated in section 2.1 but the issuance of their certificate by the Building Commissioner will be withheld until such applicant has met the requirements of said section.

2.3 EQUIVALENT QUALIFICATIONS

The holder of a license of an architect or engineer issued by the State of Rhode Island shall be deemed equivalent to the above qualifications in the following manner:

An architect or professional engineer's registration whose specialty is civil or structural, shall qualify him for the building official's or building inspector's positions.

A professional engineer's registration whose specialty is electrical is deemed the equivalent of an electrician's license for the purpose of these regulations.

A professional engineer's registration whose specialty is mechanical is deemed the equivalent of a plumber or mechanical license for the purpose of these regulations.

If the applicant does not satisfy the Committee through interview that he meets the qualifications of 2.1 or 2.3, the applicant shall be permitted to take a written "equivalency test" administered by the Commission. A passing grade of 70% shall be required. Exception: Plumbing, Mechanical and Electrical Inspectors are not required to be interviewed, but current copies of their licenses shall be submitted along with their resume and letter of appointment.

The holder of a nationally recognized certification as a Certified Building Official (CBO) issued by any of the model code organizations including the International Code Council shall be deemed equivalent to the minimum requirements of this code for Building Official or Building Inspector, provided that the holder has served in a building code enforcement position previously.

The holder of a nationally recognized certification in any other specialty shall be submitted to the Committee for consideration for equivalency,

provided that the holder has served in a code enforcement position previously.

SECTION III TRAINING PROGRAM

3.1 CERTIFICATION

The training format developed by the Building Commissioner and the Building Code Standards Committee will be structured around the technical and administrative provisions of the State Building Code. The Commissioner and Committee may procure the services of an institute of higher learning for the formal education and training for the building officials and building inspectors. The institution chosen should be centrally located for the convenience of most officials and inspectors throughout the state. Plumbing, Mechanical and Electrical Inspectors will be required to successfully complete only the training relative to the administrative sections of the Code. Inspectors and officials will be issued temporary certification for a 12-month period in order to satisfactorily complete this course prior to full certification and entry into the continuing education program.

3.2 RE-CERTIFICATION & CONTINUING EDUCATION

The State Building Commissioner, with the assistance of the Building Code Standards Committee, shall prepare and/or approve continuing education programs designed to train and assist state and local building officials and inspectors in carrying out the duties and responsibilities of their office. Such certification and continuing education programs shall be in accordance with the State Building Code provisions in sections 23-27.3-107.6, Certification of local officials, and 23-27.3-107.7, Re-certification and Continuing Education. Said continuing education programs shall consist of not less than forty five (45) hours of training for state and local building officials and fifteen (15) hours for all other inspectors over a three (3) year period. Building officials shall not be required to accumulate more than 45 hours of training, but a minimum of 5 hours in each discipline shall be obtained as part of the 45 hours minimum.

3.3 DOCUMENTATION

All training and educational programs which are to be submitted for continuing education credit shall be approved by the Commissioner or the

Building Code Standards Committee. Each state and local building official and inspector shall attend such training and educational programs and present proof of successful completion to the State Building Commissioner on forms provided by the State Building Commission.

3.4 An official or inspector who was originally certified under these provisions but does not currently serve in a position of code enforcement for the state or community shall be permitted to participate in the continuing education program at his own expense, but cannot identify themselves as Building Officials or Inspectors and shall be placed on a “Certified-Eligible” list maintained by the State Commissioner.

3.5 RECORDS

Each participant in the continuing education program shall receive at least once annually a record of all continuing education hours acquired during the current re-certification period.

3.6 CONFIDENTIALITY

All continuing education records shall be considered confidential and shall only be released to the appointing authority, the Building Code Official in charge of the inspector, or to the participant.

3.7 REVOCATION & WAIVERS

In accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act, the Committee, after notice and opportunity for hearing, may revoke or refuse to reissue any certificate issued under the provisions of sections 23-27.3-107.6 and 23-27.3-107.7 for failure on the part of the state and local building official and inspector to present the required documentation or successfully complete required courses of study. The Committee may grant extensions of time or waive hourly requirements upon presentation of cause. No individual will be re-certified for a new 3-year period unless he satisfies the provisions of this program.