



**NATION'S BUILDING NEWS**

The Official Online Weekly Newspaper of NAHB

Week of February 1, 2010

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**NAHB**  
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION  
OF HOME BUILDERS

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- **Remodeling Poised to Enter Early Phase of Recovery**

## Remodelers Advised to Apply Now for Lead Certification

Remodelers and other contractors who work in homes built before 1978 are being urged to complete the [application for firm certification](#) that will be required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as part of the Lead Paint Renovation, Repair and Painting rule that goes into effect on April 22.

The agency has up to 90 days to approve a company certification and applying today makes it less likely that the form will be delayed by the bottleneck that is expected as remodelers scramble to meet the deadline.

Remodeling firms that have already submitted their applications report that the EPA is taking as long as two months to approve them, said NAHB environmental policy analyst Matt Watkins. "Remodeling firms should start applying for firm certification ASAP, even if no one in the firm has completed the required training yet," he said.

The new law will require contractors working on projects that disturb lead-based paint in homes, child care facilities and schools built before 1978 to be certified and follow specific work practices to prevent lead contamination. The individual certification is based on eight hours of classroom and hands-on instruction — and is separate from the company certification, which requires a completed application and a fee of \$300.

NAHB continues to meet with EPA officials to resolve ongoing concerns about the new rule, which ultimately may cause certified remodelers to lose business to less-expensive — and less responsible — uncertified remodelers who don't use safe work practices. Worse yet, potential contracted jobs may become do-it-yourself projects, which, if done in homes where lead paint is present, could present a health threat to young children in the home.

Among the concerns:

- Despite the looming deadline, the EPA has not started any outreach, promotion or advertising to let the public know about the new rule. The agency has indicated that it will release a preliminary marketing campaign plan by the end of February.
- The agency is falling behind on approving training programs so that contractors can complete the individual certification requirements. It has estimated that about 200,000 remodelers, painters, electricians, HVAC technicians and others working in the targeted homes and buildings need to be certified by April 22 but only about 120 training companies have been approved so far — leaving the vast majority of the industry uncertified as the compliance date nears.
- Even as it struggles to fulfill the requirements under the existing rule, the EPA has released a revised rule, which it also expects to put in place before the deadline. The rule expands the number of homes that fall under its purview by eliminating the "opt-out" provision for home owners who don't have children under the age of six or who meet other requirements.

"This is a rule that the EPA itself is making almost impossible to comply with," Watkins said. "Our members want to do this work professionally, legally and most important, they want to do it

AUCTION

Premier Homesite  
Development  
Near Wmsbrg, VA  
255± Acres ♦ 56 Lots

- Investment group must sell planned subdivision
- Rolling Hills and Creek Frontage/Views!
- Auction Time: February 23rd at Noon!

POCKET THE SAVINGS



- Let Love Bloom With an FTD 20% Discount in February
- FedEx Offers Big Savings on Shipping
- Members, Take Advantage of Special Hertz Offers

- [Apply for NAHB Remodelers Leadership Grant by Friday, Feb. 5](#)

#### Education [more](#)

- [Education Calendar](#)

#### Environment [more](#)

- [Remodelers Advised to Apply Now for Lead Certification](#)

#### Green Building [more](#)

- [Appraisals Impeding Wider Use of Green Products](#)
- [Builders See Cost Savings Move Green Into the Mainstream](#)
- [Builder Rebate Program Helps Owners Weatherize Homes](#)
- [Green Building Awards Deadline Is Feb. 3](#)
- [Greening Missouri Homes Conference Set for March 16-17](#)

#### Home Builders Institute

- [Construction Management Contest Winners Announced](#)

#### Building Products [more](#)

- [Pella to Hold 30 'ProExpo' Events Around the Country](#)

#### NAHB on TV [more](#)

- [NAHB-Produced Programs on the DIY Network](#)

#### Endowment [more](#)

- [Education Scholarship Fund Created to Honor Joe Robson](#)
- [Evans Scholarship Fund Awards \\$41,000 to 13 Students](#)

#### Association News [more](#)

- [Nation's Home Builders Elect Leadership for 2010](#)
- [Hall of Fame Builder F. Coin Campbell, Jr. Dies at 85](#)
- [Let Love Bloom This Valentine's Day With FTD 20% Discount](#)
- [FedEx Offers Big Savings on Shipping](#)
- [Members, Take Advantage of Special Offers From Hertz](#)
- [Speakers Wanted for 2011 International Builders' Show](#)
- [Calendar of Events](#)

#### NAHB Career Center [more](#)

- [Search, Post Construction-Related Jobs and Opportunities Online](#)

safely. Given that the agency has not responded to our legitimate concerns, I'm not sure how they're going to get there."

For more information, e-mail [Calli Schmidt](#) at NAHB, or call her at 800-368-5242 x8132.

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