

# BOARD OF BUILDING STANDARDS (BBS)

## Frequently Asked Questions

<p><b>1.</b> How do I become certified to work as a building official, a plans examiner, or an inspector for a building department that reviews, inspects and approves buildings?</p>	<p>Chapter 1, specifically section 103, of the OBC and the RCO prescribe the requirements and the process for becoming certified. The applications for personnel certification are found on the Document Catalog section of the BBS website. Refer to document numbers 100 and 102 for non-residential personnel certifications. Refer to document numbers 150, 152, and 158 for residential certifications.</p>
<p><b>2.</b> How do I schedule to take the examinations required for the building department personnel certifications?</p>	<p>The “Examination Requirements Matrix” found on the Document Catalog section of the BBS website (document numbers 100 and 150) identifies which examinations are required and the companies to contact to schedule the examinations.</p>
<p><b>3.</b> How do I get a course approved by the BBS for building department personnel continuing education credit?</p>	<p>The application for Continuing Education Course Approval is found on the Document Catalog section of the BBS website. Refer to document number 216.</p>
<p><b>4.</b> How do I get technical assistance regarding the requirement in the Ohio building codes?</p>	<p>BBS technical staff members are available to assist you via telephone or e-mail. Visit the “Contact Us” section of the BBS website.</p>
<p><b>5.</b> How do I obtain a copy of the Ohio building codes?</p>	<p>Hardcopy prints of the current Ohio building codes may be purchased by contacting either of the two publishers:</p> <p>International Code Council,  4051 W. Flossmoor Rd., Country Club Hills, IL 60478-5771  (800)786-4452 or <a href="http://www.iccsafe.org">www.iccsafe.org</a></p> <p>West  P.O. Box 318063  Cleveland, Ohio 44131  (800) 362-4500 or  <a href="http://west.thomson.com/">http://west.thomson.com/</a></p>

<p><b>6.</b> How does a municipality, village, township, or county become certified to enforce the Ohio building codes?</p>	<p>Chapter 1, specifically section 103, of the OBC and the RCO prescribe the requirements and the process for becoming certified. The applications for department certification are found on the Document Catalog section of the BBS website. Refer to document number 204 for non-residential departments and document number 250 for residential departments.</p>
<p><b>7.</b> Does the Board of Building Standards certify contractors?</p>	<p>No. The Ohio Construction Industry Licensing Board (OCILB) licenses contractors.</p>
<p><b>8.</b> Does the Board of Building Standards have jurisdiction for questions about the construction of, or problems with one-, two-, or three-family construction?</p>	<p>Recent revisions to the Ohio Revised Code Section 3781.10 gave the Board of Building Standards the responsibility to adopt a statewide mandatory residential code. The first Residential Code of Ohio (RCO) was effective on May 27, 2006. Prior to that date, each local jurisdiction had the authority to adopt its own regulations.</p> <p>The RCO is now the only code permitted to be enforced by all political subdivisions that wish to enforce a 1-, 2-, and 3-family building code. Board staff can offer opinions regarding the RCO. However, the enforcement and interpretation authority for the code lies with the local building official having jurisdiction.</p>
<p><b>9.</b> Does the Board of Building Standards grant variances to the requirements of the Ohio building codes?</p>	<p>The BBS does not grant variances to the requirements of the Ohio building codes. Another state board, the Ohio Board of Building Appeals (BBA), has the legislative authority to hear appeals for and grant variances to the codes.</p>