



Iowa Department of Public Health
Promoting and Protecting the Health of Iowans

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DATE: April 18, 2011

TO: Iowa State Board of Health

FROM: Rita Gergely, Chief
Bureau of Lead Poisoning Prevention

RE: Update on certification of lead-safe renovators.

IDPH has had the authority to certify lead inspector/risk assessors and lead abatement contractors who work in target housing and child-occupied facilities since 1995. IDPH is authorized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to carry out this program in Iowa. In 2009, new legislation gave IDPH the authority to certify renovators. The new discipline is called “lead-safe renovator.” IDPH implemented this through changes to Iowa Administrative Code 641--Chapter 70. The State Board of Health adopted the final changes on January 13, 2010. IDPH is also authorized by the U.S. EPA to carry out this program.

OVERVIEW

The rules apply to any work that disturbs painted surfaces in pre-1978 homes and child-occupied facilities. Some examples are:

- Removing painted components such as doors and windows.
- Repairing a painted surface or preparing it for repainting.
- Replacing windows.
- Removing walls and ceilings.

The rules require that these activities be done using lead-safe work practices, which reduce lead exposure for owners and occupants of the buildings.

The rules apply to target housing, which is housing built before 1978. They also apply to child-occupied facilities. These are home daycares, daycare centers, preschools, kindergarten classrooms, or other buildings built before 1978.

Anyone who disturbs paint in target housing and child-occupied facilities must comply with the rules. This includes renovation and remodeling contractors, contractors who replace windows and doors, and painters. It also includes rental property owners and maintenance workers who perform these activities.

These individuals must take an approved 8-hour lead-safe renovator course to comply with the rules. If a person already took an approved lead-safe work practices course, they must take a 4-hour refresher course. After taking a class, a person must apply to IDPH to be certified and pay a \$60 fee (covers one year of certification).

CURRENT STATUS

IDPH has approved 46 training providers to provide the 8-hour lead-safe renovator course and the 4-hour lead-safe renovator refresher course. Many training providers will travel to provide training. One training provider works with Iowa's community colleges to provide training. Therefore, training is available across the state of Iowa.

IDPH has certified approximately 5,000 lead-safe renovators. An additional 3,000 people have taken the required class and are in the process of becoming certified.

IDPH estimates that an additional 7,000 contractors, property owners, and maintenance workers need to be certified. IDPH is planning an advertising campaign to let these individuals know that they need to be certified. IDPH is also working with its local partners such as housing agencies, local health departments, building permit offices, property owner associations, and contractor associations to let their customers and members know that they need to be certified.

ENFORCEMENT

IDPH has received many complaints regarding individuals who are not certified and individuals who are not following lead-safe work practices. IDPH is following up on these complaints, with priority given to complaints that have the most complete information, including the date, address where work was performed, and name of individual or company doing the work. IDPH will enforce the certification requirement for renovators and the requirement to use lead-safe work practices while working in target housing and child-occupied facilities.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

To receive additional information, contact the Iowa Department of Public Health, Bureau of Lead Poisoning Prevention at 800-972-2026.