



3801-5 WRIGHTSVILLE AVE.
P.O. BOX 3101
WILMINGTON, NC 28406

910-799-2611, FAX 910-799-2610
www.wilmingtonhomebuilders.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 22, 2010

Contact: Lindsay Fletcher
910-799-2611

The WCFHBA Joins the NAHB in Praising the EPA'S Decision to Delay Lead Paint Certification Enforcement

Wilmington, N.C. – The Wilmington-Cape Fear Home Builders Association (WCFHBA) joins the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) in applauding the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) decision to delay enforcement of the new Lead: Renovation, Repair and Painting (LRRP) rule, providing much-needed time to get more remodelers and other contractors trained. This delay also gives the EPA an opportunity to get the word out to consumers about the importance of hiring a certified remodeler.

“The WCFHBA has been struggling since the announcement last fall of the EPA LRRP rule to get members and other area contractors certified. With EPA restrictions of only ten students per class, it has been a monumental task. Thankfully, the EPA listened to our concerns voiced through NAHB and has decided to set a more realistic deadline,” said WCFHBA President John Lancaster.

The issue came to a head in May after floods devastated parts of Tennessee and there weren't enough certified remodelers to complete much-needed home repairs. NAHB in conjunction with state home builders associations, like the WCFHBA, proposed a delay in enforcing the rule -- a decision EPA consented to in a revised guidance released on Friday, June 18, 2010. In the letter the EPA acknowledged that remodelers in many parts of the country have been unable to obtain the required training to comply with the rule.

While remodelers, electricians, heating and air conditioning technicians and other contractors must adhere to lead-safe work practices, including special equipment filters and a ban on open flames, EPA will not take enforcement action against firms that have been unable to obtain

certification until October 1 of this year. Individual contractors must apply to enroll in a training class by September 30 and complete the training by December 31, 2010. The WCFHBA provides monthly training opportunities for members and non-members to obtain the required certification.

“This rule potentially affects about 79 million homeowners. That’s how many homes were built before 1978, when lead paint was banned,” said NAHB Chairman Bob Jones. “We need significantly more contractors certified than the 300,000 who have taken the training course, and we also need to make sure that affected homeowners understand the importance of hiring a certified contractor.”

Homeowners can visit the WCFHBA website at www.wilmingtonhomebuilders.com for a list of locally certified firms. Remodelers can contact Lindsay Fletcher with the WCFHBA office at lindsay@wilmhba.com or (910) 799-2611 for information on EPA-approved training and/or for a schedule of the local Association sponsored Certified Renovator training sessions.

The Wilmington – Cape Fear Home Builders Association is a 1,100 member-firm trade association that provides services to its more than 9,500 individual members which enhance their success and stability. The largest trade association in eastern North Carolina, the Association serves as the voice of the building and development industries that strives to advance professionalism and promote community involvement. WCFHBA is recognized as a positive influential force for responsible growth by protecting property rights and the privilege of homeownership.

-#-