

Uniform Construction Code

Time Line and Implementation Schedule

Pennsylvania's General Assembly on November 10, 1999 enacted Act 45 of 1999, called the Pennsylvania Construction Code Act.

The Pennsylvania Builders Association and others encouraged adoption of a law in Pennsylvania which would make more uniform codes or regulations governing construction throughout the State. Many Pennsylvania municipalities had not adopted construction codes and those construction codes in place often were materially different from one municipality to another.

In enacting the Construction Code Act, Pennsylvania's General Assembly found that:

- Many Pennsylvania municipalities did not have construction codes to provide for the protection of the consumer, the general public and owners and occupants of buildings and structures;
- In some areas of the State, a multiplicity of construction codes existed with some of the codes containing needless requirements and the variation of construction standards potentially slowing the process and increasing costs of construction;
- The way to insure uniform, modern construction standards is to adopt a Uniform Construction Code; and
- The model code of the Building Officials and Code Administrators International (BOCA) is a construction code that had been widely adopted, and adoption of a nationally recognized code would insure a uniform and modern construction code.

The General Assembly directed the Department of Labor & Industry to issue regulations that would implement the new Uniform Construction Code. These regulations included those setting standards for training and certification of construction code and building code officials and others to administer provisions of the statute.

Act 1999-45 provided that the new Uniform Construction Code would become effective during a time frame following final adoption of regulation. The Department of Labor & Industry's administrative regulations were published in January 2004. With that, all Pennsylvania municipalities have been given a 90-day period, from April 9, 2004 through July 8, 2004, in which to elect whether they will administer and enforce the new Uniform Construction Code.

References: Pennsylvania Construction Code Act, Act 1999-45, 35 P.S. § 7210.101, et seq.
Training and Certification Regulations, 34 Pa. Code § 401.1, et seq.
Administrative Regulations, 34 Pa. Code § 403.1, et seq.