Title 55
PUBLIC SAFETY
Part VI. Uniform Construction Code Enforcement

Editor's Note: The Uniform Construction Code, LAC 55:VI.Chapters 1-3, has been moved to LAC 17-Construction.

Chapter 5. Enforcement of Louisiana State Uniform Construction Code

§501. General

A. Effective January 1, 2007, all municipalities and parishes shall enforce the Louisiana State Uniform Construction Code. Municipalities and parishes may establish agreements with other governmental entities or registered and certified third party providers to issue permits and enforce the state uniform construction code. No municipality or parish shall require that residential building plans for one and two family dwellings be prepared or stamped by a licensed architect or engineer if the dwelling falls within the prescriptive codes of the Louisiana State Uniform Construction Code, except as required by Chapter 12 of the Louisiana State Plumbing Code.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 40:1730.22(C) and (D).

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, State Uniform Construction Code Council, LR 33:291 (February 2007).

§503. Farm or Recreational Structures

A. Definitions

1. For the purposes of these regulations the words defined in this Section have the following meaning.

Farm Structure—a structure which is constructed on a farm, other than a residence or structure attached to it, for use on the farm including, but not limited to barns, sheds and poultry houses.

Private Outdoor Recreational Structure—a hunting or fishing camp or other structure that is:

i. not used as a residence;

ii. not attached to a residence;

iii. not utilizing the same physical address of a residence;

iv. not located on the same property as a residence;

v. not capable of qualifying for a homestead exemption;

vi. not used for commercial purposes;

vii. not located within the corporate limits of a municipality; and

viii. not located in an approved subdivision within a jurisdiction:

(a). for purposes of this Section, residence shall have the following meaning: a dwelling unit used or occupied or intended to be used or occupied for permanent living purposes as opposed to one's place of temporary sojourn.

B. Exemptions to State Uniform Construction Code

1. The governing authority of a parish or municipality may not enforce the Louisiana State Uniform Construction Code pertaining to the construction or improvement of a farm structure or private outdoor recreational structure. For private outdoor recreational structures only, the property owner of record, in applying for an exemption, shall execute an affidavit attesting to the property's or structure's exempt status. The affidavit shall be filed into the parish conveyance records.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 40:1730.22(C) and (D).

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, State Uniform Construction Code Council, LR 33:291 (February 2007), amended LR 34:2407 (November 2008).

§504. Exemption for Industrial Facilities

A. For purposes of R.S. 1730.29, the exemption (excluding the applicable requirements of the Louisiana State Plumbing Code) for industrial facilities shall apply to any structure or building constructed inside the restricted access area of the facility. However, any structure or building that is constructed outside the restricted access area of the facility or any structure or building located inside the restricted access area of the facility that is accessible by the public are subject to the requirements of the Louisiana State Uniform Construction Code.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 40:1730.22(C) and (D).

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, State Uniform Construction Code Council, LR 34:2408 (November 2008).

§505. Commercial Plan Review

A. Until December 31, 2007, where a parish or municipality is not providing plan review, architects, engineers, owners, parishes or municipalities on commercial projects may request International Building Code plan review by the Office of the State Fire Marshal.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 40:1730.22(C) and (D).

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, Uniform Construction Code Council, LR 33:1683 (August 2007), amended LR 35:2819 (December 2009), repromulgated LR 36:327 (February 2010).

Chapter 7. Certificates of Registration

§701. General

A. On and after January 1, 2007, no person shall practice as a code enforcement officer in this state unless registered with the Louisiana State Uniform Construction Code Council (council). A person desiring to be registered as a parish or municipality building code enforcement officer or a third party provider shall apply to the council for a certificate of registration. The applicant shall apply on the application form prescribed the by the council. An applicant shall furnish satisfactory proof to the council of valid certification. A certificate of registration is valid for one year and expires on the last day of the month of issuance. Those possessing Certificates of Registration must renew their certificates in order to remain in good standing with the council.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 40:1730.22(C) and (D).

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, State Uniform Construction Code Council, LR 33:292 (February 2007), amended LR 35:2819 (December 2009), repromulgated LR 36:327 (February 2010).

§703. Classifications and Required Certifications for Municipal or Parish Building Code Enforcement Officers

A. General

1. In order to obtain a certificate of registration from the council for a particular classification, an individual must meet the following qualifications.

B. Definitions

Building Code Enforcement Officer (BCEO)—a person employed by a public entity who is primarily responsible for the overall inspection or enforcement of applicable building code requirements within the jurisdiction of the employer.

Building Official—the BCEO employed and charged by a public entity with the administration and enforcement of the Louisiana State Uniform Construction Code (LSUCC).

Inspector—a BCEO, who under the authority of the building official, is charged with the inspection of structures for compliance with his or her specialty classification(s) of the LSUCC.

Plans Examiner or Reviewer—a BCEO, who under the authority of the building official, is charged with the inspection of construction documents for compliance with his or her specialty classification(s) of the LSUCC.

Third-Party Provider (TPP)—any individual, entity, or an individual employed by an entity, contracted to act in the capacity of a BCEO by an authority having jurisdiction, a licensed contractor, or a homeowner who is exempted from the contractor licensing law under R.S. 37:2170.

Wind Mitigation Surveyor—the wind mitigation surveyor classification of third party provider is limited to performing a survey to complete the Louisiana Hurricane Loss Mitigation Survey Form. The Survey Form, LAC 37 Part XIII, Section 12721. Appendix A, is to be utilized by consumers applying for justifying discounts for features that comply with building codes, or, for installed mitigation improvements utilizing construction techniques demonstrated to reduce the amount of hurricane loss from a windstorm. This classification does not qualify applicant to perform building code inspections in compliance with the Louisiana State Uniform Construction Code Council (LSUCCC) or International Code Council (ICC) classifications for building inspectors.

C. BCEO Registration Classifications/Requirements

1. General Classifications

a. Building Official (BO)—requirements; possess a current ICC Certified Building Official certificate, a current ICC Master Code Professional Certificate, or be a Louisiana Licensed Architect, or Louisiana Licensed Engineer and have two years experience as an architect, engineer, inspector, plans examiner, contractor or superintendent of construction or any combination of these. General classifications are not restricted and may enforce all classified specialties of the LSUCC.

2. Specialty Classifications

a. Commercial Inspectors

i. Commercial Building Inspector Requirements—possess a current ICC Commercial Building Inspector, ICC Building Inspector, ICC Commercial Combination Inspector, or ICC Combination Inspector certificate.

ii. Commercial Electrical Inspector Requirements—possess a current ICC Commercial Electrical Inspector, ICC Electrical Inspector, ICC Commercial Combination Inspector, or ICC Combination Inspector certificate.

iii. Commercial Mechanical Inspector Requirements—possess a current ICC Commercial Mechanical Inspector, ICC Mechanical Inspector, ICC Commercial Combination Inspector, or ICC Combination Inspector certificate.

iv. Commercial Plumbing Inspector Requirements—possess a current ICC Commercial Plumbing Inspector, ICC Plumbing Inspector, ICC Commercial Combination Inspector, ICC Louisiana Commercial Plumbing Inspector, or ICC Combination Inspector certificate.

v. Commercial Energy Inspector Requirements—shall be enforced by the Office of the State Fire Marshal.

b. Commercial Plans Examiners or Reviewers

i. Building Plans Examiner Requirements—possess a current ICC Commercial Building Plans Examiner, or ICC Combination Plans Examiner certificate.

ii. Electrical Plans Examiner Requirements—possess a current ICC Commercial Electrical Plans Examiner, or ICC Combination Plans Examiner certificate.

iii. Mechanical Plans Examiner Requirements—possess a current ICC Commercial Mechanical Plans Examiner, or ICC Combination Plans Examiner certificate.

iv. Plumbing Plans Examiner Requirements—possess a current ICC Commercial Plumbing Plans Examiner, ICC Louisiana Plumbing Plan Examiner, or ICC Combination Plans Examiner certificate.

v. Commercial Energy Plans Examiner Requirements—shall be enforced by the Office of the State Fire Marshal.

c. Residential Inspectors

i. Residential Building Inspector Requirements—possess a current ICC Residential Building Inspector, ICC Building Inspector, ICC Residential Combination Inspector, or ICC Combination Inspector certificate.

ii. Residential Electrical Inspector Requirements—possess a current ICC Residential Electrical Inspector, ICC Electrical Inspector, ICC Residential Combination Inspector, or ICC Combination Inspector certificate.

iii. Residential Mechanical Inspector Requirements—possess a current ICC Residential Mechanical Inspector, ICC Mechanical Inspector, ICC Residential Combination Inspector, or ICC Combination Inspector certificate.

iv. Residential Plumbing Inspector Requirements—possess a current ICC Residential Plumbing Inspector, ICC Plumbing Inspector, ICC Residential Combination Inspector, ICC Louisiana Residential Plumbing inspector, or ICC Combination Inspector certificate.

v. Residential Energy Inspector Requirements—possess a current ICC Residential Energy Inspector/Plans Examiner certificate.

d. Residential Plans Examiners or Reviewers

i Residential Plans Examiner – possess a current ICC Residential Plans Examiner certificate.

ii. Residential Energy Plans Examiner – possess a current ICC Residential Energy Inspector/Plans Examiner certificate.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 40:1730.34(B).

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, Uniform Construction Code Council, LR 33:292 (February 2007), amended LR 33:1683 (August 2007), LR 34:93 (January 2008), amended by the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, Office of Management and Finance, Uniform Construction Code Council, LR 35:490 (March 2009), amended LR 35:2819 (December 2009), repromulgated 36:327 (February 2010).

§705. Third-Party Providers

A. General

1. A third party provider shall register with the council. Third party providers shall meet the requirements of the general or specialty classification(s) whichever applicable and as contracted with the parish or municipality. Furthermore, any individual employed by a third party provider who is also performing work for the parish or municipality, shall also be registered with this council.

B. Insurance. All third party providers shall carry at least $500,000 in professional liability insurance. Proof of valid and current insurance coverage must be provided to the council upon registration and renewal of registration in the form of an insurance certificate listing the Louisiana State Uniform Construction Code Council as the certificate holder.

1. Exceptions

a. Wind mitigation surveyors shall carry at least $300,000 in professional liability insurance.

C. Restrictions

1. Third party providers shall not provide plan review or inspections on projects of their own design and/or construction.

D. Code Enforcement Services for Non-Governmental Entities

1. Third party providers providing plan review services for non-governmental entities shall provide written copies of the plan review to the code enforcement officer of the municipality or parish prior to issuance of construction permits and in accordance with the administrative procedures of the authority having jurisdiction.

2. Where a third party provider provides services in a jurisdiction which has a building department, third party providers shall adhere to the permitting and inspection procedures of said jurisdiction in accordance with the administrative procedures of the authority having jurisdiction.

3. Third party providers providing inspection services for non-governmental entities shall provide written copies of the approved inspection reports to the code enforcement officer of the jurisdiction prior to the issuance of the certificate of occupancy in accordance with the administrative procedures of the authority having jurisdiction.

E. A wind mitigation surveyor classification of third party provider may specialize as a wind mitigation surveyor upon meeting the following qualifications:

1. possession of a home inspector license through the Louisiana State Board of Home Inspectors; and

2. possession of a certificate of completion for the 2006 IRC Hurricane Resistant Residential Construction

Program, or other equivalent program approved by the LSUCCC.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 40:1730.22(C) and (D).

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, State Uniform Construction Code Council, LR 33:292 (February 2007), amended LR 33:2462 (November 2007), amended by the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, Office of Management and Finance, Uniform Construction Code Council, LR 35:491 (March 2009), amended by the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, State Uniform Construction Code Council, LR 35:2820 (December 2009), repromulgated LR 36:328 (February 2010).

§707. Continuing Education Requirements

A. Prior to annual renewal of the certificate of registration as required by this Chapter, all building code enforcement officers and third-party providers, except Louisiana licensed architects or engineers as allowed by R.S. 40:1730.24(B), shall be registered with the International Code Council and obtain the continuing education units required for that registry.

B. Building code enforcement officers holding provisional certificates of registration and prior to certification and registration with the International Code Council shall provide evidence of one continuing education unit relating to construction code enforcement for the preceding year.

C. Prior to annual renewal of the certificate of registration, Louisiana licensed architects and engineers exempted by R.S. 40:1730.24(B) shall be licensed in the state of Louisiana and obtain the continuing education units required for that licensure.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 40:1730.22(C) and (D) and R.S. 40:1730.38

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, State Uniform Construction Code Council, LR 33:2666 (December 2007), amended LR 35:2821 (December 2009), repromulgated LR 36:328 (February 2010).

Chapter 9. Temporary Exemption to Certification Requirement

§901. Employment after January 1, 2007

A. Upon employment or if currently employed and promoted to a specific certification by a parish, municipality, or other political subdivision, an individual must be granted a provisional certificate of registration without certification by a recognized code organization or testing agency, provided that such individual is under the supervision of a registered code enforcement officer who is certified by the International Code Council.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 40:1730.22(C) and (D).

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, State Uniform Construction Code Council, LR 33:293 (February 2007), amended LR 35:2821 (December 2009), repromulgated LR 36:329 (February 2010), amended LR 40:2611 (December 2014).

§903. Employment prior to January 1, 2007

A. Certificates of registration may be issued without certification by a recognized code organization or testing agency to building code enforcement officers already employed in code enforcement on January 1, 2007, only for the position and locality held at the time of registration. This registration is valid for three years for building officials and six months for building inspectors and plans reviewers. Additionally, inspectors and plan reviews who were employed by an authority having jurisdiction before July 1, 2006, and remain employed by that authority having jurisdiction, an additional 30 month provisional certificate or registration may be granted provided the individual can demonstrate an annual minimum of three continuing education units for a core discipline as required in §703. Thereafter, anyone renewing this certificate of registration shall satisfy the certification requirement(s) as set forth in §703.

B. The building code enforcement officers designated in Paragraph A above shall have until January 1, 2012, to satisfy the certification requirements as set forth in §703 of this Part. Officials availing themselves of this provision shall obtain the required continuing education units and have attempted at least one International Code Council certification exam by January 1, 2010. Failure to do either shall result in the revocation of that official's provisional certificate of registration.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 40:1730.22(C) and (D).

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, State Uniform Construction Code Council, LR 33:293 (February 2007), amended LR 35:2821 (December 2009), repromulgated LR 36:329 (February 2010).

§905. Grandfathering for Employment of at Least 10 Years on January 1, 2007

A. Certificates of Registration may be issued without certification by a recognized code organization or testing agency to building code enforcement officers who have been employed in building code enforcement for at least 10 years on January 1, 2007, only for the position and locality held at the time of registration. Building code enforcement officers who are registered pursuant to this paragraph shall provide notarized verification of employment from the payroll agent of their employing authority having jurisdiction, and must comply with all continuing education requirements established by the council.

1. Building code enforcement officers currently provisionally registered with the Louisiana State Uniform Construction Code Council and meeting the 10-year employment requirement in Subsection A above shall have until December 31, 2010 to renew registration under the provisions of R.S. 40:1730.35 C(2) and this Section.

2. Building code enforcement officers not currently registered with the Louisiana State Uniform Construction Code Council and referenced in Subsection A above shall have until April 15, 2010 to satisfy the registration requirements set forth in §701 of this Part and this Section,

and have until December 31, 2010 to meet the continuing education requirements of their provisional registration.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 40:1730.22(C) and (D).

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, Uniform Construction Code Council, LR 36:1271 (June 2010).

Chapter 11. Disciplinary Proceedings

§1101. General

A. The council shall have the authority to suspend, revoke or deny renewal of Certificates of Registration upon any violation of R.S. 40:1730.21 et seq., after notice and proper hearing.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 40:1730.35(E).

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, State Uniform Construction Code Council, LR 33:293 (February 2007).

§1102. Informal Proceedings

A. Notice. If the council receives written information indicating that a person holding a Certificate of Registration (registrant) is violating or has violated any provision of R.S. 40:1730.21 et seq., or this Part, the council, after an informal investigation, by the council administrator or his/her designee, shall notify the registrant, in writing, of the findings of the informal investigation by the council administrator. The council administrator is authorized to conduct the informal investigation by telephone or site visit as deemed necessary by the council administrator. Furthermore, for complaints involving an immediate safety threat or dangerous condition, the council administrator shall notify, in writing, the local building official of the complaint. After presentation of a report by the council administrator, the council may, in writing, order the registrant to immediately cease the conduct or violation.

B. Response. The registrant after written informal notice from the council, shall respond in writing to the council's informal notice within 21 days of receipt by providing the council with a written statement containing any information related to the allegations of the informal notice which would show compliance with all requirements for retention or renewal of his/her certificate of registration. In lieu of providing a written statement, the registrant may request, in writing to the council administrator, an informal conference with the council chair, code enforcement advisory committee chair, council administrator, and legal counsel. In the event that a resolution to the matter is not accomplished during the informal procedures, the council administrator shall forward a report to the council for initiation of the formal procedures.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 40:1730.35(E).

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, State Uniform Construction Code Council, LR 33:293 (February 2007), amended LR 34:1632 (August 2008).

§1103. Formal Proceedings

A. Complaint. In the event that the matter is not resolved during the informal proceedings, the council shall file a formal complaint which then shall be forwarded to the registrant, via certified mail, to the address on file with the council.

B. Hearing. No hearing shall be conducted prior to 20 business days following the filing of the formal complaint.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 40:1730.35(E).

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, State Uniform Construction Code Council, LR 33:293 (February 2007).

§1105. Procedures

A. Hearings. All hearings conducted before the council or a designated committee shall be in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act.

B. Notice. The hearing notice shall include:

1. a statement of the time, place and nature of the hearing;

2. a statement of the legal authority under which the hearing is to be had;

3. a reference to the particular sections of the statutes and rules involved;

4. a short plain statement of the matters asserted.

C. Opportunity shall be afforded to all parties to respond and present evidence on all issues of fact involved and argument on all issues of law and policy involved and to conduct such cross examination as may be required for a full and true disclosure of the facts.

D. Unless precluded by law, informal disposition may be made of any case of adjudication by stipulation, agreed settlement, consent order or default.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 40:1730.35(E).

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, State Uniform Construction Code Council, LR 33:293 (February 2007).

§1107. Decisions and Orders

A. A final decision or order adverse to a party in an adjudication proceeding shall be in writing. A final decision shall include findings of fact and conclusions of law. Findings of fact, if set forth in statutory language, shall be accompanied by a concise and explicit statement of the underlying facts supporting the findings. Parties shall be notified by mail of the decision or order. A copy of the decision or order shall be sent via certified mail forthwith to each party and, if applicable, to his attorney of record. The parties by written stipulation may waive compliance with this Section. The council, in the event there is no contest, may eliminate compliance with this Section.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 40:1730.35(E).

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, State Uniform Construction Code Council, LR 33:294 (February 2007).

§1109. Rehearings

A. A decision or order in a case of adjudication are subject to rehearing, reopening, or reconsideration by the council, within 10 days from the date of its entry. The grounds for such action shall be either that:

1. the decision or order is clearly contrary to the law and the evidence;

2. the party has discovered since the hearing evidence important to the issues which he could not have with due diligence obtained before or during the hearing;

3. there is a showing that issues not previously considered ought to be examined in order properly to dispose of the matter; or

4. there is other good ground for further consideration of the issues and the evidence in the public interest.

B. The petition of a party for rehearing, reconsideration, or review, and the order of the council granting it, shall set forth the grounds which justify such action. On reconsideration, reopening, or rehearing, the matter may be heard by the council, or it may be referred to a subordinate committee. The hearing shall be confined to those grounds upon which the reconsideration, reopening, or rehearing was ordered. If an application for rehearing shall be timely filed, the period within which judicial review, under the applicable statute, must be sought, shall run from the final disposition of such application.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 40:1730.35(E).

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, State Uniform Construction Code Council, LR 33:294 (February 2007).

§1111. Judicial Review of Adjudication

A. A registrant who is aggrieved by a final decision or order in an adjudication proceeding is entitled to judicial review whether or not he has applied to the agency for rehearing, without limiting, however, utilization of or the scope of judicial review available under other means of review, redress, relief, or trial de novo provided by law. A preliminary, procedural, or intermediate action or ruling is immediately reviewable if review of the final council decision would not provide an adequate remedy and would inflict irreparable injury.

B. Proceedings for review may be instituted by filing a petition in the District Court of East Baton Rouge Parish within 30 days after mailing of notice of the final decision or, if a rehearing is requested, within 30 days after the decision thereon. Copies of the petition shall be served upon the council and all parties of record.

C. The filing of the petition does not itself stay enforcement of the council decision. The council may grant, or the reviewing court may order, a stay ex parte upon appropriate terms, relative to professions and occupations. The court may require that the stay be granted in accordance with the local rules of the reviewing court pertaining to injunctive relief and the issuance of temporary restraining orders.

D. Within 30 days after the service of the petition, or within further time allowed by the court, the council shall transmit to the reviewing court the original or a certified copy of the entire record of the proceeding under review. By stipulation of all parties to the review proceedings, the record may be shortened. A party unreasonably refusing to stipulate to limit the record may be taxed by the court for the additional costs. The court may require or permit subsequent corrections or additions to the record.

E. If, before the date set for hearing, application is made to the court for leave to present additional evidence, and it is shown to the satisfaction of the court that the additional evidence is material and that there were good reasons for failure to present it in the proceeding before the council, the court may order that the additional evidence be taken before the council upon conditions determined by the court. The council may modify its findings and decision by reason of the additional evidence and shall file that evidence and any modifications, new findings, or decisions with the reviewing court.

F. The review shall be conducted by the court without a jury and shall be confined to the record. In cases of alleged irregularities in procedure before the council, not shown in the record, proof thereon may be taken in the court. The court, upon request, shall hear oral argument and receive written briefs.

G. The court may affirm the decision of the council or remand the case for further proceedings. The court may reverse or modify the decision if substantial rights of the appellant have been prejudiced because the administrative findings, inferences, conclusions, or decisions are:

1. in violation of constitutional or statutory provisions;

2. in excess of the statutory authority of the agency;

3. made upon unlawful procedure;

4. affected by other error of law;

5. arbitrary or capricious or characterized by abuse of discretion or clearly unwarranted exercise of discretion; or

6. not supported and sustainable by a preponderance of evidence as determined by the reviewing court. In the application of this rule, the court shall make its own determination and conclusions of fact by a preponderance of evidence based upon its own evaluation of the record reviewed in its entirety upon judicial review. In the application of the rule, where the council has the opportunity to judge the credibility of witnesses by first-hand observation of demeanor on the witness stand and the reviewing court does not, due regard shall be given to the agency's determination of credibility issues.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 40:1730.35(E).

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, State Uniform Construction Code Council, LR 33:294 (February 2007).

Chapter 13. Code Enforcement Violations

§1301. General

A. If the council has reason to believe that a person or authority having jurisdiction is violating or intends to violate a provision of this Part, it may order the person or authority having jurisdiction immediately to refrain from the conduct or to immediately start performing some specific act. The council may apply to the district court of the parish for an injunction restraining the person or authority having jurisdiction from the conduct or for a mandamus to compel the performance of a duty. The court may issue a temporary injunction ex parte not to exceed 10 days and upon notice a full hearing may issue other orders in the matter it considers proper. No bond is required of the council by the court as a condition to the issuance of an injunction or other order.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 40:1730.22(C) and (D) and R.S. 40:1730.37.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, State Uniform Construction Code Council, LR 33:2666 (December 2007).

§1303. Informal Proceedings

A. If the council receives written information indicating that a person or authority having jurisdiction is violating or has violated any provision of R.S. 40:1730.21 et seq., or this Part, the council, after an investigation, may, in writing, order the person or authority having jurisdiction to immediately refrain from the conduct or violation or to immediately start performing some specific act.

B. Response. The person or authority having jurisdiction shall respond in writing to the council's informal notice within 10 days of receipt by providing the council with a written statement containing any information related to the allegations of the informal notice which would show compliance with state law or this Part.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 40:1730.22(C) and (D).

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, State Uniform Construction Code Council, LR 33:2667 (December 2007).

§1305. Investigation Procedures

A. In investigating a complaint, the following measures shall be observed by the council.

1. Complainant must file a written complaint with the council. The complaint shall be made on the form provided by the council.

2. The completed complaint form shall be mailed, faxed or hand delivered to the council administrator.

3. Once the complaint is filed with the council administrator, a file on the matter shall be opened and maintained by the administrator. A separate complaint file shall be kept on each complaint.

4. The council administrator shall oversee the investigation. The investigation may be conducted by the council administrator or his designee.

5. Upon completion of the investigation, the council administrator shall prepare a report to the council's Code Enforcement Advisory Committee.

6. The Code Enforcement Advisory Committee shall review the file and make a determination as to a course of action.

7. Once the Code Enforcement Advisory Committee makes their determination then they send their recommendation to the council to be heard at the earliest available council meeting.

8. The council shall consider the Code Enforcement Advisory Committee's recommendation then vote on a course of action.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 40:1730.22(C) and (D).

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, State Uniform Construction Code Council, LR 33:2667 (December 2007).

§1307. Judicial Proceedings

A. Injunction or Mandamus. In the event that the matter is not resolved during the informal proceedings, the council may file a petition for injunction or seek a writ of mandamus with the district court having jurisdiction.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 40:1730.22(C) and (D) and R.S. 40:1730.37.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, State Uniform Construction Code Council, LR 33:2667 (December 2007).