



PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Garage Door Installation Specialty License

September 5, 2008

To All Interested Individuals:

At the September 4, 2008, meeting the Leon County Contractor Licensing Board (Licensing Board) approved the issuance of an additional specialty contractor license, Garage Door Installation Contractor. During the 2004 and 2005 hurricane seasons one common condition found through out the State that lead to many building failures was the loss of the garage door. The garage door opening is the largest opening in most buildings, when it is breached the interior of the building becomes pressurized which in many cases leads to failure of the exterior envelope of the building. Due to this situation there have been several enhancements to the Florida Building Code to make garage doors and their installation more wind resistant. Installation of new and or replacement of existing garage doors requires a building permit. The building permit for new or substantially renovated buildings would include the installation of the garage door. However, replacement or retrofit of garage doors in existing buildings not being substantially renovated requires a separate permit.

Staff has confirmed with the Executive Director of the Florida Construction Industry Licensing Board (FCILB) that the installation of garage doors does constitute contracting as defined in Florida Statute Chapter 489. 105(3) and that currently the FCILB does not offer a certified specialty licensing classification for garage door installation. Currently, to lawfully install a garage door the installer must be a general, building or residential contractor, or as stipulated in Florida Statutes 489.117(4e) the installation must be under the supervision of a certified or registered general, building or residential contractor if the garage door installation is for a single family residence.

The Garage Door Installation Contractor specialty license will be a totally voluntary category that will allow garage door installers a licensing option better targeted to their market than currently exists. As with any other specialty license, the FCILB will not register them, the license will only be valid in Leon County and the City of Tallahassee and other jurisdictions that reciprocate with our Licensing Board.

To obtain this specialty license you must complete an application, demonstrate at least three years of applicable experience, be approved by the Licensing Board to sit for both a technical, and business and law competency examination, and pass both competency examinations with a minimum score of 70% (initially the Licensing Board will waive passing the competency examination for those contractors who can demonstrate three years of applicable experience). A copy of the application may be found on the Internet at leonpermits.org or can be obtained in either of our offices. Questions regarding processing of applications should be referred to Susie Wardowski, phone 606-1300.

This public service announcement constitutes our initial efforts to ensure garage doors are properly installed by lawfully licensed and insured contractors. Additional efforts for contractors found in violation of licensing requirements can include developing cases for unlicensed contracting which can carry penalties of fines, forfeiture, and imprisonment.

Please do not hesitate to contact our offices (City of Tallahassee at 891-7050 or Leon County at 606-1300) should you have any questions regarding this issue. We remain:

Your Public Servant,

Your Public Servant,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ronnie Spooner".

Ronnie Spooner
Building Official,
City of Tallahassee

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ray Burroughs".

Ray Burroughs
Director of Building Inspection,
Leon County