



PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Garage Door Installation Specialty License

FOLLOW-UP

January 16, 2009

To All Interested Individuals:


Please accept this public service announcement as a follow-up to the previous one issued September 5, 2008, regarding the creation of a Garage Door Installation Contractor specialty license. 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.

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. To lawfully install a garage door the installer must have this newly created specialty license, or 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. 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 examinations, 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.

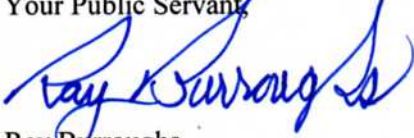
We feel that it is time to move from the public notice and education phase to an enforcement mode. Therefore, please be aware that effective March 1, 2009, garage door installations found in violation of these licensing requirements will result in unlicensed contractor complaints being filed which can carry penalties of fines, forfeiture, and/or 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,


Ronnie Spooner
Building Official,
City of Tallahassee

Your Public Servant,


Ray Burroughs
Director of Building Inspection,
Leon County