

### **Becoming a Building or Plumbing Official**

The new provincial qualification requirements for Building and Plumbing Officials established in the Building Act essentially came into force on February 28, 2017 through an administrative agreement between the Province of BC and the Building Officials Association of BC. With the institution of those mandatory qualifications it has become one of the best times to begin or continue down the career path of becoming a Building and/or Plumbing Official.

#### **Step 1 – Membership with the Building Officials Association of BC:**

The first step is for you to apply for membership with BOABC. Once we receive your application form, it gets forwarded to our registrar. The registrar will identify which membership category you'll be put under based on the information that is provided on your application. The registrar may contact you for additional information or to verify information from your application form. When your application has been approved you will receive an email from the Association that will contain your membership details and login information. You will be directed to login into your account to access your membership information for verification and payment of dues.

The link below will take you to the section on the BOABC website where you will find general information related to membership and the types of memberships:

<https://boabc.org/membership/> (link to general information related to membership)

The link below will take you to the membership application form on the BOABC website:

<https://boabc.org/membership/membership-form-2/> (link to membership application form)



**Step 2 – Becoming Qualified as described in the Building Act:**

In order to be Qualified as a Building or Plumbing Official a person must:

- (a) Be a member in good standing of the BOABC.
- (b) Pass the BOABC qualifying exams.  
There are 3 levels of qualification for Building: Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3  
There are 2 levels of qualification for Plumbing: Level 1 and Level 2.
- (c) Maintain the required annual continuing professional development credits.
- (d) Be entered in the register as a qualified building official and report annually to the registrar as required.

The link below takes you to the section of the BOABC website that contains information related to being qualified:

<https://boabc.org/province-establishes-new-requirements-for-building-officials/> (Link to qualification information)

The link below will take you to the section of the BOABC website that contains general information related to taking examinations:

<https://boabc.org/examination-information/> (Link to examination general information)

While we recommend that you take core certification courses offered by the BOABC, if you have years of background experience and feel confident, you are more than welcome to challenge the exams.

The link below will take you to the exam authorization page on the BOABC website:

<https://boabc.org/pronto/> (Link to examination authorization)

The BOABC offers training and CPD educational options through our online learning portal. We launched our Level 1 course in July of 2019 and it is designed by Building Officials for Building Officials as a self-paced online course. The Level 1 course can be purchased as: (a) an individual course at a price of \$675 plus GST for members and a price of \$875 for non-members, or (b) as a



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package deal that includes the course and both applicable Level 1 exams required to achieve Level 1 Qualification at a price of \$1,125 plus GST for BOABC members and a price of \$1,325 for non-members.

The BOABC will be adding courses as noted on the online learning portal, particular to Building Levels 2 & 3 as well as Plumbing Levels 1 & 2 in the coming months. These courses are again designed by Building & Plumbing Officials for Building & Plumbing Officials and will help you substantially with respect to qualifying examinations.

The link below will take you to our online learning portal:

<https://boabc.remote-learner.ca/login/index.php> (Link to online learning)

We have included the link to purchase the BC Building Code below as if you don't already have a copy you will need a printed copy for both the course and exams:

[https://www.crownpub.bc.ca/Product/Listing/13508\\_Codes-and-Construction-Publications](https://www.crownpub.bc.ca/Product/Listing/13508_Codes-and-Construction-Publications)

(link to purchase the BC Building Code)

We have included links below where you can find both general information related to the code as well as errata and revisions to the code. It is important to keep your code book up to date with any new revisions. (The revisions can be printed off and added to your code book)

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/construction-industry/building-codes-standards/the-codes/2018-bc-codes-33901> (link to general information related to the BC Building Code)

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/construction-industry/building-codes-standards/the-codes/errata-and-revisions> (link to errata and revisions to the code)

You can also take courses on the Building Code through BCIT:

- Bldg 1500 - BC Building Code Part 9
- Bldg 1825 - BC Building Code Multi Unit/Small Building
- Bldg 1830 – BC Building Code Part 3 Introduction
- Bldg 1835 – BC Building Code Part 3 Advanced Building

Camosun College also offers courses on the Plumbing Code for Plumbing Official Education.



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**Step 3 – Becoming Certified through the Building Officials Association of BC:**

A Certified Building Official has met the same criteria as a Qualified Building Official, plus they have met the prerequisite requirements for work experience in the application of the BC Building Code.

Once you have passed your qualifying examinations you will be required to completed a period of work experience in order to be certified through the Building Officials Association. When you have completed your required period of work experience, fill out the application form (link provided below), have your supervisor sign off on the work experience verification form and attach that before submitting your application form online.

The link below will take you to the certification application form found on the BOABC website: <https://boabc.org/certification-application/> (Work experience verification form is found on the bottom of the application page)

**Option:**

You can also look into becoming certified Nationally in addition to your Provincial Certification. The link below will take you to the section on the BOABC website that contains information related to National Certification through ACBOA:

<https://boabc.org/national-certification/> (Link to National Certification)

