Alternative Solutions Program

This is a self-paced online program made up of two courses. The first course, *Working with Objective-Based Codes*, consists of four self-guided foundational modules. You'll learn what objective-based codes are, why Canada adopted them, and how they support increased flexibility and innovation in demonstrating Code compliance. The course also contains a challenge assessment. If you're already familiar with the Course 1 topics, the challenge assessment allows you to skip directly to course 2 if you pass with a score of 80% or better. This course takes approximately 40 minutes to complete.

The second course, *From Concept to Evaluation*, consists of five self-guided modules plus a webinar session. These modules build on your understanding of the objective-based code framework by taking a closer look at alternative solutions. After completing the self-guided modules, you'll register for a webinar session where a BOABC representative will lead a discussion of how the concepts of course apply in practice. The course takes approximately 3.5 hours to complete, including the webinar session.

To complete the program, you must complete all self-guided modules in Course 1 or pass the challenge assessment, then complete all self-guided modules in Course 2 and attend a scheduled webinar.

Course 1: Working with Objective-Based Codes

Module 1: Introduction to Objective-Based Codes

Approximately 10 minutes

This module explore the foundations of objective-based codes. You'll learn what objective-based codes are, why Canada adopted them, and how they support increased flexibility and innovation in demonstrating Code compliance.

Module 2: Organization and Structure of the Code

Approximately 10 minutes

In this module, you'll examine how the B.C. Building Code (BCBC) and related model codes are organized. You'll review how the Divisions, Parts, and numbering structure work together so you can move through the Code efficiently.

Module 3: Acceptable Solutions and Compliance Paths

Approximately 10 minutes

In this module, you'll explore how acceptable solutions are used to demonstrate compliance with the BCBC, including what is an acceptable solution and the differences between prescriptive and performance based.

Module 4: Objectives, Functional Statements, and Intent Statements

Approximately 10 minutes

In this module, you'll build on what you learned about acceptable solutions and explore the objective-based framework that underlies the BCBC. You'll learn how objectives, functional

statements, and intent statements define Code intent and how that shapes the way performance is evaluated.

Course 2: From Concept to Evaluation

Module 1: Understanding Alternative Solutions

Approximately 20 minutes

In this module, you'll build on your understanding of the objective-based code framework by taking a closer look at alternative solutions. You'll explore what the BCBC requires when an alternative solution is proposed, what documentation must support that proposal, and how to recognize situations where an alternative solution pathway applies.

Module 2: Building Science and Code Performance

Approximately 30 minutes

In this module, you'll examine the building science principles that underlie Code requirements and why that matters when evaluating alternative solutions.

Module 3: Design Perspectives and Code Interaction

Approximately 20 minutes

In this module, you'll explore the design priorities that shape building projects and examine how those priorities interact with Code requirements. You'll look at the challenges design teams face when prescriptive solutions don't fit their design intent and why understanding those challenges makes you a more effective Code Official.

Module 4: Proposals and Evaluation

Approximately 20 minutes

In this module, you'll move from understanding what alternative solutions are to examining what a complete proposal looks like. You'll work through the required components of an alternative solution proposal (ASP), look at what a thorough Code analysis involves, and practice evaluating whether a submission gives you enough information to assess performance equivalency.

Module 5: Review Process and Application

Approximately 25 minutes

In this module, you'll work through the full alternative solution review process, from the moment a proposal arrives to a decision on approval, conditions, or refusal. You'll explore when ASPs typically arise, what your review and evaluation report should include, and how service-level decisions shape your role. The module closes with a case study to bring together everything learned in this course.

Webinar

1.5 hours

During the webinar, a representative from BOABC will lead a session discussing the application of concepts of the Alternative Solutions program in practice. The session consists of a review of the concepts, scenario-based breakout activities, group discussions, and Q&A periods.