

Dear State Executive Directors,

In an effort to better communicate with all of the state associations/societies the NRPA Certification Division will be sending quarterly update emails in January, April, August and November. The April and November updates will include meeting highlights from the National Certification Board (NCB) meetings taking place during Mid-Year and Congress. We recognize that this email update is being sent prior to Congress so you will receive a brief update in November from the 2009 NCB Congress meeting.

Professionals will also begin receiving bi-annual newsletters in January and July beginning January 2010. If there is any information that you would like from NRPA on future communications please let us know.

Your feedback is important to us! Please take a few moments to complete the “Centralization Survey” at http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=uJddX_2fm3yepob90rNNuuGw_3d_3d Your feedback will allow the NRPA Certification Division to better serve both the state associations/societies and professionals.

Please note the recent changes listed below that have taken place in the certification programs.

CPRP Auditing Process – As of July 1, 2009, all professionals up for CPRP, APRP, or PPRP renewal with NRPA no longer have to submit all of their CEU documentation in order to renew. Certified professionals now submit a list of the CEUs they have obtained over their certification cycle with their application. Official documentation of CEUs obtained is only submitted if the professional is randomly selected for an audit, in which case the professional would be notified by mail and have 30 days to submit the official documentation supporting the 2.0 CEUs claimed in their application.

CPSI examination is now offered through Computer-Based Testing – On July 20, 2009, our professional testing company, AMP, began offering the Certified Playground Safety Inspector examination to individuals wishing to sit for the exam. This was a result of feedback regarding the need for more convenient exam locations and times. Individuals may now take the exam at a time, date and location convenient to them.

NRPA is transitioning to a new professional testing vendor – After extensive review and consideration the NRPA decided to transition professional testing services to a new testing vendor, Pearson VUE/PTI. Pearson/PTI brings many years of experience in the industry and an extensive network of testing facilities, 5000 worldwide and 1500 in the US. We are confident in their ability to deliver the same if not better service, a wider network of locations and a more cost effective model. Transition plans are in place with the intention of a seamless shift to the new vendor.

CEU tracking notes – NRPA only maintains a record of CEUs that are obtained through NRPA events (i.e., AFO/CPSI Courses, Congress, Pyxis on-line learning, etc.) If your state has centralized with NRPA, certified professionals will need to track their own CEUs during their certification cycle. State associations/societies are more than welcome to track their professionals CEUs if desired.

State(s) who have recently centralized certification records – A big welcome to the following states who successfully transitioned their certification documents to NRPA in 2009: **Pennsylvania (January), Washington (January), Oklahoma (February), and Connecticut (May).**

If you have any questions or suggestions for future updates please feel free to email Julie Johnson at jjohnson@nrpa.org or Sara Baldwin at sbaldwin@nrpa.org Thank you for your support of the NRPA Certification programs.

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