

BFR



DIVISION OF BUILDING AND FIRE REGULATIONS

2015 Annual Report



**VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING
AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**
Partners for Better Communities

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**Virginia's rank in code
strength by the Insurance
Institute for Business and
Home Safety**



WORD FROM DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Friends and Colleagues,

The Division of Building and Fire Regulations (BFR) within the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) continues to administer programs and processes that serve to support and protect all who live, work, learn, play and worship in the commonwealth. Every year is a busy year that sees unusual events and opportunities occur, and 2015 was no different. We are pleased to present this annual report of highlights and accomplishments of the BFR team.

Some of the more significant items detailed inside the report include:

- Virginia is ranked number one in best codes by the Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety among 18 states most prone to hurricane and wind events.
- All Virginia Building Codes were made available with free access through the DHCD, and we partnered with the International Code Council (ICC) to create a premium electronic version for our customers.
- DHCD implemented a new electronic online code update process that provides free access to the 2015 ICC Codes, eliminating the need to purchase books that will not be utilized in Virginia.
- We researched and provided technical advisories on two significant 2012 code issues; whole house ventilation and header and girder spans for #2 grade southern yellow pine.
- BFR developed and delivered mandatory code update training for 3400 certified inspectors.
- DHCD partnered with the Virginia Society of American Institute of Architects (AIA) to provide code update training, both at their annual training event and through online webinar collaboration through the Jack Proctor Virginia Building Code Academy.
- Staff participated in the development of and followed up with implementation work on an agency wide retreat, Recharge 2020.
- Staff worked with women throughout the commonwealth and nation to found the first recognized ICC state chapter of women in code enforcement and development.

Also noteworthy in 2015 was saying goodbye to our longtime deputy director, Emory Rodgers. His support and encouragement of staff created the environment that allowed our team to “think big” in what we could accomplish.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cindy L. Davis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cindy L. Davis, Deputy Director
Division of Building & Fire Regulations
VA Department of Housing and Community Development

DIVISION OF BUILDING AND FIRE REGULATIONS

2015 AT-A-GLANCE

Mission

The development, promotion and uniform enforcement of regulations that achieve safe, affordable buildings in Virginia.

Vision

Safe affordable buildings for Virginia communities.

CODE DEVELOPMENT

2012 Code Development

- Customer service delivered to client groups
- **1** errata issued for VA codes
- **2** guidance documents published

2015 Code Development

- Initiated implementation of electronic proposal platform, cdpVA



NEW CUSTOMER SERVICE

6,656 Customer service calls and emails answered

59

OPINIONS: BY SUBJECT

18

Residential

13

Construction

8

USBC

5

General

3

Rehab

3

Mechanical

2

Plumbing

2

Maintenace

STATE BUILDING CODE TECHNICAL REVIEW BOARD (SBCTRB)

- **4** meetings
- **12** final orders issued
- **2** new members
- Alan McMahan appointed Secretary

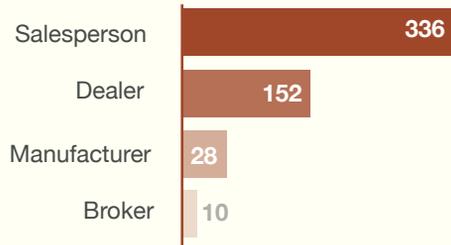
2015 AT-A-GLANCE

JACK A. PROCTOR VIRGINIA BUILDING CODE ACADEMY (JPVBCA)

MANUFACTURED HOUSING (MH)

- Initiated DMV audits
- **113** Dealer Lots Inspected
- **2** MH Board Meetings
- **1** New MHB member
- Presented to National SAA meeting on dispute resolution

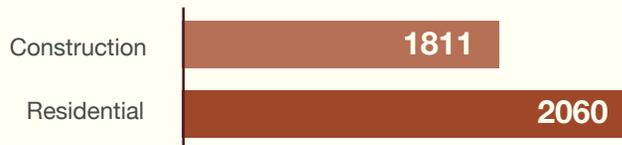
MH LICENSES ISSUED



INDUSTRIALIZED BUILDINGS (IB)

- Implemented system tracking **207** manufacturers
- **22** plants inspected

IB SEALS SOLD



Classes Held

42



Students Trained

965



Online Modules Completed

2,190



Certifications Issued

517



CE Applications Processed

476



Courses Developed

4 relaunched **4** ongoing



Volunteer Subject Matter Expert
(SME) Development Hours

818

CODE DEVELOPMENT

DHCD prides itself on its building code development process. By bringing partners and stakeholders from across the commonwealth, the codes are promulgated through a two-year development cycle.



2012 Codes

- Customer service delivered to client groups
- **1** errata issued for Virginia codes
- **2** guidance documents published
 - » Southern Yellow Pine
 - » Whole House Ventilation



2015 Codes

- Reviewed and developed code change proposals for Virginia building codes
- Implemented electronic proposal submittal, handling, and voting platform called cdpVA.



2018 Codes

- Reviewed and developed code change proposals for international building codes
- ICC committee seats:
 - » Correlation
 - » Administrative
 - » Building Code Action
 - » Residential Energy Code

BFR additionally accomplished a number of code-related goals. We collaborated with the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) as members of Oil Tank workgroup and developed Amusement Device Inspection FAQ brochure for building officials.

CUSTOMER SERVICE

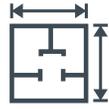
The State Building Code Office (SBCO) publishes code opinions in response to requests from outside of the agency.

CODE OPINIONS PUBLISHED **59**



18

Residential



13

Construction



8

USBC



5

General



3

Rehabilitation



3

Mechanical



2

Plumbing



2

Maintenance



1

Fire



1

Swimming Pool



1

Amusement
Device



1

Energy



1

Industrialized
Building

Approximately **75 percent**
of code opinions were solicited
by building officials.

The remaining requests were
from designers, lawyers and the
general public.

STATE BUILDING CODE TECHNICAL REVIEW BOARD (SBCTRB)

SBCTRB primary's purpose is to hear appeals from enforcement actions under building, fire and other related regulations. This board also issues formal interpretations on code issues and recommends changes to regulations based on its decisions and interpretations.

The SBCTRB consists of 14 citizens appointed by the governor. By law, the organizations represented by the board members are: the Virginia Society of the American Institute of Architects, Virginia Society of Professional

Engineers, Home Builders Association of Virginia, Virginia Branch of the Associated General Contractors of America, Virginia Building and Code Officials Association, State Fire Chiefs Association of Virginia, Virginia chapters of the National Apartment Association and Virginia Association of Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors.



Board Actions

- Met **4** times
- Processed **22** appeals
- Conducted **5** informal fact-finding conferences
- Issued **12** final orders
- Handled **2** interpretation requests



Board Membership

- Welcomed **2** new members
- Elected new vice-chair
- Alan McMahan appointed secretary of the board

MANUFACTURED HOUSING

The Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) regulates Virginia's manufactured housing industry through the Virginia Manufactured Home Safety Regulations (MHSR) and the Virginia Manufactured Housing Licensing and Transaction Recovery Fund Regulations (MHLTRFR).

526

Manufactured Housing
Licenses Issued

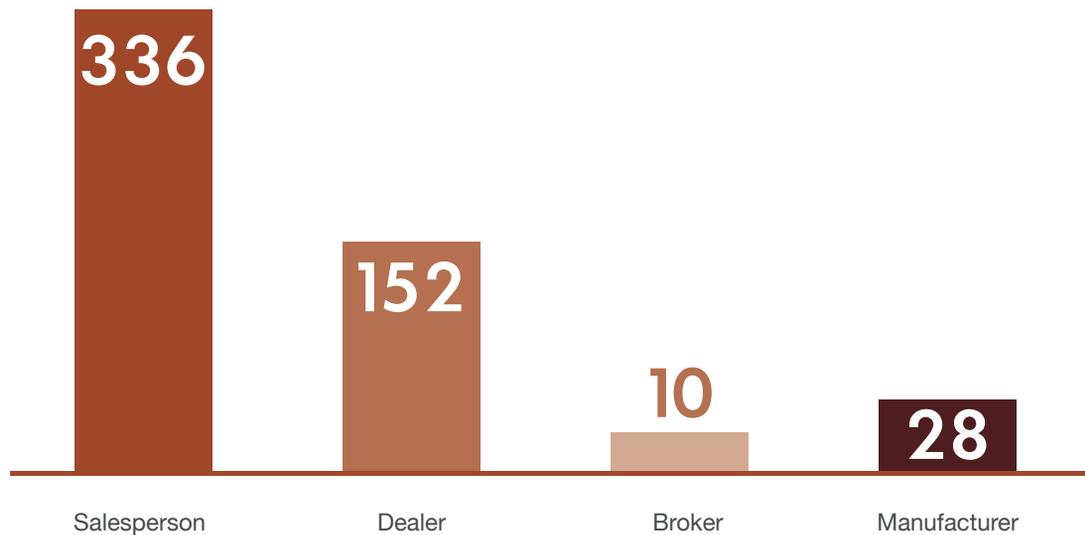
Initiated audits

113 dealer lots inspected

Closed 7 of 9 complaints received

Conducted 2 Subpart I Record reviews

MH LICENSES ISSUED TO



VIRGINIA MANUFACTURED HOUSING BOARD

The Virginia Manufactured Housing Board promulgates the licensing regulations to carry out the requirements for licensing of manufactured home manufacturers, dealers, brokers and salespersons. All licenses, except temporary or special licenses, are issued for a one-year period and must be renewed annually



Board Actions

- Met **2** times
- Issued **2** final orders
- Considered changes to Virginia Manufactured Housing Licensing and Transaction Recovery Fund Regulations for upcoming 2018 code cycle



Board Membership

- Appointed new vice-chair
- Appointed new board member

INDUSTRIALIZED BUILDING SAFETY REGULATIONS

The Virginia Industrialized Building Safety Regulations (IBSR) regulates industrialized buildings (IB), often referred to as modular buildings. The IBSR provides for the administration and enforcement of uniform statewide standards.

2,871

Industrialized Building
Seals Sold

IB SEALS SOLD

Construction

1811

Residential

2060

\$240,584 collected for seals sold

22

Industrialized Building
Plants Inspected

North Carolina – 8

Virginia – 7

Pennsylvania – 4

Tennessee – 3

PUBLIC RELATIONS AND OUTREACH

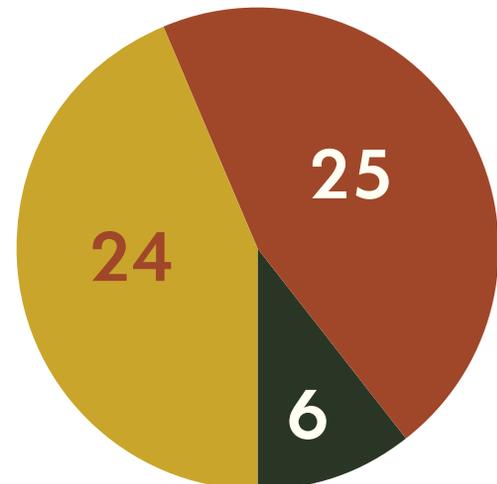
DHCD maintains positive relationships with various stakeholder and client groups across the state and region. These relationships remain an integral component to achieving the goals of the division. Such groups include:

- International Code Council (ICC)
- National Institute of Building Safety (NIBS)
- American Institute of Architects (AIA)
- Virginia Building Code Officials Association (VBCOA)
- Virginia Plumbing and Mechanical Inspectors Association (VPMIA)
- Virginia Chapter of the International Association of Electrical Inspectors (IAEI)
- Virginia Fire Prevention Association (VFPA)
- Virginia Department of Fire Programs (VDFP)
- Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VDEQ)
- Home Builders Association of Virginia (HBAV)
- Virginia Manufactured and Modular Housing Association (VAMMHA)
- Virginia Elevator Safety Association (VAESA)
- Women in Code Enforcement and Development of Virginia (WICED of VA)
- Virginia Department of Health (VDH)



Client Group Meetings Attended

VBCOA ■ VPMIA ■ Other ■



May Declared Building Safety Month

- Governor Terry McAuliffe proclaimed May as Building Safety Month in Virginia. A ceremony in Norfolk on May 8, 2015 commemorated the occasion, as Secretary of Commerce and Trade Maurice Jones presented the proclamation to VBCOA President Sean Farrell. Also present were DHCD Director Bill Shelton, Division of Building and Fire Regulations Deputy Director Emory Rodgers, Associate directors Cindy Davis and Sandi Morris and Compliance and Safety Officer Skip Harper.



Trainings and presentations delivered to key stakeholder groups

- International Swimming Pool and Spa Code was delivered to the Virginia Department of Health in a statewide simulcast presentation
- Commercial Kitchens and Backflow Preventers was delivered to 125 health inspectors at the 2015 Retail Food Protection Education and Training Seminar
- Virginia Industrialized Building Program and new code amendments were delivered to NTA, Inc, a national engineering firm providing third-party oversight to the industrialized building industry
- Code updates were presented to Architecture East for AIA Virginia
- Multiple regional VBCOA presentations on the appeals process

Blueprint for the Future Design Competition

- DHCD partnered with homebuilders for the Blueprint for Future design competition in association with the Virginia Governors Housing Conference.



JACK A. PROCTOR VIRGINIA BUILDING CODE ACADEMY



The Jack A. Proctor Virginia Building Code Academy (JPVBCA) launched five courses in 2015 and conducted development of four additional courses scheduled for launch in 2016.

42

Live Classes Held

965

Students Trained

2109

Online Modules
Completed

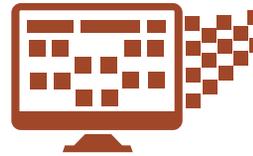
JPVBCA ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES

JPVBCA experienced a realignment of its staffing structure during 2015 in an effort to increase the overall professional knowledge and skill necessary to support today's academy. JPVBCA added two new positions to staffing to one new training and development coordinators and one training and development specialists. In addition, JPVBCA has one contract administrative support staff.



Relaunched

- Residential Plans Review
- Structural Plans Review
- Energy for Residential Structures
- Energy for Commercial Structures



Under development

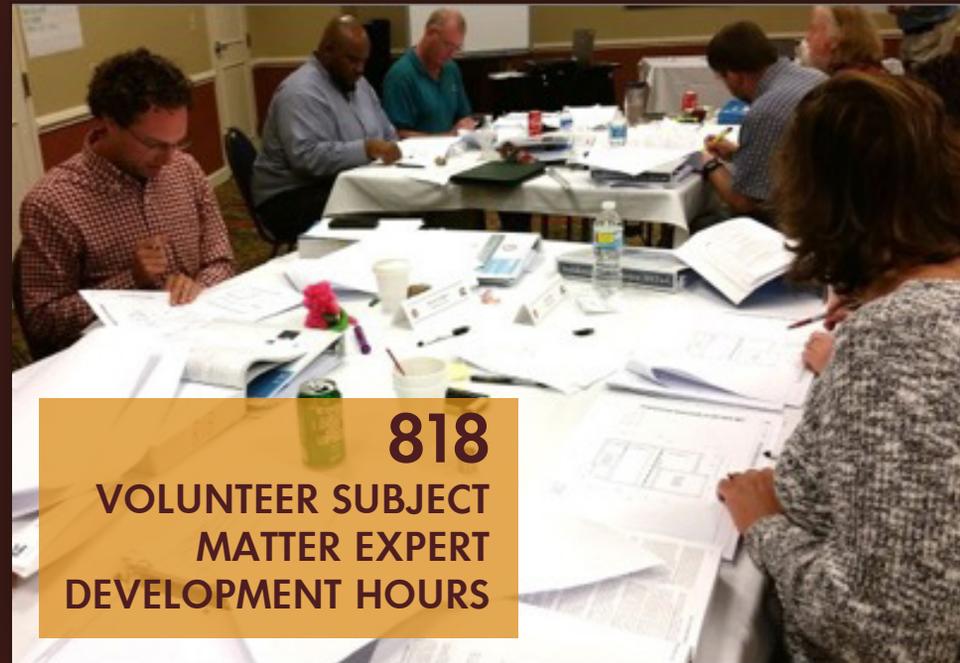
- Virginia Rehabilitation Code Technical Course
- Elevator Inspection Technical Course
- Asbestos Online
- Administrative Refresher Online

476

Continuing Education
Applications Processed

517

Certifications Issued



818

VOLUNTEER SUBJECT
MATTER EXPERT
DEVELOPMENT HOURS

TRAINING PARTNERSHIPS

AIA of Virginia

- On Oct. 14, DHCD staff partnered with AIA Virginia to conduct its first webinar to an audience of about 20 architects and code officials on the 2012 significant code changes to the Virginia commercial building and the residential building codes.



(R-L: JPVBCA Instructor Ron Clements, JPVBCA Roger Robertson, Ron Clements, DHCD Team Member Rajan Engh, Marshall Dreiling from AIA Virginia)

Mosley Architects

- JPVBCA developed a productive working relationship with the Mosley Institute and their Director.
- Moseley staff is now actively serving on a JPVBCA curriculum workgroup committee and JPVBCA instructional team.

Home Inspector Training Requirements

- BFR consulted with DPOR in developing training requirements for home inspectors.

Asbestos Lead Home Inspector Board

- JPVBCA staff sat on the ALHI Board committee, which was charged with defining training to meet newly-passed legislation requiring training on the Virginia residential code for home inspectors conducting inspections of new home construction.

Preferred Training Provider Status

DPOR

- JPVBCA holds status as an approved provider with the Virginia Department of Professional Occupational Regulation (DPOR).
- JPVBCA training is approved to provide continuing education hours mandated for DPOR Board of Contractors license holders.

ICC

- The JPVBCA holds the ICC Preferred Provider designation. ICC certificate holders attending JPVBCA classes receive continuing education (CE) hours towards their ICC certifications as they are currently required to obtain a portion of the CE hours from preferred providers.
- All JPVBCA classes are currently approved for ICC continuing education hours.

VIRGINIA BOARD OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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Roger McLellon
Susan Dewey
Shekar Narasimhan
John Ainslie
Steve Semones
James R. "Robby" Dawson
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