

SECTION .1100 - NC HOME INSPECTOR STANDARDS OF PRACTICE AND CODE OF ETHICS**.1101 DEFINITIONS**

The following definitions apply to this Section:

- (1) "Abnormal" means nontypical or unusual conditions that could cause damage to systems and components of the home.
- (2) "Automatic safety controls" means devices designed and installed to protect systems and components from excessively high or low pressures and temperatures, excessive electrical current, loss of water, loss of ignition, fuel leaks, fire, freezing, or other unsafe conditions as stated in manufacturer's instructions.
- (3) "Central air conditioning" means a system that uses ducts to distribute cooled or dehumidified air to more than one room or uses pipes to distribute chilled water to heat exchangers in more than one room, and that is not plugged into an electrical convenience outlet.
- (4) "Component" means a readily accessible and visible aspect of a system, such as a floor, or wall, but not individual pieces such as boards or nails where many similar pieces make up the component.
- (5) "Cosmetic damage" means blemishes or defects that do not interfere with the functionality of the component or system.
- (6) "Cross connection" means any physical connection or arrangement between potable water and any source of contamination.
- (7) "Dangerous or adverse situations" means situations that pose a threat of injury to the inspector, or those situations that require the use of special protective clothing or safety equipment.
- (8) "Describe" means report in writing a system or component by its type, or other inspected characteristics, to distinguish it from other systems or components used for the same purpose.
- (9) "Dismantle" means to take apart or remove any component, device, or piece of equipment that is bolted, screwed, or fastened by other means and that would not be disassembled by a homeowner in the course of routine household maintenance.
- (10) "Enter" means to go into an area to inspect all visible components.
- (11) "Functional drainage" means a drain that empties at a rate equal to or greater than the supply water flow to the fixture.
- (12) "Functional flow" means a usable flow at the highest fixture in a dwelling when another fixture is operated simultaneously.
- (13) "Habitable space" means a space in a building for living, sleeping, eating, or cooking. "Habitable space" does not mean a bathroom, toilet room, closet, or any space used or designed for storage.
- (14) "Harmful" means conditions that cause damage to systems and components of the home.
- (15) "Inspect" means the act of making a visual examination.
- (16) "Installed" means attached or connected such that an item requires tools for removal.
- (17) "Normal operating controls" means homeowner operated devices such as a thermostat, wall switch, or safety switch.
- (18) "On-site water supply quality" means water quality is based on the bacterial, chemical, mineral, and solids content of the water.
- (19) "On-site water supply quantity" means the rate of flow of on-site well water.
- (20) "Operate" means to cause systems or equipment to function.
- (21) "Readily accessible" means approachable or enterable for visual inspection without the risk of damage to any property or alteration of the accessible space, equipment, or opening.
- (22) "Readily openable access panel" means a panel provided for homeowner inspection and maintenance that has removable or operable fasteners or latch devices in order to be lifted off, swung open, or otherwise removed by one person; and its edges and fasteners are not painted in place. This definition is limited to those panels within reach standing on the floor or from a four-foot stepladder, and that are not blocked by stored items, furniture, or building components.
- (23) "Readily visible" means seen by using natural or artificial light without the use of equipment or tools other than a flashlight.
- (24) "Representative number" means, for multiple identical components such as windows and electrical outlets, one such component per room; and, for multiple identical exterior components, one such component on each side of the building.
- (25) "Roof drainage systems" means gutters, downspouts, leaders, splash blocks, and similar components used to carry water off a roof and away from a building.

- (26) “Shut down” means a piece of equipment or a system that cannot be operated by the device or control provided for homeowner operation. If its safety switch or circuit breaker is in the “off” position, or its fuse is missing or blown, the inspector is not required to reestablish the circuit for the purpose of operating the equipment or system.
- (27) “Solid fuel heating device” means any wood, coal, or other similar organic fuel burning device, including fireplaces whether masonry or factory built, fireplace inserts and stoves, wood stoves (room heaters), central furnaces, and combinations of these devices.
- (28) “Structural component” means a component that supports non-variable forces or weights (dead loads) and variable forces or weights (live loads).
- (29) “System” means a combination of interacting or interdependent components, assembled to carry out one or more functions.
- (30) “Technically exhaustive” means an inspection involving the use of measurements, instruments, testing, calculations, and other means to develop scientific or engineering findings, conclusions, and recommendations.
- (31) “Under floor crawl space” means the area within the confines of the foundation and between the ground and the underside of the lowest floor structural component.

.1102 STANDARDS OF PRACTICE

This Section sets forth the minimum standards of practice required of licensed home inspectors. In this Section, the term “home inspectors” means licensed home inspectors.

.1103 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

- (a) Home inspections performed according to this Section shall provide the client with an understanding of the property conditions, as inspected at the time of the home inspection.
- (b) Home inspectors shall:
 - (1) provide a written contract, signed by the client, before the home inspection is performed that shall:
 - (A) State that the home inspection is in accordance with the Standards of Practice of the North Carolina Home Inspector Licensure Board as set forth in this Section;
 - (B) State what services shall be provided and the cost; and
 - (C) When an inspection is for only one or a limited number of systems or components, state that the inspection is limited to only those systems or components;
 - (2) inspect readily visible and readily accessible installed systems and components described in Rules .1106 through .1115 of this Section;
 - (3) submit a written report, pursuant to G.S. 143-151.58(a), to the client that shall:
 - (A) Describe those systems and components required to be described in Rules .1106 through .1115 of this Section;
 - (B) State which systems and components present at the home and designated for inspection in this Section were not inspected, and the reason for not inspecting;
 - (C) State any systems or components inspected that do not function as intended, allowing for normal wear and tear, or appear not to function as intended, based upon documented tangible evidence;
 - (D) Describe each system or component, pursuant to Part (b)(3)(C) of this Rule; state how the condition is defective; explain the implications of defective conditions reported; and direct the client to a course of action for repair, monitoring, or further investigation by a specialist;
 - (E) State the name, license number, and signature of the person conducting the inspection.
 - (4) submit a summary page(s) pursuant to G.S. 143-151.58(a1).
- (c) Home inspectors may:
 - (1) report observations and conditions, including safety or habitability concerns, or render opinions of items in addition to those required in Paragraph (b) of this Rule; or
 - (2) exclude systems and components from the inspection if requested by the client, and so stated in the written contract.

.1104 GENERAL LIMITATIONS

- (a) Home inspections done in accordance with this Section are not technically exhaustive.
- (b) This Section applies to buildings with four or fewer dwelling units, and individually owned residential units within multi-family buildings, and their attached garages or carports.

.1105 GENERAL EXCLUSIONS:

(a) Home inspectors are not required to report on:

- (1) Life expectancy of any component or system;
- (2) The causes of the need for a repair;
- (3) The methods, materials, and costs of corrections;
- (4) The suitability of the property for any specialized use;
- (5) Compliance or non-compliance with codes, ordinances, statutes, regulatory requirements, or restrictions;
- (6) The market value of the property or its marketability;
- (7) The advisability or inadvisability of purchase of the property;
- (8) Any component or system that was not inspected;
- (9) The presence or absence of pests such as wood damaging organisms, rodents, or insects; or
- (10) Cosmetic damage, underground items, or items not installed; or
- (11) The presence or absence of systems installed to control or remove suspected hazardous substances listed in Subparagraph (b)(7) of this Rule.

(b) Home inspectors are not required to:

- (1) Offer warranties or guarantees of any kind;
- (2) Calculate the strength, adequacy, or efficiency of any system or component;
- (3) Enter any area or perform any procedure that may damage the property or its components or be dangerous to or adversely affect the health or safety of the home inspector or other persons;
- (4) Operate any system or component that is shut down or otherwise inoperable;
- (5) Operate any system or component that does not respond to normal operating controls;
- (6) Move personal items, panels, furniture, equipment, plant life, soil, snow, ice, or debris that obstructs access or visibility;
- (7) Determine the presence or absence of any suspected adverse environmental condition or hazardous substance, including mold, toxins, carcinogens, noise, contaminants in the building or in soil, water, and air;
- (8) Determine the effectiveness of any system installed to control or remove suspected hazardous substances;
- (9) Determine House Energy Ratings (HER), insulation R values, system or component efficiencies;
- (10) Inspect heat recovery and similar whole house ventilation systems;
- (11) Predict future condition, including failure of components;
- (12) Project operating costs of components;
- (13) Evaluate acoustical characteristics of any system or component;
- (14) Inspect equipment or accessories that are not listed as components to be inspected in this Section; or
- (15) Disturb insulation, except as required in Rule .1114 of this Section.

(c) Home inspectors shall not:

- (1) Offer or perform any act or service contrary to law; or
- (2) Offer or perform engineering, architectural, plumbing, electrical, or any other job function requiring an occupational license in the jurisdiction where the inspection is taking place, unless the home inspector holds a valid occupational license. In that case the home inspector shall inform the client that the home inspector is so licensed, and therefore qualified to go beyond this Section and perform additional inspections beyond those within the scope of the Standards of Practice.

.1106 STRUCTURAL COMPONENTS

(a) The home inspector shall inspect structural components including:

- (1) Foundation;
- (2) Floors;
- (3) Walls;
- (4) Columns or piers;
- (5) Ceilings; and
- (6) Roofs.

(b) The home inspector shall describe the type of:

- (1) Foundation;

- (2) Floor structure;
 - (3) Wall structure;
 - (4) Columns or piers;
 - (5) Ceiling structure; and
 - (6) Roof structure.
- (c) The home inspector shall:
- (1) Probe structural components where deterioration is suspected;
 - (2) Enter under floor crawl spaces, basements, and attic spaces except when access is obstructed, when entry could damage the property, or when dangerous or adverse situations are suspected;
 - (3) Report the methods used to inspect under floor crawl spaces and attics; and
 - (4) Report signs of abnormal or harmful water penetration into the building or signs of abnormal or harmful condensation on building components.

.1107 EXTERIOR

- (a) The home inspector shall inspect:
- (1) Wall cladding, flashings, and trim;
 - (2) Entryway doors and a representative number of windows;
 - (3) Garage door operators;
 - (4) Decks, balconies, stoops, steps, areaways, porches, and appurtenant railings;
 - (5) Eaves, soffits, and fascias;
 - (6) Driveways, patios, walkways, and retaining walls; and
 - (7) Vegetation, grading, and drainage with respect only to their effect on the condition of the building.
- (b) The home inspector shall:
- (1) Describe wall cladding materials;
 - (2) Operate all entryway doors;
 - (3) Operate garage doors manually or by using installed controls for any garage door operator;
 - (4) Report whether or not any garage door operator will automatically reverse or stop when meeting reasonable resistance during closing; and
 - (5) Probe exterior wood components where deterioration is suspected.
- (c) The home inspector is not required to inspect:
- (1) Storm windows, storm doors, screening, shutters, and awnings;
 - (2) Fences;
 - (3) For the presence of safety glazing in doors and windows;
 - (4) Garage door operator remote control transmitters;
 - (5) Geological conditions;
 - (6) Soil conditions;
 - (7) Recreational facilities (including spas, saunas, steam baths, swimming pools, tennis courts, playground equipment, and other exercise, entertainment, or athletic facilities), except as otherwise required in 11 NCAC 8.1109(d)(5)(F);
 - (8) Detached buildings or structures; or
 - (9) For the presence or condition of buried fuel storage tanks.

.1108 ROOFING

- (a) The home inspector shall inspect:
- (1) Roof coverings;
 - (2) Roof drainage systems;
 - (3) Flashings;
 - (4) Skylights, chimneys, and roof penetrations; and
 - (5) Signs of leaks or abnormal condensation on building components.
- (b) The home inspector shall:
- (1) Describe the type of roof covering materials; and
 - (2) Report the methods used to inspect the roofing.
- (c) The home inspector is not required to:
- (1) Walk on the roofing; or
 - (2) Inspect attached accessories including solar systems, antennae, and lightning arrestors.

.1109 PLUMBING

- (a) The home inspector shall inspect:
- (1) Interior water supply and distribution system, including: piping materials, supports, and insulation; fixtures and faucets; functional flow; leaks; and cross connections;
 - (2) Interior drain, waste, and vent system, including: traps; drain, waste, and vent piping; piping supports and pipe insulation; leaks; and functional drainage;
 - (3) Hot water systems including: water heating equipment; normal operating controls; automatic safety controls; and chimneys, flues, and vents;
 - (4) Fuel storage and distribution systems including: interior fuel storage equipment, supply piping, venting, and supports; leaks; and
 - (5) Sump pumps.
- (b) The home inspector shall describe:
- (1) Water supply and distribution piping materials;
 - (2) Drain, waste, and vent piping materials;
 - (3) Water heating equipment, including fuel or power source, storage capacity or tankless point of use demand systems, and location; and
 - (4) The location of any main water supply shutoff device.
- (c) The home inspector shall operate all plumbing fixtures, including their faucets and all exterior faucets attached to the house, except where the flow end of the faucet is connected to an appliance.
- (d) The home inspector is not required to:
- (1) State the requirement for or effectiveness of anti-siphon devices;
 - (2) Determine whether water supply and waste disposal systems are public or private or the presence or absence of backflow devices;
 - (3) Operate automatic safety controls;
 - (4) Operate any valve except water closet flush valves, fixture faucets, and hose faucets;
 - (5) Inspect:
 - (A) Water conditioning systems;
 - (B) Fire and lawn sprinkler systems;
 - (C) On-site water supply quantity and quality;
 - (D) On-site waste disposal systems;
 - (E) Foundation irrigation systems;
 - (F) Bathroom spas, whirlpools, or air jet tubs except as to functional flow and functional drainage;
 - (G) Swimming pools;
 - (H) Solar water heating equipment; or
 - (I) Fixture overflow devices or shower pan liners;
 - (6) Inspect the system for proper sizing, design, or use of materials.
 - (7) Report on the absence or presence of thermal expansion tanks; or,
 - (8) Report on the adequacy of the reported water heater capacity.

.1110 ELECTRICAL

- (a) The home inspector shall inspect:
- (1) Electrical service entrance conductors;
 - (2) Electrical service equipment, grounding equipment, main overcurrent device, and interiors of panelboard enclosures unless unsafe conditions are reported;
 - (3) Amperage and voltage ratings of the electrical service;
 - (4) Branch circuit conductors, their overcurrent devices, and the compatibility of their ampacities at the interiors of panelboard enclosures unless unsafe conditions are reported;
 - (5) The operation of a representative number of installed ceiling fans, lighting fixtures, switches, and receptacles located inside the house, garage, and on the dwelling's exterior walls;
 - (6) The polarity and grounding of all receptacles within six feet of interior plumbing fixtures, and all receptacles in the garage or carport, and on the exterior of inspected structures;
 - (7) The operation of ground fault circuit interrupters; and
 - (8) Smoke detectors and installed carbon monoxide alarms.

- (b) The home inspector shall describe:
 - (1) Electrical service amperage and voltage;
 - (2) Electrical service entry conductor materials;
 - (3) The electrical service type as being overhead or underground; and
 - (4) The location of main and distribution panels.
- (c) The home inspector shall report in writing the presence of any readily accessible single strand aluminum branch circuit wiring.
- (d) The home inspector shall report in writing on the presence or absence of smoke detectors, and installed carbon monoxide alarms in any homes with fireplaces, fuel fired appliances, or attached garages, and operate their test function, if readily accessible, except when detectors are part of a central system.
- (e) The home inspector is not required to:
 - (1) Insert any tool, probe, or testing device inside the panels;
 - (2) Test or operate any overcurrent device except ground fault circuit interrupters;
 - (3) Dismantle any electrical device or control other than to remove the covers of panelboard enclosures; or
 - (4) Inspect:
 - (A) Low voltage systems;
 - (B) Security systems and heat detectors;
 - (C) Telephone, security, cable TV, intercoms, or other ancillary wiring that is not a part of the primary electrical distribution system;
 - (D) Built-in vacuum equipment;
 - (E) Back up electrical generating equipment;
 - (F) Other alternative electrical generating or renewable energy systems such as solar, wind, or hydro power;
 - (G) Battery or electrical automotive charging systems; or
 - (H) Electrical systems to swimming pools or spas, including bonding and grounding.

.1111 HEATING

- (a) The home inspector shall inspect permanently installed heating systems including:
 - (1) Heating equipment;
 - (2) Normal operating controls;
 - (3) Automatic safety controls;
 - (4) Chimneys, flues, and vents, where readily visible;
 - (5) Solid fuel heating devices;
 - (6) Heat distribution systems including fans, pumps, ducts and piping, with supports, insulation, air filters, registers, radiators, fan coil units, convectors; and
 - (7) The presence or absence of an installed heat source for each habitable space.
- (b) The home inspector shall describe the:
 - (1) Energy source; and
 - (2) Heating equipment and distribution type.
- (c) The home inspector shall operate the systems using normal operating controls appropriate to weather conditions at the time of the inspection.
- (d) The home inspector shall open readily openable access panels provided by the manufacturer or installer for routine homeowner maintenance. The home inspector shall report the method of inspection used to inspect the heating system and whether or not access panels were removed.
- (e) The home inspector is not required to:
 - (1) Operate heating systems when weather conditions or other circumstances may cause equipment damage or when inappropriate to weather conditions at the time of inspection;
 - (2) Operate automatic safety controls;
 - (3) Ignite or extinguish solid fuel fires; or
 - (4) Ignite a pilot light; or
 - (5) Inspect:
 - (A) The interior of flues;
 - (B) Fireplace insert flue connections;
 - (C) Heat exchanges;
 - (D) Humidifiers;

- (E) Electronic air filters;
- (F) The uniformity or adequacy of heat supply to the various rooms; or
- (G) Solar space heating equipment.

.1112 AIR CONDITIONING

- (a) The home inspector shall inspect:
 - (1) Central air conditioning and through-the-wall ductless installed cooling systems including:
 - (A) Cooling and air handling equipment; and
 - (B) Normal operating controls.
 - (2) Cooling distribution systems including:
 - (A) Fans, pumps, ducts and piping, with associated supports, dampers, insulation, air filters, registers, fan-coil units; and
 - (B) The presence or absence of an installed cooling source for each habitable space.
- (b) The home inspector shall describe the:
 - (1) Energy sources; and
 - (2) Cooling equipment type.
- (c) The home inspector shall operate the systems using normal operating controls appropriate to weather conditions at the time of the inspection.
- (d) The home inspector shall open readily openable access panels provided by the manufacturer or installer for routine homeowner maintenance. The home inspector shall report the method used to inspect the air conditioning system and whether or not access panels were removed.
- (e) The home inspector is not required to:
 - (1) Operate cooling systems when weather conditions or other circumstances may cause equipment damage;
 - (2) Inspect window air conditioners; or
 - (3) Inspect the uniformity or adequacy of cool-air supply to the various rooms.

.1113 INTERIORS

- (a) The home inspector shall inspect:
 - (1) Walls, ceiling, and floors;
 - (2) Steps, stairways, balconies, and railings;
 - (3) Counters and a representative number of built-in cabinets; and
 - (4) A representative number of doors and windows.
- (b) The home inspector shall:
 - (1) Operate a representative number of windows and interior doors; and
 - (2) Report signs of water penetration into the building or signs of abnormal or harmful condensation on building components.
- (c) The home inspector is not required to inspect:
 - (1) Paint, wallpaper, and other finish treatments on the interior walls, ceilings, and floors;
 - (2) Carpeting; or
 - (3) Draperies, blinds, or other window treatments; or
 - (4) Coatings on and hermetic seals between panes of glass in windows and doors.

.1114 INSULATION AND VENTILATION

- (a) The home inspector shall inspect:
 - (1) Insulation and vapor retarders in unfinished spaces;
 - (2) Ventilation of attics and foundation areas;
 - (3) Kitchen, bathroom, and laundry venting systems; and
 - (4) The operation of any readily accessible attic ventilation fan, and, when temperature permits, the operation of any readily accessible thermostatic control.
- (b) The home inspector shall describe:
 - (1) Insulation in unfinished spaces; and
 - (2) The absence of insulation in unfinished space at conditioned surfaces.
- (c) The home inspector is not required to report on:
 - (1) Concealed insulation and vapor retarders; or
 - (2) Venting equipment for household appliances that are not required to be inspected pursuant to the North

Carolina Home Inspector Standards of Practice.

(d) The home inspector shall:

- (1) Move insulation where readily visible evidence indicates a problem; and
- (2) Move floor insulation where plumbing drain/waste pipes penetrate floors, adjacent to earth-filled stoops or porches, and at exterior doors.

.1115 BUILT-IN KITCHEN APPLIANCES

(a) The home inspector shall inspect and operate the basic functions of the following kitchen appliances:

- (1) Installed dishwasher(s), through a complete cycle;
- (2) Range(s), cook top(s), and permanently installed oven(s);
- (3) Trash compactor(s);
- (4) Garbage disposal(s);
- (5) Ventilation equipment or range hood(s); and
- (6) Installed microwave oven(s).

(b) The home inspector is not required to inspect:

- (1) Clocks, timers, self-cleaning oven functions, or thermostats for calibration or automatic operation;
- (2) Non built-in appliances; or
- (3) Refrigeration units.

(c) The home inspector is not required to operate:

- (1) Appliances in use; or
- (2) Any appliance that is shut down or otherwise inoperable.

.1116 CODE OF ETHICS

- (a) Licensees shall discharge their duties with fidelity to the public and to their clients, with fairness and impartiality to all.
- (b) Opinions expressed by licensees shall be based only on their education, experience, and honest convictions.
- (c) A licensee shall not disclose any information about the results of an inspection without the approval of the client for whom the inspection was performed, or the client's representative.
- (d) No licensee shall accept compensation or any other consideration from more than one interested party for the same service without the written consent of all interested parties.
- (e) No licensee shall compensate, either financially or through other services or benefits, realty agents or other parties with a financial interest in closing or settlement of real estate transactions for the following:
 - (1) Referral of inspections; or
 - (2) Inclusion on a list of recommended inspectors or preferred providers.
- (f) No licensee shall express, within the context of an inspection, an appraisal or opinion of the market value of the inspected property.
- (g) Before the execution of a contract to perform a home inspection, a licensee shall disclose to the client any interest he or she has in a business that may create a conflict of interest for the home inspector. No licensee shall allow his or her interest in any business to affect the quality or results of the inspection work that the licensee may be called upon to perform.
- (h) A licensee shall not solicit for repairs of systems or components found defective in the course of a home inspection performed by the licensee or that licensee's company.
- (i) Licensees shall not engage in false or misleading advertising or otherwise misrepresent any matters to the public.
- (j) Licensees shall not inspect properties under contingent arrangements whereby any compensation or future referrals are dependent on reported findings or on the sale of a property.
- (k) A licensee shall not impugn the professional reputation or practice of another home inspector, nor criticize another inspector's reports.

SECTION .1200 - HOME INSPECTOR DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

.1201 DEFINITIONS

(a) As used in this Section:

- (1) "Party" means the Board, the licensee, or an intervenor who qualifies under G.S. 150B-38(f). "Party" does not include a complainant unless the complainant is allowed to intervene under G.S. 150B-38(f).
- (2) "Service or serve" means personal delivery or, unless otherwise provided by law or rule, delivery by first class United States Postal Service mail or a licensed overnight express mail service, addressed to the person to be served at his or her last known address. A Certificate of Service meeting the requirements of G.S. 1A-1, Rule 5(b)(1) by the person making the service shall be appended to every document requiring service under these Rules. Service by mail or licensed overnight express mail is complete upon addressing, enveloping, and placing the item to be served in an official depository of the United States Postal Service or delivering the item to an agent of an overnight express mail service.

(b) The definitions contained in G.S. 143-151.45 apply to this Section.

.1202 COMPLAINTS

- (a) Anyone who believes that a licensee is or has been engaged in any conduct set out in GS 143-151.56(a) may file a written complaint against that licensee.
- (b) A Complaint Memo containing instructions for filing the complaint is available through the NC Home Inspector Licensure Board website at www.nchilb.com or by contacting the NC Home Inspector Licensure Board.
- (c) The complaint shall identify the licensee and describe the conduct complained of as set forth in G.S. 143-151.56(a).
- (d) A copy of the contract agreement, the inspection report, and any reports made by other consultants shall be included with the complaint.
- (e) The complaint shall be in writing, signed by the complainant, and dated. The complaint shall include the complainant's mailing address and a daytime phone number at which the complainant may be reached. The street address of the structure must be included if the complaint pertains to an inspection of a structure.
- (f) Supporting information shall be included to justify the complaint. Supporting information shall refer to violations of the Board's rules or of the General Statutes. If the complaint involves items included in the Standards of Practice that the licensee did not observe, a list of those items may be submitted with the complaint. This information may be provided by the complainant, an architect, professional engineer, licensed contractor, another licensed home inspector, or other person with knowledge of the Standards of Practice.
- (g) The Board shall not consider services that are under the jurisdiction of other regulatory agencies or licensing boards, such as termite inspections; appraisals; or services rendered by licensed architects, engineers, or general contractors, unless the persons rendering those services claim to be home inspectors.
- (h) The Board has no jurisdiction over persons who make specialized inspections as part of their repair or maintenance businesses, such as roofing repair contractors, chimney sweeps, duct cleaning, and interior environment specialists.
- (i) The Board members or the Board staff may initiate an investigation without a written complaint when there is cause to believe that a licensee is or has been engaged in any conduct set out in G.S. 143-151.56(a).

.1203 BOARD STAFF [Repealed as Published In 28:04 NCR 322, effective February 1, 2014]

.1204 INVESTIGATION

- (a) On receipt of a complaint conforming to this Section, the Engineering and Codes Division shall conduct an investigation.
- (b) A copy of the complaint and supporting information as set forth in Rule .1202(d) and (f) of this Section shall be mailed to the home inspector. The home inspector shall submit a written response to the Engineering and Codes Division within two weeks after receipt of the copy of the complaint.
- (c) Upon completion of the investigation, the Board's Investigation Review Committee ("Committee") shall make a determination of whether there is sufficient evidence to support a violation of G.S. 143-151.56(a). Based on its determination, the Committee may:
 - (1) recommend to the Board that the complaint be dismissed;
 - (2) recommend to the Board to dismiss the complaint and a letter of caution be issued to the home inspector;
 - (3) recommend to the Board that the complaint be resolved by consent agreement if the home inspector agrees to the terms of the consent agreement; or
 - (4) recommend to the Board to establish a time and place for a disciplinary hearing and give notice to the home inspector and complainant. Prior to the matter's being heard and determined by the Board, it may be resolved by consent agreement with the approval of the Board.
- (d) The Committee shall notify the complainant and the home inspector of its determination.

.1205 DISCIPLINARY HEARING

The disciplinary hearing shall be held in accordance with GS 150B, Article 3A and this Section.

.1206 PRESIDING OFFICER

In all contested case hearings before the Board, the Chairman of the Board shall serve as presiding officer. In the absence of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman shall serve as presiding officer, or a presiding officer shall be elected by the Board.

.1207 PREHEARING CONFERENCE

Upon the request of any party or upon the presiding officer's own motion, the presiding officer may hold a pre-hearing conference before a contested case hearing. A pre-hearing conference on the simplification of issues, amendments, stipulations, or other matters may be entered on the record or may be made the subject of an order by the presiding officer. Venue for purposes of a pre-hearing conference shall be determined in accordance with GS 150B-38 (e).

.1208 CONSENT AGREEMENT

(a) The Board's staff and the home inspector may attempt to resolve the complaint by means of a consent agreement. Such consent agreement may impose upon the licensee a penalty, or penalties, including the following: requiring the licensee to take training or educational courses, probation, letter of reprimand, suspension of license, or revocation of license.

(b) The proposed consent agreement shall then be presented to the Board at the next meeting. The Board may either accept the consent agreement as written, modify the consent agreement and send it back to the licensee for agreement, or reject the consent agreement.

.1209 FINAL BOARD ORDER

- (a) After the close of a contested case hearing, the Board shall meet and determine if the licensee engaged in the conduct alleged and the appropriate penalty, including requiring the licensee to take training or education courses, probation, letter of reprimand, or license suspension or revocation.
- (b) If a final Board order is to suspend, revoke, place on probation, or refuse to issue a license, the order shall set forth any conditions that must be met in order to remove the suspension or probation, to reissue the license, or to issue the license.
- (c) Contested case hearings shall be recorded either by a recording system or a professional court reporter using steno mask or stenotype.
- (d) Transcripts costs incurred by the Board shall be paid by the party or parties requesting a transcript. Any other costs incurred by the Board when using a professional court reporter shall be paid by the requesting party or parties.
- (e) A 24-hour cancellation notice shall be required in all cases. The party or parties responsible for the cancellation shall be responsible for any cancellation fees charged by a professional court reporter.

- (f) Transcripts of proceedings during which oral evidence is presented shall be made only upon request of a party. Transcript costs shall include the cost of an original for the Board. An attorney requesting a transcript on behalf of a party shall be a guarantor of payment of the cost. Cost shall be determined under supervision of the presiding officer who, in cases deemed to be appropriate by him, may require an advance security deposit to cover the prospective cost. The security deposit shall be applied to the actual cost and any excess shall be returned to the party that submitted it.
- (g) Copies of tapes shall be available upon written request at cost of reproduction and postage
- (h) Copies of Board hearings tapes or non-Board certified transcripts therefrom shall not be part of the official record.

SECTION .1300 - HOME INSPECTOR CONTINUING EDUCATION**.1301 DEFINITIONS**

- (a) As used in this Section:
- (1) "Credit hour" means one continuing education course hour, comprising at least 50 minutes of instruction.
 - (2) "License period" means October 1 through the following September 30.
 - (3) "Licensee" means a home inspector licensed by the Board under G.S. 143, Article 9F and Section .1000 of this Chapter.
 - (4) "Person" means an individual, partnership, firm, association, corporation, joint-stock company, trust, any similar entity, or any combination of the foregoing acting in concert.
- (b) The definitions contained in G.S. 143-151.45 apply to this Section.

.1302 CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIRED FOR RENEWAL OF ACTIVE LICENSE

- (a) In order to renew an active home inspector license, the licensee shall complete 12 credit hours during the license renewal period, except as described in Paragraph (b) of this Rule.
- (b) In order to renew an active home inspector license, home inspectors licensed pursuant to G.S. 143-151.51(a)(5), who have not completed the pre-licensing education program or its equivalent pursuant to Rule .1004(c) of this Chapter, shall complete 16 hours of continuing education per year for the first three years of licensure that include the following:
- (1) Four hours of a Board-approved course consisting of the following:
 - (A) for the first year, a Board-approved course on the Standards of Practice and Report Writing; and
 - (B) for the second and third years, a Board-approved course of the home inspector's choosing.
 - (2) Four hours of the update course component described in Rule .1309 of this Chapter; and
 - (3) Eight hours of Board approved elective courses.
- (c) A licensee who is newly licensed on or after June 1 is exempt from this Section for the initial license period.

.1303 INACTIVE LICENSE

A person holding an inactive license is not subject to this Section. In order to change a license from inactive status to active status, the licensee must complete the same number of continuing education credit hours that would have been required for an active license during the period of inactive status; but not more than the hours required in G.S. 143-151.55.

.1304 COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- (a) The same elective continuing education course may be taken only once for continuing education credit during any three year period.
- (b) A licensee may carry over up to eight elective credit hours per year until the next year.

.1305 ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS

In order to receive any credit for completing a continuing education course, a licensee must attend at least 90 percent of the scheduled credit hours for the course, regardless of the length of the course, and must comply with student participation standards described in Rule .1347 of this Section. No credit shall be awarded for attending less than 90 percent of the scheduled credit hours.

.1306 EXTENSIONS OF TIME

A licensee may request and be granted an extension of time to satisfy the continuing education requirement for a particular license period if the licensee provides evidence to the Board that the licensee was unable to obtain the necessary education because of an incapacitating illness or other circumstance that:

- (1) existed for 75 percent of the license period; and
- (2) constituted a verifiable hardship.

.1307 DENIAL OR WITHDRAWAL OF CREDIT

- (a) The Board shall deny continuing education credit claimed by a licensee, and shall withdraw continuing education credit previously awarded by the Board to a licensee if:
- (1) The licensee provided incorrect or incomplete information to the Board concerning continuing education or compliance with this Section; or

(2) The licensee was mistakenly awarded continuing education credit because of an administrative error; or

(3) The licensee failed to comply with the attendance requirement established by Rule .1305 of this Section.

(b) When continuing education credit is denied or withdrawn by the Board under Subparagraph (a)(1) or (a)(2) of this Rule, the Board shall, upon written request of the licensee, grant the licensee an extension of time of 60 days to satisfy the continuing education requirement. When continuing education credit is denied or withdrawn by the Board under Subparagraph (a)(3) of this Rule, the licensee remains responsible for satisfying the continuing education requirement.

.1308 [Repealed effective July 18, 2002].

.1309 UPDATE COURSE COMPONENT

(a) To keep a license on active status, a licensee shall complete a Board-developed update course within one year preceding license expiration. This course is in addition to the continuing education elective requirement described in Rule .1318 of this Section, and shall consist of four classroom hours of instruction.

(b) The Board shall develop annually an update course which shall be conducted by sponsors approved by the Board under this Section. The subject matter of this course shall be determined by the Board, which shall prepare a completely new course for each one-year period beginning October 1 and ending September 30. Sponsors shall acquire the Board-developed course materials and utilize such materials to conduct the update course. The course shall be conducted exactly as prescribed by the rules in this Section and the course materials developed by the Board. Sponsors shall provide licensees participating in their classes a copy of the student materials developed by the Board

(c) Approval of a sponsor to conduct an update course authorizes the sponsor to conduct the update course using an instructor who has been approved by the Board as an update course instructor under Rules .1313 through .1317 of this Section. The sponsor may conduct the update course at any location as frequently as is desired during the approval period, provided that no courses may be conducted between September 10 and September 30 of any approval period.

.1310 APPLICATION FOR ORIGINAL APPROVAL OF UPDATE COURSES

An entity seeking original approval to sponsor a Board-developed update course shall make application on a form prescribed by the Board. An applying entity that is not a resident of North Carolina shall also file with the application a consent to service of process and pleadings.

.1311 CRITERIA FOR APPROVAL OF UPDATE COURSE SPONSOR

Approval to sponsor a Board-developed update course shall be granted to an applicant upon showing to the satisfaction of the Board that:

- (1) The applicant has submitted all information required by the rules in this Section;
- (2) The applicant has at least one proposed instructor who has been approved by the Board as an update course instructor under Rules .1313 through .1317 of this Section;
- (3) The applicant satisfies the requirements of Rules .1327 through .1337 of this Section relating to qualifications or eligibility of course sponsors; and
- (4) The applicant is honest. In this regard, the Board may consider the reputation and character of any owner, officer, continuing education coordinator, or director of any corporation, association, or organization applying for sponsor approval.

.1312 STUDENT FEE FOR UPDATE COURSES

A sponsor of an update course may establish the amount of the fee to be charged to students taking the course. The established fee shall be an all-inclusive fee, and no separate or additional fee may be charged to students for providing course materials required by the Board, providing course completion certificates, reporting course completion to the Board, or for recouping similar routine administrative expenses. The total amount of any fees to be charged shall be included in any advertising or promotional materials for the course.

.1313 NATURE AND SCOPE OF APPROVAL OF UPDATE COURSE INSTRUCTORS

Approval of update course instructors shall be accomplished on a calendar year basis separate from the approval of update course sponsors. Approval of an update course instructor authorizes the instructor to teach the update course for any approved update course sponsor; however, an approved update course instructor may not independently conduct an update course unless the instructor has also obtained approval as an update course sponsor. An instructor shall obtain written approval from the Board before teaching an update course and before representing to any sponsor or other party that he or she is approved or may be approved as an update course instructor.

.1314 APPLICATION AND CRITERIA FOR ORIGINAL APPROVAL OF UPDATE COURSE INSTRUCTORS

(a) A person seeking original approval as an update course instructor shall make application on a form prescribed by the Board. An applicant who is not a resident of North Carolina shall also file with the application a consent to service of process and pleadings. No application fee is required. All required information regarding the applicant's qualifications shall be submitted.

(b) The applicant shall be honest in all dealings with the Board and in course instruction.

(c) The applicant shall be qualified under one of the following standards:

- (1) Possession of a baccalaureate or higher degree with a major in the field of engineering, construction, or architecture;
- (2) Possession of a current North Carolina home inspector license, three years active full-time experience in performing home inspections for compensation within the previous 10 years, and 30 classroom hours of home inspection education, excluding prelicensing education, within the past three years, such education covering topics that are acceptable under Board rules for continuing education credit.
- (3) Possession of a current North Carolina home inspector license and experience teaching at least 10 home inspector prelicensing courses within the previous five years; or
- (4) Possession of qualifications found by the Board to be equivalent to one or more of the above standards, provided that the requirement for a current North Carolina home inspector license shall be waived only for applicants who qualify under Subparagraph (c)(1) of this Rule.

(d) The applicant shall possess good teaching skills as demonstrated on a video portraying the instructor teaching a live audience. The applicant shall submit the video to the Board for review. The video shall be 45-60 minutes in length and shall depict a continuous block of instruction on home inspections or a directly related topic. The video shall be unedited, shall show at least a portion of the audience, and shall have visual and sound quality sufficient to enable reviewers to clearly see and hear the instructor. The video shall have been made within the previous three years. The video shall demonstrate that the instructor possesses the teaching skills described in Rule .1345 of this Section.

.1315 RENEWAL OF APPROVAL OF UPDATE COURSE INSTRUCTORS

Board approval of update course instructors expires on December 31 following issuance of approval. In order to assure continuous approval, approved instructors shall file applications for renewal of approval on a form prescribed by the Board on or before December 1 immediately preceding expiration of their approval. In order to renew approval, applicants shall satisfy the criteria for original approval, with the exception of the requirement stated in Rule .1314(d) of this Section, unless requested by the Board under Rule .1317 of this Section.

.1316 DENIAL OR WITHDRAWAL OF APPROVAL OF UPDATE COURSE INSTRUCTORS

(a) The Board may deny or withdraw approval of any update course instructor upon finding that:

- (1) The instructor has made any false statements or presented any false information in connection with an application for approval or renewal of approval;
- (2) The instructor has failed to meet the criteria for approval described in Rule .1314 of this Section or has refused or failed to comply with any other provisions of this Section;
- (3) The instructor has failed to demonstrate, during the teaching of update courses, those effective teaching skills described in Rule .1345 of this Section;
- (4) The instructor has provided false or incorrect information in connection with any reports a course sponsor is required to submit to the Board; or
- (5) The instructor has been disciplined by the Board or any other occupational licensing agency in North Carolina or another jurisdiction.

(b) If a licensee who is an approved update course instructor engages in any dishonest, fraudulent, or conduct lacking moral turpitude in connection with the licensee's activities as an instructor, the licensee shall be subject to disciplinary action pursuant to G.S. 143-151.56.

.1317 REQUEST FOR VIDEO OF UPDATE COURSE INSTRUCTORS

When concerns about the quality of a course or instructor are made known to the Board, upon the written request of the Board, an approved update course instructor shall submit to the Board a video depicting the instructor teaching the update course. The video shall have been made within 12 months before the date of submittal, shall include a label that clearly identifies the instructor and the date of the video presentation, shall not be the same video that was submitted under Rule .1314(d) of this Section, and shall conform to specifications set forth in Rule .1314(d) of this Section.

.1318 ELECTIVE COURSE COMPONENT

(a) Licensee Requirements: To renew a license on active status, a licensee shall complete eight classroom hours of instruction in two or more Board approved elective courses within the licensure period in addition to satisfying the continuing education mandatory update course requirement described in Rule .1309 of this Section.

(b) Sponsor Requirements: Approval of an elective course requires approval of the sponsor and instructor(s) as well as the course itself. The approval authorizes the sponsor to conduct the approved course using the instructor(s) who have been found by the Board to satisfy the instructor requirements set forth in Rule .1322 of this Section. The sponsor may conduct the course at any location as frequently as is desired during the approval period. However, the sponsor may not conduct any session of an approved course for home inspector continuing education purposes between September 10 and September 30, inclusive, of any approval period.

.1319 APPLICATION FOR ORIGINAL APPROVAL OF AN ELECTIVE COURSE

A person seeking original approval of a proposed elective course shall make application on a form provided by the Board. The course shall be submitted to the Board for approval no less than 45 days before the course presentation date. The Board shall not accept an application for original approval between July 1 and September 30. This restriction shall not apply when an applicant is seeking approval to conduct a course for which another sponsor has obtained approval. The applicant shall submit a nonrefundable fee of one hundred fifty dollars (\$150.00) per course paid to the Home Inspector Licensure Board. The application shall be accompanied by a copy of the course plan or instructor's guide for the course and a copy of materials that will be provided to students. An applicant that is not a resident of North Carolina shall also file with the application a consent to service of process and pleadings.

.1320 CRITERIA FOR ELECTIVE COURSE APPROVAL

The following requirements shall be satisfied in order to obtain approval of a proposed elective course:

- (1) The applicant shall submit all information required by the rules in this Section and pay the application fee.
- (2) The applicant shall satisfy the requirements of Rules .1327 through .1337 of this Section relating to the qualifications or eligibility of course sponsors.
- (3) The subject matter of the course shall satisfy the elective course subject matter requirements set forth in Rule .1321 of this Section and all information to be presented in the course shall be current and accurate.
- (4) The course shall involve a minimum of two classroom hours of instruction on acceptable subject matter. A classroom hour consists of 50 minutes of instruction and 10 minutes of break time.
- (5) The applicant is honest. In this regard, the Board may consider the reputation and character of any owner, member, officer, continuing education coordinator, and director of any corporation, association, or organization applying for sponsor approval.
- (6) The proposed instructor(s) for the course shall possess the qualifications described in Rule .1322 of this Section.
- (7) The instructional delivery methods to be used in the course shall comply with the requirements described in Rule .1326 of this Section.
- (8) The applicant shall submit an instructor guide that includes:
 - (a) a detailed course outline;
 - (b) the amount of time to be devoted to each major topic and to breaks;
 - (c) the learning objective(s) for each major topic; and
 - (d) the instructional methods and instructional aids that will be used in the course.

The proposed time allotments shall be appropriate for the proposed subject matter to be taught. Unless the applicant can demonstrate that straight lecture is the most effective instructional method for the course, the instructor guide shall provide for the use of a variety of instructional methods and instructional aids intended to enhance student attentiveness and learning. Examples of instructional methods and instructional aids that may be appropriate include class discussion, role-playing, in-class work assignments, overhead transparencies, and videos.
- (9) The course shall include handout materials for students unless the applicant can demonstrate that such materials are either inappropriate or unnecessary for the course. Such materials shall be current, accurate, grammatically correct, logically organized, and produced in a manner that reflects reasonable quality.
- (10) Either the instructor guide or the student materials shall describe, in narrative form, the details of the substantive information to be presented in the course. The substantive information to be presented must be provided in sufficient detail to demonstrate that the information is current, accurate, and complete.

- (11) If an applicant proposes to use copyrighted materials in the course, such materials must be used in a form approved by the copyright holder. If any copyrighted material is to be duplicated by the applicant for use in the course, the sponsor shall have the specific permission of the copyright holder.
- (12) Applicants requesting approval of a computer-based instructional program need not comply with the requirements in Subparagraphs (8), (9), and (10) of this Rule; however, such applicants shall submit a written course plan that includes a detailed course outline, the minimum amount of time required for a typical licensee to complete each lesson, and the entire course and the learning objectives for each major topic. Such applicants shall also submit a complete copy of the instructional program on the medium that is to be utilized and shall make available, to the Board and at the sponsor's expense, all hardware and software necessary for review by the Board. The information in the instructional program shall comply with the requirements of Rule .1326 of this Section.

.1321 ELECTIVE COURSE SUBJECT MATTER

(a) Elective courses shall directly contribute to accomplishment of the primary purpose of mandatory continuing education, which is to help assure that licensees possess the knowledge, skills, and competence necessary to function in the home inspection profession in a manner that protects and serves the public interest. The knowledge or skills taught in an elective course shall enable licensees to better serve their clients and the subject matter shall be directly related to the home inspection profession. Examples of acceptable subject matter include rules adopted by the Board, including the Standards of Practice and Code of Ethics for home inspectors, which are found in 11 NCAC 08 .1100; G.S. 143, Article 9F; construction techniques; construction materials; residential environmental issues; residential mechanical systems and components; residential structural systems and components; and business administration or management.

(b) If there are unique North Carolina laws, rules, or customary practices that are relevant to a topic being addressed in an elective course, and if the course is to be conducted in North Carolina or primarily for the benefit of North Carolina licensees, then the course shall accurately and completely address such North Carolina laws, rules, or practices.

.1322 ELECTIVE COURSE INSTRUCTORS

(a) The instructor of an elective course shall be honest and shall be qualified under one of the following standards:

- (1) Possession of a baccalaureate or higher degree in a field directly related to the subject matter of the course;
- (2) Three years' full-time experience within the previous 10 years that is directly related to the subject matter of the course;
- (3) Three years' full-time experience within the previous 10 years teaching the subject matter of the course; or
- (4) Education or experience or both found by the Board to be equivalent to one or more of the above standards.

(b) If the subject matter of the course deals directly with conducting a home inspection according to the Standards of Practice and Code of Ethics in 11 NCAC 08, Section 1100, then the instructor shall also possess a current home inspector license issued by the Board.

.1323 ELECTIVE COURSE CREDIT HOURS

The elective course approval issued to a course sponsor shall include the number of credit hours of continuing education credit that may be awarded for the course. The maximum number of credit hours that may be awarded for an elective course is four credit hours.

.1324 REQUEST FOR VIDEO OF AN ELECTIVE COURSE

When concerns about the quality of a course or instructor are made known to the Board, upon the written request of the Board, the sponsor of an approved elective course shall submit to the Board a video depicting the course being taught by a particular instructor designated by the Board. The video shall have been made within 12 months before the date of submittal, shall include a label that clearly identifies the instructor and the date of the video presentation, shall not be the same video that was submitted under Rule .1314(d) of this Section, and shall conform to technical specifications set forth in Rule .1314(d) of this Section.

.1325 STUDENT FEES FOR ELECTIVE COURSES

A sponsor of an elective course may establish the amount of the fee to be charged to students taking the course. The established fee shall be an all-inclusive fee, and no separate or additional fee may be charged to students for providing course materials required by the Board, providing course completion certificates, reporting course completion to the Board, or for recouping similar routine administrative expenses. The total amount of any fees to be charged shall be included in any advertising or promotional materials for the course.

.1326 ELECTIVE COURSE INSTRUCTIONAL DELIVERY METHODS

(a) The principal instructional delivery method utilized in elective courses shall be one or more of the following:

- (1) Personal teaching by an instructor in a traditional classroom setting.
- (2) Instruction through an interactive audio and video system that requires continuous audio communication between the instructor and all students and that provides for monitoring and technical support at each site where the instructor or students are located.
- (3) Instruction through an interactive computer-based instructional program, which program provides for control of student progress through the educational materials by testing to assure student mastery of the subject matter at the end of each lesson, monitoring of time devoted to each lesson by the computer with automatic program shutdown after a period of non-activity by the student, which period shall be determined by the sponsor, and a monitoring system that assures that the student receiving continuing education credit for completing the program actually performed all the work required to complete the program; and
- (4) Personal teaching by an instructor in a field setting, such as a house or other structure, a new home construction site, a home renovation site, or other locations outside of a classroom that are appropriate for the subject matter of the course.

(b) The use of passive or non-interactive instructional delivery systems such as video, remote non-interactive television, or similar systems may be employed only in a limited manner to enhance or supplement one of the acceptable instructional delivery methods previously described in this Rule. No portion of a course may consist of correspondence instruction.

(c) A field setting shall have technical support at each site where the instructor and students are located, and have safeguards in place to prevent injury to the students, such as hardhats. A field setting shall not be at the residence of the instructor, course sponsor, or any other person affiliated with the course.

.1327 GENERAL SPONSOR ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Any person is eligible to seek approval as a sponsor of continuing education courses, provided that the person seeking approval of a continuing education elective course is either the owner of the proprietary rights to the course or has lawfully acquired from the course owner the right to seek course approval from the Board and to conduct the course.

.1328 SPONSOR NAME

(a) The official name to be used by any course sponsor in connection with the offering of an approved continuing education course shall clearly distinguish the sponsor from any other previously approved continuing education course sponsor. Unless the sponsor is a licensed private home inspector training school proposing to operate continuing education courses in its own name, the official name also shall clearly distinguish the sponsor from any licensed private home inspector training school. The Board shall not approve a sponsor name that does not comply with this paragraph.

(b) Any advertisement or promotional material used by an approved course sponsor shall include the course sponsor's official name only.

.1329 SPONSOR ADVANCE APPROVAL REQUIRED

A prospective sponsor of an update course or elective course shall obtain written approval from the Board to conduct the course before offering or conducting the course and before advertising or otherwise representing that the course is approved for continuing education credit in North Carolina. No retroactive approval to conduct an update course shall be granted for any reason. Retroactive approval of an elective course shall be granted by the Board if the course sponsor can provide evidence to the Board that the course was not offered for purposes of satisfying the home inspector continuing education requirement and that the sponsor could not reasonably have been expected to anticipate that students would want to receive continuing education credit for the course.

.1330 CONTINUING EDUCATION COORDINATOR

A sponsor of an update course or elective course shall designate one person to serve as the continuing education coordinator for all Board-approved continuing education courses offered by the sponsor. The designated coordinator shall serve as the official contact person for the sponsor and shall be responsible for the following:

- (1) Supervising the conduct of attendees at the sponsor's Board-approved continuing education courses;
- (2) Signing the course completion certificates provided by the sponsor to licensees completing courses; and
- (3) Submitting to the Board all required fees, rosters, reports, and other information.

.1331 COURSE COMPLETION REPORTING

(a) Course sponsors shall prepare and submit to the Board reports verifying completion of a continuing education course for each licensee who satisfactorily completes the course according to the criteria in Rule .1305 of this Section and who desires continuing education credit for the course. The reports shall be completed on forms prescribed by the Board. Sponsors shall submit these reports to the Board in a manner that will assure receipt by the Board within 15 calendar days following the course, but in no case later than September 10 for courses conducted before that date.

(b) Course sponsors shall provide licensees enrolled in each continuing education course an opportunity to complete an evaluation of each approved continuing education course on a form prescribed by the Board. Sponsors shall submit the completed evaluation forms to the Board along with the reports that verify completion of a continuing education course.

(c) Course sponsors shall provide each licensee who satisfactorily completes an approved continuing education course according to the criteria in Rule .1305 of this Section a course completion certificate on a form prescribed by the Board. Sponsors shall provide the certificates to licensees within 15 calendar days following the course, but in no case later than September 10 for any course completed before that date. The certificate may be retained by the licensee as proof of having completed the course.

(d) When a licensee does not comply with the participation standards in Rule .1347 of this Section, the course sponsor shall advise the Board of this matter in writing at the time the sponsor submits the reports verifying completion of continuing education for the course. The sponsor who determines that a licensee failed to comply with either the Board's attendance or student participation standards in Rules .1305 and .1347 of this Section shall not provide the licensee with a course completion certificate nor shall the sponsor include the licensee's name on the reports verifying completion of continuing education.

.1332 PER STUDENT FEE

Following completion of any approved continuing education update or elective course, the sponsor shall submit to the Board, along with the roster and the items required to be submitted by Rule .1331 of this Section, a fee in the amount of five dollars (\$5.00) per credit hour for each licensee who satisfactorily completes the course according to the criteria in Rule .1305 of this Section. Fees shall be paid to the Home Inspector Licensure Board. The sponsor shall make a separate fee payment for each separate class session.

.1333 CHANGE IN SPONSOR OWNERSHIP

The approval granted to a course sponsor may be transferred to a new or different person only with the prior approval of the Board. The Board shall approve the transfer if the transferee satisfies the requirements of the rules in this Section. If the ownership of an approved course sponsor is to be sold or otherwise changed, the sponsor shall obtain Board approval of the ownership change. The Board shall approve the ownership change if the proposed new owner satisfies the requirements of the rules in this Section.

.1334 SPONSOR CHANGES DURING APPROVAL PERIOD

(a) Course sponsors shall give prior written notice to the Board in writing of any change in business name, continuing education coordinator, address, or business telephone number.

(b) Course sponsors shall obtain prior approval from the Board for any proposed changes in the content or number of hours for elective courses. The Board shall approve the changes if the changes satisfy the requirements of the rules in this Section. Changes in course content that are solely for the purpose of assuring that information provided in a course is current and accurate do not require approval during the approval period, but shall be reported at the time the sponsor requests renewal of course approval. Requests for approval of changes shall be in writing.

.1335 COURSE RECORDS

All course sponsors shall retain records of student registration, attendance, and course completion for each session of a continuing education course for two years. All course sponsors shall make these records available to the Board upon request.

.1336 RENEWAL OF COURSE AND SPONSOR APPROVAL

(a) Board approval of all continuing education elective courses and of update course sponsors expires on the next September 30 following the date of issuance. In order to assure continuous approval, renewal applications shall be accompanied by the renewal fee and filed on a form prescribed by the Board on or before July 31 of each year. Any incomplete renewal application received on or before July 30 that is not completed within 10 days after notice of the deficiency, as well as any renewal application received after July 31, shall not be accepted; and the sponsor shall file an application for original approval on or after October 1 in order to be reapproved. Applicants for renewal of approval shall

satisfy the criteria for original approval. When the Board issues original course or sponsor approval with an effective date between July 1 and September 10, the deadline for submittal of renewal applications shall be September 10 of the year in which the original approval is issued.

(b) The fee for renewal of Board approval shall be seventy-five dollars (\$75.00) for each elective course. Fees shall be paid to the Home Inspector Licensure Board and are nonrefundable.

.1337 DENIAL OR WITHDRAWAL OF APPROVAL OF COURSE OR COURSE SPONSOR

(a) The Board shall deny or withdraw approval of any course or course sponsor upon finding that:

- (1) the course sponsor has made any false statements or presented any false information in connection with an application for course or sponsor approval or renewal of the approval;
- (2) the course sponsor or any official or instructor employed by or under contract with the course sponsor has refused or failed to comply with any of the provisions of this Section;
- (3) the course sponsor or any official or instructor employed by or under contract with the course sponsor has provided false or incorrect information in connection with any reports the course sponsor is required to submit to the Board;
- (4) the course sponsor has engaged in a pattern of consistently canceling scheduled courses;
- (5) the course sponsor has knowingly paid fees to the Board with a check that was dishonored by a bank;
- (6) an instructor employed by or under contract with the course sponsor fails to conduct approved courses in a manner that demonstrates possession of the teaching skills described in Rule .1345 of this Section;
- (7) any court of competent jurisdiction has found the course sponsor or any official or instructor employed by or under contract with the course sponsor to have violated, in connection with the offering of continuing education courses, any applicable federal or state law or regulation prohibiting discrimination on the basis of disability, requiring places of public accommodation to be in compliance with prescribed accessibility standards, or requiring that courses related to licensing or certification for professional or trade purposes be offered in a place and manner accessible to persons with disabilities;

(b) If a licensee who is an approved course sponsor or an instructor employed by or under contract with an approved course sponsor engages in any dishonest, fraudulent, or conduct inconsistent with the Rules in this Section in connection with the licensee's activities as a course sponsor or instructor, the licensee shall be subject to disciplinary action pursuant to G.S. 143-151.56.

.1338 SCHEDULING

Courses shall be scheduled and conducted in a manner that limits class sessions to a maximum of eight classroom hours in any given day, including breaks for each class session. The maximum permissible class session without a break is 90 minutes. Courses scheduled for more than four hours in any given day shall include a meal break of at least one hour.

.1339 MINIMUM CLASS SIZE

The minimum class size for any session of an approved continuing education course shall be five students, as determined by the sponsor's pre-registration records. The minimum class size requirement shall not apply to class sessions when the sponsor notifies the Board in writing of the scheduled class session as provided in Rule .1340 of this Section and advertises in advance the scheduled class session in the community where the class session is to be held. A sponsor who conducts a class session for fewer than five students shall submit a copy of the advertisement for the class session with the reports verifying completion of the course plus a statement or other documentation indicating the date of the advertisement and the advertising method.

.1340 NOTICE OF SCHEDULED COURSES

(a) A sponsor shall provide the Board with written notice of each scheduled course offering no later than 10 days before a scheduled course date. The notice shall include the name and assigned number for the sponsor, the name and assigned number for the course, the scheduled date and time, specific location, and name of the instructor.

(b) A sponsor shall notify the Board of any schedule changes or course cancellations at least five days before to the original scheduled course date. If a change or cancellation is necessary because of some unforeseen circumstance, the sponsor shall notify the Board as soon as the sponsor effects the change or cancellation.

(c) A sponsor shall notify the Board as soon as it becomes apparent to the sponsor that enrollment in a planned class session will exceed 100 students.

.1341 ADVERTISING; PROVIDING COURSE INFORMATION

(a) Course sponsors shall not use advertising of any type that is false or misleading. If the number of continuing education credit hours awarded by the Board for an approved elective course is fewer than the number of scheduled hours for the course, any course advertisement or promotional materials that indicate the course is approved for home inspection continuing education credit in North Carolina shall specify the number of continuing education credit hours awarded by the Board for the course.

(b) Any flyers, brochures, or similar materials used to promote a continuing education course shall clearly describe the fee to be charged and the sponsor's cancellation and fee refund policies.

(c) A course sponsor of any elective course shall, upon request, provide any prospective student a description of the course content.

.1342 CLASSES OPEN TO ALL LICENSEES

All class sessions of approved continuing education courses shall be open to all licensees on a first-come, first-served basis. The sponsor of a course that has a bona fide education or experience prerequisite may refuse admission to a licensee who does not satisfy the prerequisite. A sponsor may contract with an organization such as a home inspection firm, franchise, or trade organization to conduct approved continuing education courses for licensees affiliated with the firm, franchise, or organization. The sponsor shall allow licensees not affiliated with the firm, franchise, or organization to enroll in any class session on a first-come, first-served basis.

.1343 CLASSROOM FACILITIES

A classroom in which a course is provided shall:

- (1) accommodate all enrolled students;
- (2) be equipped with student desks, worktables with chairs, or other seating having a surface on which students can write;
- (3) have light, heat, cooling, ventilation, and, as needed, a public address system; and
- (4) be free of distractions that would disrupt class sessions.

Subparagraphs (2) and (3) of this Rule are not required if the course is conducted in a field setting.

.1344 STUDENT CHECK-IN

Upon initially checking in for a class session, sponsors and instructors shall require licensees to provide their license numbers and shall provide each student with a copy of the continuing education student information sheet provided to sponsors by the Board.

.1345 INSTRUCTOR REQUIREMENTS

(a) Instructors shall assure that class sessions are started on time and are conducted for the full amount of time that is scheduled. Instructors shall also assure that each update course is taught according to the instructor guide provided by the Board and that each elective course is taught according to the course plan and instructor guide that was approved by the Board, including the furnishing of appropriate student materials.

(b) Instructors shall possess the ability to:

- (1) Communicate through speech, with the ability to speak clearly, and with voice inflection, using proper grammar, and vocabulary;
- (2) Present instruction in a thorough, accurate, logical, orderly and understandable manner;
- (3) Use varied instructional techniques in addition to straight lecture, such as class discussion, role-playing, or other techniques;
- (4) Use instructional aids, such as the overhead projector, to enhance learning; and
- (5) Interact with adult students in a positive manner that encourages students to learn, that demonstrates an understanding of varied student backgrounds, that avoids offending the sensibilities of students, and that avoids personal criticism of any other person, agency or organization.

.1346 MONITORING ATTENDANCE

(a) Sponsors and instructors shall monitor attendance for the duration of each class session to assure that all students reported as satisfactorily completing a course according to the criteria in Rule .1305 of this Section have attended at least 90 percent of the scheduled credit hours. Students shall not be admitted to a class session after 10 percent of the scheduled

credit hours have been conducted. A student shall not be allowed to sign a course attendance roster report, shall not be issued a course completion certificate, and shall not be reported to the Board as having completed a course unless the student fully satisfies the attendance requirement. Sponsors and instructors shall not make any exceptions to the attendance requirement for any reason.

(b) Sponsors shall assure that personnel in addition to the instructor are present during all class sessions to assist the instructor in monitoring attendance and performing the necessary administrative tasks associated with conducting a course. Sponsors shall provide one monitor for every 50 students attending a course. If a class size is 20 students or less, requirements for additional personnel are waived.

.1347 STUDENT PARTICIPATION STANDARDS

(a) In addition to requiring student compliance with the attendance requirement, sponsors and instructors shall require that students comply with the following student participation standards:

- (1) A student shall direct his or her attention to the instruction being provided and refrain from engaging in activities unrelated to the instruction.
- (2) A student shall refrain from engaging in any activities that are distracting to other students or the instructor, or that otherwise disrupt the orderly conduct of a class.
- (3) A student shall comply with all instructions provided by the sponsor or instructor related to providing information needed to properly report completion of a course by the student.

(b) Instructors and sponsors may dismiss from a class session any student who fails to comply with the student participation standards prescribed in Paragraph (a) of this Rule.

(c) Sponsors shall not issue a course completion certificate to any student who fails to comply with the student participation standards set forth in Paragraph (a) of this Rule, nor shall a sponsor include the name of that student on a report verifying completion of a continuing education course. A sponsor shall submit to the Board with the report for the class session a written statement that includes the name and license number of the student for whom the sponsor does not report course credit, details concerning the student's failure to comply with the student participation standards, and names of other persons in attendance at the class who witnessed the student's conduct.

.1348 SOLICITATION OF STUDENTS

Sponsors and instructors may make available for purchase by students materials that belong to the sponsor, instructor, or some other party; however, class time may not be used to promote or sell any materials or to solicit affiliation or membership in any business or organization.

.1349 CANCELLATION AND REFUND POLICIES

Course sponsors shall administer course cancellation and fee refund policies in a non-discriminatory manner. If a scheduled course is canceled, a sponsor shall notify preregistered students of the cancellation. All prepaid fees received from preregistered students shall be refunded within 30 days after date of cancellation or, with the student's permission, applied toward the fees for another course.

.1350 COURSE MONITORS

A course sponsor shall admit an authorized representative of the Board to monitor any continuing education class without prior notice. A Board representative shall not be required to register or pay any fee and shall not be reported as having completed the course.

.1351 ACCOMMODATIONS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Course sponsors may deviate from Board rules concerning the conduct of continuing education courses, such as rules addressing classroom facilities, minimum class size, and instructional methods, as may be necessary in order for the sponsor to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act or other laws requiring sponsors to accommodate persons with disabilities. A sponsor providing a special accommodation for a licensee with a disability that requires the sponsor to deviate from Board rules shall notify the Board in writing of the accommodation at the time reports are submitted for the class session attended by the licensee.