

## **Project 3 – Competency**

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### **Rationale**

Design and construction of safe, quality buildings is dependent on a skilled, competent workforce. Competency can be gained through industry and professional training, but for most system participants there is no requirement to demonstrate competency. Lack of competency can result in buildings that are poorly designed and constructed or even unsafe. Inappropriate design, faulty workmanship, and inadequate knowledge of the Building Code have repeatedly been cited as a fundamental cause of building defects and failures. System participants have suggested that competency is an ongoing concern.

### **Purpose and Scope**

The goal of this project is to ensure consistent, up-to-date knowledge of the building and fire codes on the part of regulatory system participants. This will involve:

- Examining code competency for designers, builders, and building and fire officials.
- Assessing the need for mandatory or continuing education requirements for competency.

What will the project do?

- Ensure that building and fire officials demonstrate current knowledge of the building and fire codes as well as skills competency.
- Address the need for consistent and current code competency for designers.
- Address the need for consistent skills competency for other system participants (e.g.: industrial/commercial/institutional builders).

What won't the project do?

- Address code knowledge for other industry participants (only building officials, fire officials, and designers are in scope)
- Develop education and training materials

### **Overview of Project Plan**

- Research code knowledge practises in other jurisdictions
- Work with building officials and fire officials to define practical options for training and for a framework for demonstrating code knowledge and skills competency
- Work with building designers to define options to improve consistency of code knowledge
- Consult with stakeholders and existing authorities and institutions concerning consistent skills competency for other system participants
- Consult broadly with stakeholders on the options
- Obtain government approval and implement the final recommended set of options

### **Stakeholder Participation**

- Representation from key stakeholder groups to develop options
- Broad stakeholder consultation on the options