

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Understanding changes to the Continuing Professional Development program and reporting process for Licensed Residential Builders in B.C.

Is the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) program for Licensed Residential Builders in British Columbia changing?

Yes. On March 6 the B.C. Government announced important changes to the Homeowner Protection Act regulations as part of “Better Regulations for British Columbians 2019.”

How will the changes improve the CPD program?

The changes will simplify the Continuing Professional Development program for Licensed Residential Builders and for BC Housing.

Why are the changes being made?

The Continuing Professional Development program was introduced in October 2015, as part of B.C.’s enhanced licensing system for residential builders. Although the program has overall been successful and well received, license holders have reported to BC Housing that they find some aspects of the program overly complicated and restrictive, resulting in a heavy administrative burden for both licensees and BC Housing.

Are the changes supported by industry?

Yes. We consulted Licensed Residential Builders through informal conversations, formal surveys and BC Housing’s Builder Qualifications Committee. Thank you for your feedback! We also consulted consumer and industry stakeholders, including the Canadian Home Builders’ Association of BC who support these positive changes to the CPD program.

When will the changes come into effect?

The new and improved Continuing Professional Development program will come into effect on July 1, 2019.

Who do the changes apply to?

The changes will apply to all general contractor licensees whose licence expires July 31, 2019 and later. The existing Continuing Professional Development rules apply to general contractors whose licence expires in March, April, May or June of 2019, although the changes will be effective for these licenses for the following licence year.

What are the changes to the Continuing Professional Development program?

Key Highlights:

- Active practice category for 20 points of CPD is removed
- 20 CPD points are required instead of 40
- Nominees may be able to carry up to 20 extra earned CPD training points over from one licence term to the next
- You no longer have to take a majority of CPD points in a particular category (known as “category A” in the current regulation)

The simplified CPD program will continue to focus on formal and informal learning methods across eight subjects. Builders will have more flexibility to choose their points in any of the subjects. The active practice category, which was difficult to enter and manage, will be removed along with corresponding 20 points of CPD.

License holders will still earn two education points per hour of formal learning (classroom teaching including an exam or graded assignment) and one point for an hour of informal learning (a broader category describing many types of learning experiences).

How does CPD carryover work?

Being able to carry a maximum of 20 extra CPD points from one year to the next means CPD nominees can get credit for taking longer, more formal courses, or more intense training taken in a particular year.

Nominees may be able to carry up to 20 extra earned CPD points over from one licence term to the next, **if the nominee for CPD stays the same**. Licences expiring at the end of July 2019 or later will immediately be able to carry over up to 20 points of eligible CPD training earned by their nominee into the next licence term. All licensees can start accumulating carry-over points earned after July 1, 2019.

The table below shows an example of how the CPD carryover can work:

	Licence Term 1: 2018/19	Licence Term 2: 2019/20	Licence Term 3: 2020/21
CPD carried over from previous term	0	20	5
CPD points required	20	20	20
CPD points earned	40	5	15
CPD points counted this term	20	20	20
CPD points available for carryover	20 You can carry over a maximum of 20 CPD points from year to year. This means that 20 of the 40 points obtained will apply to term 1 and 20 points will be carried over to term 2.	5 The 20 CPD points that were carried over from term 1 were applied. The licensee was not required to do any CPD this term but still earned 5 extra points. Those points will be carried over to term 3.	0 The 5 CPD points that were carried over from term 2 were applied. The licensee earned 15 points in term 3, which brought the point total to 20. No points will be carried over to term 4.

How do the changes affect me now if my licence expires in July or later?

If your licence expires in July 2019 or later you may be able to immediately take advantage of the new requirements. Your current licence letter requires you to obtain 40 CPD points. It will be reduced to 20 CPD points effective July 1, 2019 and any active practice points you obtained will be removed from your log.

In addition:

- If you have 20 points of informal or formal learning and 20 points of active practice, you would have met the requirements under the previous system and you will still meet the requirements under the new system.
- If you obtained 40 points of informal or formal learning and did not log active practice you would have met the requirements under the previous system and you will still meet the requirements under the new system and your nominee will also be able to carry up to 20 CPD points over to your next licence year.
- If you have not yet obtained 40 points, you now only have to obtain 20 points of informal or formal learning. You have flexibility to choose which topics to take the training in without worrying about the confusing category 'A' or 'B' minimums. Another benefit is that you don't have to worry about logging active practice points in order to minimize the learning requirements.

How do the changes affect me if my licence expires in March, April, May or June 2019?

If your licence expires and needs to be renewed before July 1, 2019, you continue under the previous rules for your upcoming licence renewal. You still need to obtain 40 points of CPD and up to 20 points of active practice points can be counted towards the requirement. All the new requirements will start to apply as soon as your licence is renewed.

Who do I contact if I have any questions about changes to the CPD program?

If you have any questions after reading the FAQs, you can contact the Licensing and Consumer Services team by phone 604-646-7050 (toll-free 1-800-407-7757) or email licensinginfo@bchousing.org.

Our office hours are 8:30 am – 4:30 pm, Monday to Friday. You can also visit the Licensing and Consumer Services section of our website www.bchousing.org for updates.

How do I learn more about CPD opportunities?

You can search the [Education Registry](#) on the BC Housing website at www.bchousing.org to find out more about a range of CPD options. It's a one-stop search tool for education and training opportunities from education providers across B.C. that are pre-approved for Continuing Professional Development credit.