

Storm Water Self-Certification Program

A partnership between the Texas Association of Builders, Environmental Protection Agency Region 6
and Texas Commission on Environmental Quality



Background

In 2005, the Texas Association of Builders (TAB), Environmental Protection Agency Region 6 (EPA) and Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) developed its first cooperative training initiative, "2005 Texas Storm Water Compliance Training." TAB, EPA and TCEQ developed a training manual, and the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) assisted in the development of an accompanying training DVD.

Due to the success of the 2005 training initiative and because there was a need for additional storm water compliance education, a second training program, 2007's "Storm Water SWPPP It or Sweat It", was developed by TAB, EPA and TCEQ. A new, more comprehensive training workbook was also produced.

Over 1,400 Texas builders received storm water compliance classroom training through this partnership.

This successful training partnership is currently being considered for adoption in several states across the country.

Survey of Training Attendees

Following the 2007 trainings, each 2007 attendee was provided with a "Self-Audit Checklist." In an effort to determine where additional storm water compliance training might be necessary, attendees were asked to complete and return the checklists to TAB.

The returned checklists were evaluated by TAB, EPA and TCEQ, and it was determined that builders who completed this training initiative are complying with federal and state storm water regulations.

Texas Builder Self-Certification

Members of the Texas Association of Builders have been educated on storm water compliance regulations through training, TAB and NAHB publications, and at meetings of the local and state associations. TAB members are making every effort to comply with storm water laws and regulations.

Beginning in December 2008, each builder member of the Texas Association of Builders may choose to complete a "Self-Assessment Checklist" for each of their Notices of Intent (NOI). For each fully executed checklist, the builder will receive one "Storm Water Self-Certified" sticker to place at the corresponding construction site. Sites that display the certification sticker will be a lower priority for routine inspections by EPA and TCEQ.

An Historic Agreement

On July 31, 2008, the Texas Association of Builders, Environmental Protection Agency and Texas Commission on Environmental Quality signed an agreement to work collaboratively on a pilot program to better educate, inform and assist home builders with regard to environmental compliance with state and federal storm water regulations. As a result of this agreement, the storm water self-certified sticker program was offered to TAB builder members in cooperation with EPA and TCEQ.

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