



BUREAU OF HOME FURNISHINGS AND THERMAL INSULATION

Chief: Gordon Damant
(916) 920-6951

The Bureau of Home Furnishings and Thermal Insulation (BHF) regulates manufacturers, wholesalers, dealers, upholsterers, retailers, renovators, and sterilizers of furniture and bedding. In addition, the Bureau establishes rules regarding labeling requirements approved by the state Department of Public Health pertaining to furniture and bedding.

To enforce its regulations, the Bureau has access to premises, equipment, materials, and articles of furniture.

The chief or any inspector may open, inspect and analyze the contents of any furniture or bedding and may condemn, withhold from sale, seize or destroy any upholstered furniture or bedding or any filling material found to be in violation of Bureau rules and regulations. The Bureau may also revoke or suspend registration for violation of its rules.

The Bureau is assisted by a thirteen-member Advisory Board consisting of seven public members and six industry representatives.

MAJOR PROJECTS:

Overseas Training Laboratories. Bureau Chief Gordon Damant has continued his work with foreign officials to approve certified testing facilities. Certified facilities currently exist in five counties, and four additional facilities are being reviewed in Taiwan. The overseas facilities help the Bureau to eliminate the backlog created by over 700 foreign manufacturers sending products into the state each year.

LEGISLATION:

The following is a status update on bills discussed in CRLR Vol. 8, No. 3 (Summer 1988) at page 60-61:

AB 4007 (Lancaster) is a Department of Consumer Affairs omnibus bill which authorizes the Bureau to increase its late fees after ninety days of license renewal delinquency. The Bureau believes that higher delinquency fees will encourage timely renewal by licensees. This bill was signed by the Governor on September 27 (Chapter 1007, Statutes of 1988).

SB 2385 (Campbell) would have exempted the sale, installation, and furnishing of carpet from the Contractors License Law and made the licensing of carpet layers and retailers the responsibility of the Bureau. The bill died in the

Senate Business and Professions Committee.

RECENT MEETINGS:

At its September 14 meeting in San Francisco, Chief Damant announced the Governor's approval of the 1988-89 budget which gives the Bureau two additional laboratory positions for the thermal insulation program. (See CRLR Vol. 8, No. 3 (Summer 1988) p. 60 for background information.)

Chief Damant also announced that the Bureau would renew its request for six additional staff positions in the 1989-90 budget. Three laboratory positions for the home furnishings program will be requested to relieve the six-month testing backlog. A staff services analyst will be requested to share some of the administrative work which the Bureau Chief now performs. Two inspectors will be requested for the thermal insulation program to provide field inspection for compliance with insulation regulations.

FUTURE MEETINGS:

December 6 in Los Angeles.
March 14 (location undecided).

BOARD OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

Executive Officer: Jeanne Brode
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The Board of Landscape Architects (BLA) licenses those who design landscapes and supervise implementation of design plans. To qualify for a license, an applicant must successfully pass the written exam of the national Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards (CLARB), an additional section covering landscape architecture in California, and an oral examination given by the Board. In addition, an applicant must have the equivalent of six years of landscape architectural experience. This may be a combination of education from a school with a Board-approved program in landscape architecture and field experience.

The Board investigates verified complaints against any landscape architect and prosecutes violations of the Practice Act. The Board also governs the examination of applicants for certificates to practice landscape architecture and establishes criteria for approving schools of landscape architecture.

BLA consists of seven members. One of the members must be a resident of and practice landscape architecture in southern California, and one member must be a resident of and practice land-

scape architecture in northern California. Three members of the Board must be licensed to practice landscape architecture in the state of California. The other four members are public members and must not be licentiates of the Board. Board members are appointed to four-year terms.

At its July 1988 meeting, the Board selected Jeanne Brode as its new Executive Officer. She replaces Joe Heath, who resigned effective September 1 (see CRLR Vol. 8, No. 3 (Summer 1988) p. 62 for further information).

MAJOR PROJECTS:

Examinations. In June, candidates for California certification as landscape architects were required for the first time to complete a two-hour section consisting of an irrigation performance problem. (For background information, see CRLR Vol. 8, No. 3 (Summer 1988) p. 61.) Candidates generally scored higher than expected. The Board decided to combine the passing scores of this new section with those achieved in the multiple choice section and to require a total passing score of 151.

At its July 8 meeting, the Board denied a request to allow candidates to review their documents and to appeal the results of the Board's reevaluation of the 1987 Uniform National Examination (UNE) results. (See CRLR Vol. 8, No. 3 (Summer 1988) p. 61; Vol. 8, No. 2 (Spring 1988) pp. 59-60; and Vol. 8, No. 1 (Winter 1988) p. 57 for background information.) The Board reviewed the matter and found that its reevaluations were conducted within the guidelines developed by the Department of Consumer Affairs' Central Testing Unit (CTU). No further appeals from the 1987 exam will be allowed.

In a related matter, the BLA has published a request for proposals from consulting firms to conduct a landscape architecture occupational analysis and develop an appropriate examination plan. (See CRLR Vol. 8, No. 3 (Summer 1988) p. 61 for further information.) The goal is to ensure that examinations are relevant to the profession, that eligibility requirements are not unduly restrictive, and that all candidates are provided with an equal opportunity to enter the profession. At this time, the BLA does not intend to develop its own examination independent of the national CLARB. The Board planned to award the contract in late October.

Finally, on September 16, the Board discussed possible legislation to eliminate the oral section of the licensing exam. The CTU supports the decision