

Meeting Minutes for Examination Committee

MEETING DETAILS.

Date: 7/29/2025

Time: 10:01am

Location: SPBLA Office – 11304 Cloverland Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70809

ATTENDEES.

Mike Joiner - Chair, Jake Causey, Ashley Tullier, Terry Smith

NEW BUSINESS.

Item #1: Adopt the Examination Committee Agenda for June 29th, 2025

MOTION: JAKE CAUSEY
SECOND: TERRY SMITH
MOTION: CARRIED

Item #2: Finalize Implementation of Journeyman Practical

Mr. Chairman, Mike Joiner stated that the rollout of the Journeyman Exam is scheduled for January 1, 2026, and emphasized the importance of preparing for implementation. Mr. Terry Smith noted that he has received feedback expressing concerns about the ability of candidates to pass the exam without an ISO component. Mike Joiner clarified that the inclusion of an ISO had already been discussed and confirmed at a prior meeting. He further explained that, in order to differentiate between residential and journeyman levels, the exam must remain distinct.

Terry Smith inquired whether Board members would be invited to participate in training on the new exam. Ashley Jones responded that a training session for examiners will likely be scheduled in November. Terry suggested extending the invitation to Board members as well.

Mike confirmed that he will finalize the ISO for committee review and will provide Ashley with a list of additional materials needed.

Item #3: Evaluate Use of ICC Books as Acceptable Testing Material

Mr. Chairman Mike Joiner opened the discussion on the potential use of ICC publications as approved testing material. He emphasized the importance of ensuring that any resources adopted are those used to create and support the Board's written examinations.

Mr. Jake Causey inquired whether the Committee had received a copy of the publication under consideration or any details regarding its content. Ms. Tullier responded that testimony provided last year indicated the manual would include all applicable codes and amendments; however, she was uncertain whether this encompassed all three codes and their corresponding amendments. Mr. Causey further asked whether the Committee was being asked to approve a publication that had not yet been printed. Ms. Tullier confirmed that she had not received a copy nor any indication that one currently exists, and added that PHCC and ICC had previously stated they would not proceed with printing unless the book was first approved.

Mr. Causey asked if Ms. Tullier was able to look into the concern expressed last year that approving publications tied to specific organizations, such as PHCC, could raise ethical issues if Board members hold affiliations with those organizations.

Ms. Tullier referenced R.S. 42:1112 and R.S. 42:1113, noting that the Board of Ethics prohibits public servants from participating in matters where they or their affiliated organizations may benefit financially. She also cited relevant Ethics Advisory Opinions and Attorney General Opinions (2011-387, 00-0323, and 2008-789), each of which emphasizes the need for recusal whenever even minimal or indirect financial gain is possible.

Mr. Joiner acknowledged that while it is not yet clear whether adoption of ICC publications would meet the statutory threshold of a "substantial economic interest," the appearance of impropriety is a significant concern.

Ms. Tullier stated that, to avoid potential ethics violations, any Board members affiliated with organizations connected to the publications should recuse themselves from related discussion and voting.

Mr. Causey recommended that, given the ethical implications and the lack of a publication for the Committee to review, the Committee should not move forward with approval at this time.

Mr. Terry Smith suggested that the Board's legal counsel be consulted to provide a formal review before any final action is taken.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: JAKE CAUSEY
SECOND: TERRY SMITH
MOTION: CARRIED