

ICC Preferred Provider Program Frequently Asked Questions

- 1. Why did ICC create a Preferred Provider Program?** The building construction industry is vast, involving many fields of science, technology, construction materials, building components, methods of construction, legal, management, finance, codes, standards, guidelines, best practices, and more. Relevant training in these and other building construction-related topics are important to the entire construction industry and building safety community, and they should be encouraged, given due credit, and allowed to count toward renewal of ICC certifications. Since no one entity or industry, including the ICC, is able to provide relevant and effective training in all of the building construction and code administration fields, ICC created partnerships with other reputable training Providers to facilitate the availability of diverse training. These partnerships are organized in the form of the Preferred Provider Program.
- 2. What are the main goals of the Preferred Provider Program?** The ICC Preferred Provider Program is intended to accomplish several goals:
 - Create an easily accessible network of extensive training opportunities from a variety of educational resources;
 - Provide access to quality training on specialty topics and building products that are beyond the ICC core training programs;
 - Provide increased quality and support for educational renewal requirements of the ICC Certification Program; and
 - Enhance the relationship between ICC and educational Providers in support of building safety and innovation in building products and construction practices.
- 3. Is this a mandatory program for all trainers?** No. The Preferred Provider Program is not mandatory for anyone. Those who desire to provide training that qualifies for renewal of ICC certifications and receive the benefits of the program may sign up and become a Preferred Provider.
- 4. What is the benefit of the program for Preferred Providers?** There are many benefits to Providers, including:
 - Connecting Preferred Providers to ICC members and constituencies to create a vast network of educational opportunities. ICC has a membership base of over 58,000 and a constituency database of over 450,000. ICC outreach to our members and constituencies on the Preferred Provider Program will create an improved connection between Preferred Providers and ICC members and constituencies.
 - Leveraging a partnership between the Provider and ICC, the Program exposes the services and products of education Providers to ICC's broad audience through a Provider directory, listing of Provider educational offerings, and links to Provider websites.
 - Support of ICC Certification Renewal Program.

- Participation in ICC Chapter Education Benefit Program. Eligible ICC Chapters are awarded education benefits that have historically been limited to ICC-provided training, but the benefit has now been expanded so that Chapters can choose to use educational services from a Preferred Provider as the Chapter benefit with reimbursement from ICC.
- Capability of providing training on various products and methods of construction or installation to count toward renewal of ICC certifications. Many in the industry have such training currently available and offered for free or a nominal fee.
- Authorized to purchase ICC publications for training events at chapter-discounted prices. Chapter prices are up to 20 percent lower than ICC member prices.

5. **What is the benefit of the program to those seeking training?** There are many benefits to those seeking training, including:

- A comprehensive listing of relevant educational programs and expanded access to educational offerings is available. These include available training, both on-site and online, and are identified through a live training schedule on the ICC Preferred Provider website at www.iccsafe.org/PP.
- Users have access to information about products and services of Preferred Providers.
- Increased opportunity to create a relationship and network with ICC Chapters, industry, and other Preferred Providers.
- Utilization of Preferred Provider educational programs to gain CEUs as required for renewal of ICC Certifications.
- Access to a vast training network on-site or online that might be available for free or a very nominal fee and count toward certification renewal.
- Confidence in courses that qualify for CEUs without having to do an extensive search of the education provider qualifications.

6. **Can ICC Chapters become Preferred Providers?** Yes. ICC Chapters have been and will continue to be an important partner and major player in educational offerings to ICC members and others in the building construction and building safety industry.

7. **Who else can become a Preferred Provider and what are the associated fees to become a Preferred Provider?** Preferred Providers will pay one fixed annual fee, and there are no other fees associated with the number of courses a provider presents or the number of students that participate. Categories of Preferred Providers available and related fees are as follows:

- ICC Chapters—Annual fee: \$200 for on-site only; \$200 for online only; \$320 for on-site and online
- Government and Nonprofit—Annual fee: \$500 for on-site only; \$500 for online only; \$800 for on-site and online
- For-Profit Educator:
 - i. Educator, Individual—Annual fee: \$450 on-site only
 - ii. Educator, General—Annual fee: \$1,000 for on-site only; \$1,000 for online only; \$1,600 for on-site and online

- Industry—Annual fee: \$1,500 for on-site only; \$1,500 for online only; \$2,400 for on-site and online
8. **What is the process for becoming a Preferred Provider?** A Preferred Provider website is available to facilitate an easy and user-friendly process for Preferred Providers to sign up and list their courses for approval. Once approved by ICC, the courses will automatically populate into a live calendar or schedule.
 9. **Is there a fee for becoming a Preferred Provider?** There will be a fee to fund the process, staffing, support, website hosting, management, and maintenance. There will NOT be any per-course or other fees, only a fixed annual fee. The fee is very reasonable, slightly different for each Provider category, and very nominal for ICC Chapters. See question 7 for fee details.
 10. **Is there a fee for those who seek training as a result of Preferred Provider Program?** The Preferred Provider program has no fees for those seeking training. Students will only pay the fee that the Preferred Provider charges for their class, which is similar to any other training event.
 11. **Was there any input by ICC Chapters or others in the development of this program?** Yes. There was communication with and feedback from ICC Chapters. ICC Chapters had great comments, questions, and suggestions. The feedback from Chapters was mostly positive and supportive. A stakeholder group was also formed from across the country from potential Preferred Providers in different categories of ICC Chapters, Government, Associations, For-Profit Educators, and Industry. The stakeholder group reviewed the program details, addressed major issues, evaluated the feedback from ICC Chapters, and helped ICC formulate a final draft of the program. The ICC Professional Development Council that consists of the Education Committee and the Certification Committee reviewed, discussed, and provided feedback. The program was approved by the ICC Board of Directors at their September 2014 meeting in Fort Lauderdale, Florida at the ICC Annual Conference.
 12. **What is the effective date for the Preferred Provider program?** The program debuted in the Fall of 2014.
 13. **What is the ICC review turnaround time for Preferred Provider approval and course approval?** ICC will review Preferred Provider applications within 10 business days. Likewise, courses submitted for approval will be reviewed within 10 business days after submission.
 14. **Will instructors for each Preferred Provider need to be approved?** No. ICC is approving courses but will not approve instructors. The program requires Providers to use qualified trainers for the relevant subject matter. An instructor is considered as a representative of the Preferred Provider. Upon audit, if a Preferred Provider instructor is found to be unqualified or otherwise does not reflect the expectations of the Preferred Provider Program, the Preferred Provider or the individual course could be disapproved and disqualified by ICC staff.
 15. **Will all training courses from Preferred Providers need to be included in the live schedule?** No. If a Preferred Provider does not want a particular training event to be on the live calendar, whether it's

for a private group training contract or some other reason, the course does not need to appear in the live calendar.

16. Will training events prior to implementation of the PPP be recognized for CEUs obtained from a PP?

Yes. Such training events will be recognized if both of the following conditions are met:

1. Individuals renew their certification between January 1, 2015 and December 31, 2015; and
2. The education Provider becomes an ICC PP prior to January 1, 2015.

17. Are Preferred Providers limited in the type of topics on which they can provide training? There is no limitation in the type of topics Preferred Providers can teach, except that the topics must be relevant and in areas of building construction, building products, codes and standards, administrative, legal, and management, and design professional related. For details refer to Section 1.7 of the ICC Preferred Provider Manual.

18. How do courses qualify for approval and what materials and information do Preferred Providers need to submit to ICC for their courses to be approved? Courses must be related to building construction and building/occupant safety and other supportive subjects. The Preferred Provider Manual identifies five main areas of content: building construction; building products; codes and standards; administrative, legal, and management; and design professional related. In order to qualify each course must have a title, description, learning objectives, and quality content in the areas mentioned. The course title and description are the items that need to be submitted to ICC for review. The course description should include the learning objectives. Types of courses that will not be granted approval include those addressing subject matter outside the scope permitted by the Program, those whose primary goal is emphasis on a specific product or proprietary method, or those that teach to pass a certification examination.

19. Will the Preferred Provider Program be subject to any changes or revisions in the future? The Program will be monitored by ICC staff, the Education Committee, the Professional Development Council, and the Preferred Provider Stakeholder Group on a continuing basis with the goal of improving and making the program more effective and user friendly.

20. Will there be any opportunities for interested parties to provide feedback to ICC regarding the Preferred Provider Program? Any interested individual or entity can provide feedback to ICC by emailing PPP@iccsafe.org. Comments and recommendations for improvement will be discussed by the appropriate committees.