
BBS MEMO

Board of Building Standards

August 15, 1996
43216

2323 West Fifth Ave., Box 825, Columbus, Ohio

BOCA EVALUATION SERVICE CLARIFICATION

A BOCA-ES newsletter dated April 30, 1996 (attached) contains some misleading information. It implies that BBS approval extends to **all** BOCA-ES Research Reports, including those that cover testing agencies, materials, products, systems, etc. This not accurate.

BOCA-ES was approved by the Board of Building Standards as a national evaluation service only as a means of improving Ohio's standard for the evaluation of testing agencies. Indeed, the board approved a number of national evaluation services for this purpose. Among them are the AASHTO Accreditation Program (AAP), the American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA), ICBO Evaluation Service, Inc. (ICBO-ES), the National Evaluation Service, Inc. (NES), the National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program (NVLAP) and SBCCI Public Safety Testing and Evaluation Services, Inc. (SBCCI-PST & ES). The evaluations issued by these national services are used as part of a laboratory's application for listing in "Appendix O, Accredited Authoritative Agencies" in the OBBC. The BBS staff reviews a laboratory's application based on these evaluations and other criteria including lab independence, the types of tests performed, etc. before issuing the approval.

Building officials should be aware that testing agency approval is a completely separate issue from product approval which is covered by sections 4101:2-1-66 to 4101:2-1-71 of the OBBC. Under Ohio law, the BBS must approve products for use in the state of Ohio where these products are not specifically covered by the OBBC.

If you have any questions on the difference between "testing lab approval" and "product approval," please call the board at (614) 644-2613.

NEWS

BOCA Evaluation Services, Inc.
4051 West Flossmoor Road • Country Club Hills, IL 60478-5795
(708) 799-2305

BOCA-ES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

April 30, 1996

For further information, contact:

Joan Kikoen
708/799-2305, ext. 324

BOCA Evaluation Services, Inc. Accepted as an Approved Evaluation Service in the State of Ohio

BOCA Evaluation Services, Inc. (BOCA-ES), was officially accepted by the Ohio Board of Building Standards as an approved national evaluation and accreditation service in the State of Ohio. This acceptance means that code officials in Ohio can accept BOCA-ES Research Reports with the assurance that they are recognized by, and acceptable to the state. BOCA-ES will be added as a listing in Appendix P (Approved National Evaluation and Accreditation Services) of the *Ohio Basic Building Code* (OBBC).

BOCA-ES views this approval by the State of Ohio as an acknowledgement of our long history of providing evaluation services to the construction industry.

BOCA-ES is an independent, not-for-profit organization which conducts a voluntary program of evaluation of both traditional and innovative building materials, products, and systems for compliance with the *BOCA National Codes* and, as requested, with the new *ICC International Codes* series. The purpose of BOCA-ES is to develop technical reports in the form of an objective engineering analysis. The reports are published and distributed to governmental units or agencies which utilize the *BOCA National Codes*. BOCA-ES Research Reports contain detailed descriptions of the subject as well as the conditions under which the product is in compliance with the requirements of the *BOCA National Codes*, which are promulgated by Building Officials and Code Administrators International, Inc. (BOCA). Additionally, BOCA-ES is a participating member of the National Evaluation Service, Inc. (NES).

For more information about BOCA Evaluation Services, Inc., contact: BOCA-ES, 4051 West Flossmoor Road, Country Club Hills, IL 60578-5795, phone 708/799-2305, ext. 324, or fax 708/799-1660.

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