



# Interior Design Coalition of Nebraska

April 2010

Vol. 1 Issue 4

*The "Watchdog" section featured in each newsletter will inform you of current legislative actions, both national and local, that could affect our profession.*

If you hire contractors or subcontractors (selecting, managing, paying) to renovate, to paint, or in any way ask them to disturb more than 6 square feet of a pre-1978 home or other child-occupied facilities BE AWARE that as of April 22, 2010, they need to be certified by the EPA in Lead Safe Work Practices. This is called the Lead Renovation, Repair and Repainting Rule. Failure to do so can result in \$37,500 fines PER DAY. Contractors in Omaha will not be able to pull a permit beginning April 22 without showing that certification. If you as a Designer hire (or are getting paid in some way) them without concrete knowledge of the certification, you can also be fined that same amount. If you let the homeowner or contractor hire those sub-contractors without reimbursement you are not liable. That is a quote from the instructor from Midwest Training who teaches and certifies for this rule. Following are some highlights.

Anyone working in pre-1978 homes or other child-occupied facilities will need to follow the EPA's new regulations.

- Before the project starts, you have to hand out the new EPA lead paint brochure, "Renovate Right: Important Lead Hazard Information for Families, Child Care Providers, and Schools." (You should have been doing this since December 2008.)
- The company you hire must be certified by the EPA to work in homes with lead paint. It costs \$300, and contractors can apply on the EPA's Web site at <http://epa.gov/lead/pubs/firmapp.pdf>. There is currently a 90-day wait to get approval back from the EPA.
- At least one person with the firm you hire has to take an EPA-approved eight-hour course in lead-safe renovation practices. A full list of providers is listed at <http://epa.gov/lead/pubs/trainingproviders.htm>.
- For every project in a pre-1978 home, the contractor must follow the EPA's lead-safe work practices, which include posting warning signs for occupants and proper cleaning and isolation of the work area. The full regulations are available at [www.epa.gov/lead/pubs/renovation.htm](http://www.epa.gov/lead/pubs/renovation.htm).
- The contractor needs to keep records for three years that show the regulations were followed, including proof of delivery of the "Renovate Right" pamphlet, documentation of work practices and proof of training and certification. This is for your contractor but it is a good idea for you to protect yourself in like manner.

An additional word of caution; currently there is a shortage of certified contractors with huge backlogs of classroom openings. Although the EPA and the Federal Government has mandated this on April 22, 2010, they have not publicized it to the public and that push is not scheduled until July. This will result in some contractors not willing to work in these projects and other contractors willing to take a gamble on not getting caught as it will obviously raise prices for renovations. That is until it's publicized that the first project manager/contractors is levied that horrendous fine.

Iowa is one of the few states that has decided to self certify lead paint contractors on the state level. They also have shortages of those that have been certified as they haven't even written their criteria yet. At this point, those certified through other states can use that certification in Iowa. It's our government at work.

*-Anita Wiechman- co-chair IDCN*

## Upcoming Events

### Designers Garage Sale

- Late Spring
- Sheppard Business Interiors to host event
- Start collection items for sale

### Conference Booth at Synergy, May 13th

- Come talk with us and hear about the latest legislative efforts in Nebraska

### Halloween Party, October 2010

## Sustaining Sponsorship (\$750+)



Interface FLOR®

hart  
[associates]



## Patron Sponsorship (\$250)

THE DESIGNERS  
FURNITURE GALLERY



AOI