

Residential Continuing Education (RCE) General Information & FAQ's

Public Chapter 186 – Residential Continuing Education

A new provision in the law requires Residential contractors, only those licensed after January 1, 2009, with a residential license classification of BC-A, BC-A/r, Spec Homebuilders, or BC-A,b(sm), will be required to obtain eight (8) hours of Board-approved Residential Continuing Education (RCE) as a prerequisite to renew.

To provide plenty of time to implement, Residential contractors expiring in the year 2021 will only be expected to furnish four (4) of the RCE hours obtained within the previous year (i.e. 2020) in order to renew. Residential contractors expiring in the year 2022 and thereafter will be required to show proof of the full eight (8) RCE hours obtained within the previous two (2) years in order to renew.

The individual designated as a Qualifying Agent (QA) on the contractor's license is the one responsible for attaining RCE on behalf of the licensed entity. For contractors with multiple qualifying agents, only one (1) will be required to obtain RCE to fulfill the license renewal requirements.

RCE may be offered by classroom, online, as well as having membership from a Board approved professional trade organization. Formal programs of learning may apply as a RCE provider by making a written request to the Board with an outline of their curriculum, pursuant Tenn. Code Ann. §62-6-112(g), showing how their RCE contributes directly to the professional competence of the licensee. The Board is in the process of adopting rules and establishing the final criteria to be an approved RCE provider. The rulemaking hearing is set for **March 31, 2020**.

To review the legislation for Public Chapter 186, go to:
<https://publications.tnsosfiles.com/acts/111/pub/pc0186.pdf>

FAQ's – Residential Continuing Education (RCE)

1. Which licensees with the Board for Licensing Contractors will be required to obtain Residential Continuing Education (RCE)?

Answer: Contractors licensed after January 1, 2009 with a Residential building classification as follows: BC-A; BC-A/r; Spec Homebuilders; and those with a combination BC-A,b(sm) license classification.

2. Will contractors having a BC or BC-b (small commercial) classification be required to have RCE in order to renew?

Answer: No, those with a BC classification would not be required to obtain RCE to renew. Those with a BC-b (small commercial) classification will not be required to obtain RCE to renew, unless, they also have a "BC-A" as part of their license, such as a BC-A,b(sm) combination classification.

3. When will a Residential contractor licensee need to start obtaining and reporting their RCE?

Answer: The RCE will be phased in as follows:

- Contractors expiring in the year 2021 will be required to show proof of 4.0 RCE hours at the time of renewal.
- Contractors expiring in the year 2022, and thereafter, will be required to provide 8.0 of RCE hours at the time of renewal.

- Examples of RCE hours needed at time of renewal:

<u>Contractor License Expiration</u>	<u>RCE Hours</u>
01/31/2021 – 12/31/2021	4.0
01/31/2022 – 12/31/2022	8.0
01/31/2023 and thereafter	8.0

4. How many RCE hours will be required to meet the requirements for residential contractors to renew once it has been implemented after the phase-in period?

Answer: The law requires 8 hours of RCE to be completed on a biennial basis (every two (2) years). However, it will be phased in so ones expiring in 2021 will need to provide 4 hours.

5. How will residential contractors need to report their RCE?

Answer: At renewal time, the residential contractor will need to include their RCE certificate(s), along with the rest of their other renewal documents (such as insurance, financial statement, etc.). It should not be sent separate from the renewal, therefore, do not rely on the RCE provider to report this to us on your behalf. The online renewal application will have a place to scan and attach.

6. Who will be required to take the RCE for the license?

Answer: The **Qualifying Agent (QA)** designated on the contractor’s license is the only individual who may obtain RCE for the license. The QA is considered the person who passed the residential trade exam. If more than one person passed the residential trade exam, only one (1) is required to obtain RCE.

For licenses where an individual did not take the exam, such as the BC-A/r, then the person who took the Limited Residential course is considered the QA. The owner of a Spec Homebuilder license would be considered the QA.

7. Is there a list of approved RCE?

Answer: Not yet. Please check our website for updates or get on the email notification list to receive updates at:
https://apps.tn.gov/notify-app/sign_up.html

The Board is in the process of adopting the proposed rules and this will include the criteria they will utilize to approve RCE, providers, and those professional trade organizations where membership may be counted as 4 hours for each year.

The Board will begin accepting and reviewing requests from providers to offer RCE after the March 31st, 2020 rulemaking hearing.