



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF BUILDING OFFICIALS

PO Box 7310
Olympia, WA 98507-7310
(360) 586-6725
Toll Free (888) 664-9515
Fax (360) 586-5538
E-Mail: wabo@wabo.org
www.wabo.org

ANNOUNCING....

New Special Inspection Category Available From WABO

A Proprietary Anchor Inspector classification for the Special Inspection industry in Washington is now available from the Washington Association of Building Officials. The WABO membership directed the Certification and Registration Committee to develop this special inspection category and determine qualifications for special inspection agencies and their inspectors engaged in the inspection of anchorages within the seismic force resisting systems of buildings. Under the leadership of the C&R Chair Cindy Meyer, the Special Inspection Registration Program Board has completed the work to make this happen. You might ask yourself, what the heck does that mean and what do I need to do? For those of you working in areas with Seismic Categories of C, D, E or F, start by reading section 1707 of the 2006 International Building Code. You will find some interesting requirements for areas requiring special inspection.

What are Proprietary Anchors? Proprietary Anchors include drilled anchors, connectors or hangers in concrete and masonry, or anchors and hangers attached to steel, cold-formed steel or wood as specified in the approved construction documents to support structural or architectural components or mechanical or electrical equipment.

The Proprietary Anchor inspector may be a WABO Registered Special Inspector in any category who has successfully completed an eight-hour Proprietary Anchor class approved by WABO. They can also be an entry level inspector who has completed the class mentioned above and has 20 hours of field experience under the supervision of a Registered Special Inspector trained in inspection of Proprietary Anchors, and has received a minimum of four hours of plan reading training. Inspectors in either case must always work under the supervision of a WABO Registered Special Inspection Agency.

What are the Proprietary Anchor Inspectors inspecting? The approved plans will specify the items requiring special inspection. A plans examiner should pay attention to the requirements of Section 1707 when reviewing a set of plans. The special inspection requirements for architectural, electrical and mechanical equipment specified in this core section may not always be found on the structural plans unless the structural engineer of record has reviewed the other design consultants' work. It is probably a good idea for the plans examiner to look through the A, E, M and P sections of a plan for items governed by Section 1707.

Remember that WABO Registered Special Inspection Agencies and their inspection staff have met national standards for qualifications for the work they are engaged in. Those standards are complex and very detailed. The Building Officials can meet their code obligation of approving special inspectors by trusting that their association, WABO, has put the agencies through rigorous review before they become registered.

Application forms available at www.wabo.org. For more information please contact the WABO office at 888-664-9515 or e-mail at wabo@wabo.org.