SEGA Chairman’s Message

The COVID–19 pandemic is unprecedented in what it has done not only globally and nationally but also here locally in the state of Florida. Commercial projects, while still moving forward, have been impacted greatly. The effort and procedures to ensure hundreds of on–site workers on these jobsites remain safe and healthy creates a tremendous burden and doing these things has and will continue to affect production. The shutdown of the nation affected material availability and as manufacturers and suppliers come back on–line, the availability of material will continue to be affected. The consistency of a skilled and qualified workforce has diminished at a time when we need to ramp up. We are in this together and will continue to need the support of all stakeholders including the local community to achieve completion of these projects as we navigate through these times.

I pray that all SEGA members and their families are safe and doing well. If we at SEGA can assist you in these extraordinary times by providing you with information or other assistance, please feel free to contact us.

Until Next Time!

Woody Watters
SEGA Chairman
SEGA 2020 OFFICERS

Chairman of the Board
Woody Watters
Pensacola Glass Company

Vice Chairman
Vacant

Secretary/Treasurer
Vacant

SEGA 2020 DIRECTORS

Dan Knowlton – K & K Glass
Thomas Lee, IV, – Lee & Cates Glass
Jeff Miller – Lore L. Ltd.
Bryan Yarborough – Glass Doctor
(JONALISA)

SEGA CONSULTANT

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SEGA 2020 OFFICERS

July
8–10............CILB Board of Director’s and Committee
Meetings, Streamsong Resort, Streamsong

August
4.....................Florida Building Committee Meetings
Hilton, Fort Lauderdale
12–14............CILB Board of Director’s and Committee
Meetings, The Biltmore Hotel, Coral Cables

September
9–11............CILB Board of Director’s and Committee
Meetings, The Ritz–Carlton–Sarasota, Sarasota

October
4.....................Florida Building Committee Meetings
Shores Resort and Spa, Daytona Beach
14–16....................CILB Board of Director’s and
Committee Meetings, Omni Orlando
at ChampionsGate, Championsgate

November
11–13............CILB Board of Director’s and Committee
Meetings, Embassy Suites St. Augustine, St. Augustine

December
15.....................Florida Building Committee Meetings
Hyatt Regency, Sarasota

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Please submit your news releases, articles and comments
for this publication to the SEGA office, attention: Julie,
231 West Bay Avenue, Longwood, FL 32750–4125.
Advertising Space is also available. Please call the SEGA
office at (407) 831–7342 for current rates and information.
Welcome Back
SEGA would like to take this opportunity to thank the following members who have renewed their dues as of March 15, 2020. Your support of and participation in this organization is greatly appreciated.

- C.T. Windows, Inc. d/b/a Architectural Aluminum Techniques
- Architectural Glass Services, Inc.
- Area Glass, Inc.
- Ashe Glass & Mirror, Inc.
- Central Florida Glass & Mirror, Inc.
- City Glass Company
- Coral Industries, Inc.
- Countryside Glass & Mirror, Inc.
- Diamond Glass Company, Inc.
- Dothan Glass Company, Inc.
- Glass Doctor
- Glass Doctor (JONALISA, Inc.)
- Glass Doctor of Southwest Florida
- GCI Consultants, LLC
- Heritage Glass, Inc.
- Hogan Glass Corporation
- K&K Glass
- Key Glass, LLC
- Lee & Cates Glass
- Lemon Bay Glass & Mirror
- Lore L. Ltd.
- Morse Industries, Inc.
- Pensacola Glass Company
- RJL Associates, Inc.
- Suwannee Glass, Inc.
- Trulite Glass & Aluminum Solutions™
- West Tampa Glass Company
- YKK AP America, Inc.

2020 Legislative Session Final Report
The 2020 Legislative Session came to a close on Thursday, March 19 with lawmakers passing a $93.2 billion budget prior to Sine Die. Approximately 3,500 bills were filed; however, only 207 made it across the finish line (some of these contained multiple bills). Due to the COVID–19 pandemic, lobbyists and the public were unable to witness the ceremonial “hanky drop” that signals the close of Session.

State Budget
Highlights of the state budget which went into effect on July 1, 2020 are as follows:

- A $93.2 billion budget was passed by the legislators.
- $300 million was placed in reserves to address the economic impact of Coronavirus.
- $25.1 million for Coronavirus to the Department of Health coupled with $27.3 million for Federal government.
- $50 million for VisitFlorida.
- $500 million for teacher pay increase.

UPDATE
The governor has taken action on the budget and, as anticipated, made significant cuts totaling $1 billion (more than 500 spending proposals by lawmakers) to the state’s spending plan for fiscal year 2020–2021 before he signed the $92.2 billion budget. The unprecedented amount of line item vetoes were due to the COVID–19 pandemic which has made a huge impact on the state’s coffers.

The following is a list of some of the higher dollar amounts that Governor DeSantis line item vetoed from the 2020–2021 budget:

- Special Categories – Grants And Aids – Housing Finance Corporation (Hfc) – State Housing Initiatives Partnership (Ship) Program – $225,000,000
- Aid To Local Governments – Grants And Aids – District Lottery And School Recognition Program – $134,582,877
- Intermediate Care Facility for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICF/IID) – $38,363,421
- Provider Rate Increase for Personal Supports and Companion Providers $36,833,621
- Aid To Local Governments – Grants And Aids – Complete Florida Plus Program – $29,390,671
- Infectious Disease Drug Treatment – $28,000,000
- Intermediate Care Facility for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICF/IID) – $23,723,940
- Florida State University – College of Business – $20,000,000
- Provider Rate Increase for Adult Day Training Providers – $16,100,414
- Universities of Distinction – $15,000,000
- Grants And Aids To Local Governments And Nonstate Entities – Fixed Capital Outlay - Grants And Aids – Florida Keys Area Of Critical State Concern – $10,000,000
- Administrators Professional Development as provided in section 1012.985, Florida Statutes –
$7,000,000
• Fixed Capital Outlay – Public School Projects 4 – $6,000,000
• University of Central Florida – Advanced Manufacturing Sensor Project – $6,000,000
• Pasco County Handcart Road Water and Wastewater (HB 2035) (Senate Form 1857) – $5,750,000
• Acquisition, Restoration of Historic Properties – $5,595,47
• Provider Rate Increase for Residential Habilitation Provider – $5,450,245
• Florida State University – Florida Institute for Child Welfare – $5,000,000
• University of Central Florida – Advanced Manufacturing Sensor Project – $5,000,000

For a complete list of the line item vetos in the 2020–2021 budget by the governor, please click here.

To date, the governor has only vetoed one bill which was CS/CS/CS/SB 410 by Perry which dealt with Growth Management.

The follow is a list of some other issues that passed during the 2020 Legislative Session:
• Three percent pay raise for all state employees
• Sales tax holidays for school clothing/supplies and disaster preparedness
• Doubling fines for passing school buses that are stopped to pick up or drop off children.
• Allowing advanced practice registered nurses to open independent primary care practices.
• Allowing pharmacists who enter agreements with doctors to treat ailments like the flu or strep throat.
• Allowing fireworks sales for the Fourth of July, New Year’s Eve and New Year’s Day.
• Increasing penalties for bear poaching.
• Permitting state agencies to use drones to fight invasive species and wildfires.
• Allowing college athletes to get compensated for use of their name or image.
• Raising hurdles for petition drives seeking to change the state constitution.

Finally . . .
The governor has been receiving some of the bills that were tracked during this past session. The governor has 15 days from the date he receives a bill (outside of bills received during Session) to take action or allow it to become law without signature. I will continue to update the list as actions are taken.

The following is a list of bills of interest that passed this year, and where they stand.

Public Construction (Retainage)
CS/HB 101 by Andrade & CS/SB 246 by Hooper
Retainage is a common construction practice that allows a portion of an agreed upon contract price to be withheld until the work is substantially complete to assure that a contractor or subcontractor will complete the construction project.

Current law sets limits on how much retainage can be withheld on state and local government contracts. For construction contracts with the state for $200,000 or less, the state may withhold up to ten percent of a payment to a contractor. For construction contracts with the state or local governments that are for more than $200,000, the maximum amount that may be retained in a payment is:

• Ten percent of a payment to a contractor before half of the project is complete;
• Five percent of a payment to a contractor after half of the project is complete; and
• Ten percent of a payment to a contractor for the entire project, if the project is for a municipality with a population of 25,000 or less or a county with a population of 100,000 or less.

The bill changes the limits on retainage permitted to be withheld on state and local government contracts.

For contracts less than $200,000, the bill reduces the maximum amount the state may retain from a payment to a contractor from ten percent to five percent.

For contracts more than $200,000, the bill reduces the maximum amount that may be retained from a payment to a contractor:

• From ten percent before half of the project is complete, and five percent after half of the project is complete
  • To five percent for the entire project; and
• From ten percent for the entire project if the project is for a municipality with a population of 25,000 or less or a county with a population of 100,000 or less
  • To five percent for the entire project.

The bill repeals:

• The ability of a contractor to request the state
or local government to release up to half of the retained amount after half of the project is complete; and

• The ability of a contractor to withhold more than five percent of each payment to his or her subcontractors after half of a project for a state or local government is complete.

The provisions of the bill do not apply to FDOT construction projects authorized by Chapter 337, F.S., or any contract for construction services entered into, pending approval, or advertised by a government entity, on or before October 1, 2020.

CS/HB 101 has not yet been presented to the governor for final action.

Local Government Public Construction Works
CS/CS/HB 279 by Smith, D. & CS/SB 504 by Perry Counties, municipalities, special districts, and other political subdivisions seeking to construct or improve a public building or structure must competitively bid the project if the projected cost is in excess of $300,000. For electrical work, local governments must competitively bid projects estimated to cost more than $75,000. An exemption from the requirement to competitively award these projects exists when the governing board of a local government determines that it is in the public’s best interest to use the local government’s own services, employees, and equipment.

Current law also requires counties to competitively bid and award to the lowest bidder all projects for construction and reconstruction of roads and bridges that utilize the proceeds of the 80–percent portion of the surplus of the constitutional gas tax. An exception to this requirement allows a county to use its own forces for these construction and reconstruction projects if the estimated cost of a project is less than specified thresholds depending upon the type of project.

The bill specifies the manner in which the estimated cost of a public building construction project must be determined when a governing board is deciding whether it is in the local government’s best interest to perform the project using its own services, employees, and equipment. Specifically, the bill requires the estimated project cost to fully account for all costs associated with performing and completing the work, including employee compensation and benefits; the cost of equipment and maintenance, insurance costs, and the cost of direct materials to be used in the construction of the project including materials to be purchased by the local government; and other direct costs, plus a factor of 20 percent for management, overhead, and other indirect costs. The bill also requires local governments to consider the same costs when determining the estimated cost of road and bridge construction and reconstruction projects performed utilizing proceeds from the constitutional gas tax.

The bill requires local governments issuing bidding documents or other requests for proposals to include a listing of all other governmental entities that may have additional permits or fees generated by the project.

The bill requires a local government performing a public building construction project using its own services, employees, and equipment to create a report summarizing completed projects constructed by the local government, which must be publicly reviewed each year by the governing body. The Auditor General must review the report as part of his or her audits of local governments.

CS/CS/HB 279 was signed by the governor on June 30, 2020 as is now referred to as Chapter 2020–155, Laws of Florida.

Verification of Employment Eligibility
CS/HB 1265 by Byrd & CS/CS/CS/SB 664 by Lee The bill requires private employers having at least 50 employees to use E–Verify or a substantially equivalent system to verify that new hires are authorized to work in the United States. Smaller employers have another option; they may verify employment eligibility using the Form I–9, as required under current law, but must retain copies of documents used to verify employment eligibility for at least three years.

Additionally, the bill requires public employers and certain of their contractors and subcontractors to begin using E–Verify to verify the employment eligibility of their employees by July 1, 2021. The bill’s contractor/subcontractor requirements apply to those that have at least 10 employees in Florida and contracts of at least $35,000 in value.

The private–employer requirement takes effect January 1, 2021. If a private employer fails to comply with the bill’s registration or verification requirements, it might face a $500 fine and be required to comply within 30 days. If an employer fails to comply by this deadline, licensing agencies must suspend the employer’s business licenses until the employer
complies. Additional enforcement provisions:

- Authorize the Department of Economic Opportunity to conduct random audits;
- Require private employers to give verification documents to federal and state authorities upon request; and
- Authorize a person to file a complaint with the department if he or she believes in good faith that an employer employs an unauthorized alien.

Finally, the bill provides immunity from civil or criminal liability for an employer’s reliance on an approved electronic employment verification system. For instance, an employer who relies on E-Verify’s indication that a person is unauthorized may not be sued for refusing to hire the person. Conversely, if E-Verify indicates that an employee is authorized to work in the United States, there is a rebuttable presumption that the employer did not knowingly employ an unauthorized alien.

CS/CS/CS/SB 664 was signed by the governor on June 30, 2020 and is now referred to as Chapter 2020–150, Laws of Florida.

**Business Organizations**

CS/CS/HB 495 by Robinson & CS/SB 838 by Simmons

The bill amends several sections of the Florida Business Corporation Act, Chapter 607, F.S., and its related statutes to:

- make clarifying and conforming changes to, and fix minor errors in, the 2019 Florida Business Corporation Act legislation;
- modify the laws that govern the makeup of not-for-profit corporations’ board committees to allow persons other than board directors to serve on those committees; and
- re-instate the Florida Department of State’s ability to direct interrogatories to a corporation to determine the corporation’s compliance with Chapter 607, F.S.

CS/SB 838 was signed by the governor on June 18, 2020 and is now referred to Chapter 2020–32, Laws of Florida.

**Impact Fees**

CS/CS/CS/HB 637 by DiCeglie & CS/CS/CS/SB 1066 by Gruters

This bill imposes new requirements related to impact fees. The bill:

- Prohibits the application of a new or increased impact fee to pending permit applications unless the result is to reduce the total impact fees or mitigation costs imposed on the applicant.
- Authorizes local governments with charters that contain provisions providing for school capacity to require contributions related to public education that are used to mitigate impacts not otherwise funded by impact fees or other exactions related to public education facilities, under certain circumstances.
- Provides that impact fee credits are assignable and transferable at any time after establishment within the same impact fee zone or impact fee district, or an adjoining zone or district within the same local jurisdiction.

CS/CS/CS/SB 1066 was signed by the governor on June 22, 2020 and is now referred to as Chapter 2020–58, Laws of Florida.

**Infrastructure Regulation (Underground Facility Damage Prevention and Safety)**

CS/CS/HB 1095 by Fitzenhagen & CS/CS/CS/SB 1464 by Flores

Chapter 556, F.S., is the “Underground Facility Damage Prevention and Safety Act” (Act). The stated purpose of the Act is to identify and locate underground facilities prior to an excavation or demolition to prevent injury to persons or property or interruption of services resulting from damage to those facilities. To accomplish this, the Act creates a not-for-profit corporation (Sunshine 811) to administer a free-access notification system. The bill amends Chapter 556, F.S., to:

- Expand the list of entities that may issue citations for violations of Chapter 556, F.S., to include the State Fire Marshal, or its designated agent, and local fire chiefs.
- Increase the maximum civil penalty (up to $2,500 plus court costs) for certain violations of Chapter 556, F.S., that involve an underground pipe or facility transporting hazardous materials regulated by the U.S. DOT Pipeline and Hazardous Material Safety Administration (PHMSA). Eighty percent of the civil penalty must be distributed to the entity that issued the citation, and the clerk of court retains the remainder.
- Require each clerk of court to submit an annual report to the State Fire Marshal listing each citation issued for a violation of Chapter 556, F.S., which was filed in that county during the preceding calendar year.
• Define the term “permanent marker” and establish a criminal penalty for knowingly and willfully removing or damaging a permanent marker placed to identify the location of an underground facility.

• Require excavators and underground facility operators to transmit reports of incidents that involve high priority subsurface installations (HPSI) for investigation by the State Fire Marshal, or its designated agent, who may issue a citation and impose a civil penalty for a violation of Chapter 556, F.S., that it finds to be a proximate cause of the incident. Upon collection, five percent of the civil penalty must be retained by the clerk of court, and the remainder must be distributed equally between Sunshine 811 (to fund damage-prevention education) and the State Fire Marshal (to fund programs that provide financial assistance to fire departments to procure equipment, supplies, and educational training designed to mitigate firefighter exposure to hazardous, cancer-causing chemicals).

• Require Sunshine 811 to review all reports made to the State Fire Marshal and all other complaints of alleged violations of Chapter 556, F.S., to identify issues related to damage prevention and enforcement, and annually provide an analysis and recommendations to the Governor, President of the Senate, and Speaker of the House of Representatives.

The bill requires the Committee on Public Counsel Oversight, by a majority vote of the committee appointees of each house, to appoint a Public Counsel to a four-year term beginning March 1, 2021, and every four years thereafter. A person appointed as the Public Counsel may not serve more than 12 years after July 1, 2020.

The bill may have an indeterminate positive fiscal impact on state and local government revenues. The bill may require the State Fire Marshal, or a local agent designated by the State Fire Marshal, to expend resources to investigate HPSI incidents. These expenditures may be offset in whole or in part by the portion of any civil penalties collected and distributed to the State Fire Marshal or its agent through enforcement of Chapter 556, F.S.

CS/CS/HB 1095 was signed by the governor on June 29, 2020 and is now referred to as Chapter 2020–137, Laws of Florida.

Deregulation of Professions and Occupations
CS/HB 1193 by Ingoglia & CS/CS/CS/SB 474 by Albritton

The bill, cited as the “Occupational Freedom and Opportunity Act,” does the following:

• Deregulates:
  o Hair braiders, hair wrappers, body wrappers, nail polishers and makeup artists, and
  o Boxing announcers and timekeepers.

• Partially deregulates labor organizations, while maintaining civil and criminal causes of action.

• Eliminates the additional business license required for the following licensees:
  o Architects,
  o Interior designers,
  o Landscape architects, and
  o Geologists.

• Reduces the hours of training required to obtain a license for:
  o Barbers and restricted barbers, and
  o Nail, facial, and full specialists.

• Adds new ways for out-of-state professionals to obtain a license in the state for:
  o Veterinarians,
  o Construction contractors,
  o Electrical contractors,
  o Landscape architects,
  o Geologists,
  o Engineers,
  o Certified public accountants,
  o Home inspectors,
  o Building code professionals,
  o Cosmetologists, and
  o Barbers.

• Replaces the current licensing scheme for interior designers with a registration for certain local permitting activities.

• Reduces the number of members on the Florida Building Commission.

• Authorizes an unlicensed individual to provide compensated dietary and nutritional services if they do not use certain titles or provide services to people with certain medical needs.

• Preempts food truck regulation to the state, with certain exceptions.

• Waives certain requirements to obtain a commercial driver license for military veterans.

• Prohibits any state agency from disciplining a professional licensee based solely on a student loan default.

The bill has a significant negative fiscal impact to state
revenues including a $3.2 million reduction over the next three fiscal years.

CS/HB 1193 was signed by the governor on June 30, 2020 and is now referred to Chapter 2020-163, Laws of Florida.

**Taxation (Sales Tax Holidays, etc.)**

CS/HB 7097 by Avila

The bill provides for tax reductions and tax-related modifications that will impact both families and businesses.

Several provisions related to sales tax are included:

- A three-day “back-to-school” tax holiday in early August 2020 and a seven-day “disaster preparedness” tax holiday in May and June of 2020;
- A requirement that School Capital Outlay sales surtaxes approved in the future be proportionately shared with charter schools;
- A requirement that any future levy of the Charter County and Regional Transportation System Sales Surtax in any eligible county be limited to 30 years in duration.

For corporate income tax, the bill amends the calculation of a taxpayer’s “final tax liability” for purposes of calculating certain corporate income tax refunds.

The bill increases the population limit, under which a county is authorized to use its tourist development tax revenues for zoological parks, fishing piers, and nature centers, from 750,000 to 950,000.

Regarding property taxes, the bill amends the requirements for hospitals to qualify for a charitable tax exemption. Non-profit hospitals will be required to document the value of charitable services they provide, and their current charity tax exemption will be limited to the value of that charity care. The bill updates the qualifying operations for the deployed service member tax exemption; amends statutory provisions that address conflict of interest for special magistrates; and restricts information that may be mailed with the yearly TRIM notice. The bill also exempts from property tax vacant affordable housing units and units occupied by persons or families that met the qualifying income thresholds at the time they began their tenancy, but whose income grew through the income thresholds. The bill also exempts from property tax an affordable housing project owned by a limited liability company, which is also owned by a limited liability company, as long as the owner of the second limited liability company is a qualifying 501(c)(3) entity.

The bill lowers the tax rate on surplus lines insurance and provides that the new lower rate applies to all policies irrespective of where the insured risk is located.

The bill exempts new school construction projects funded solely through local impact fees from the total cost per student station limitation. It also prohibits an owner of a public building from soliciting any payment for providing the allocation letter needed to receive a federal income tax deduction for energy efficient construction.

The bill also includes provisions proposed by the Department of Revenue to enhance the administration of state taxes and oversight of property taxation.

The total state and local government revenue impact of the bill in Fiscal Year 2020–21 is estimated to be −$47.4 million (all nonrecurring), including an impact of −$36.9 million to the General Revenue Fund. The bill also provides nonrecurring appropriations totaling $311,000 from the General Revenue Fund to implement the act.

CS/HB 7097 was signed by the governor on April 9, 2020 and is now referred to as Chapter 2020-10, Laws of Florida.

**Public Financing of Construction Projects**

CS/HB 579 by Aloupis & CS/CS/SB 178 by Rodriguez; HB 1073 by Stevenson & SB 7016 by Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee

CS/CS/SB 178 requires a public entity that commissions or manages a construction project within the coastal building zone using funds appropriated from the state to conduct a sea-level impact projection (SLIP) study prior to commencing construction. The bill provides that this provision is effective one year after the Department of Environmental Protection’s (DEP) rule regarding SLIP studies is finalized. The required study must be conducted, submitted to the DEP, and published on the DEP’s website before construction can commence.

The bill requires the DEP to adopt rules establishing standards for the SLIP studies, and the standards must include certain requirements for how the studies will be conducted and the information they must contain. The DEP must publish and maintain a copy of all
SLIP studies on its website for 10 years after receipt. The bill requires the DEP to adopt rules as necessary to administer the section and authorizes the DEP to enforce the requirements of the section.

The bill authorizes the DEP to bring a civil action to seek injunctive relief to cease construction, enforce the section or rules adopted pursuant thereto, or seek recovery of state funds expended on a coastal structure, if construction commences without complying with the section. The bill states that the section may not be construed to create a cause of action for damages or otherwise authorize the imposition of penalties by a public entity for failure to implement what is contained in the SLIP study.

CS/CS/SB 178 was signed by the governor on June 30, 2020 and is now referred to as Chapter 2020–119, Laws of Florida.

Public Procurement of Services
CS/CS/HB 441 by DiCeglie & CS/CS/SB 506 by Perry
In 1973, the Florida Legislature enacted the Consultants’ Competitive Negotiation Act (CCNA), which requires state and local government agencies to procure the “professional services” of an architect, professional engineer, landscape architect, or registered surveyor and mapper using a qualifications–based selection process. Qualifications–based selection is a process whereby service providers are retained on the basis of competency, qualifications, and experience, rather than price.

The CCNA explicitly states it does not prohibit a continuing contract between a firm and an agency. A continuing contract is a contract for professional services entered into in accordance with the CCNA between an agency and a firm whereby the firm provides professional services to the agency for several projects. The CCNA prohibits firms that are parties to a continuing contract from being required to bid against one another. Current law authorizes the use of a continuing contract for construction projects in which the estimated construction cost of each project does not exceed $2 million, for study activities if the fee for professional services for each study does not exceed $200,000, or for work of a specified nature as outlined in the contract required by the agency, with the contract being for a fixed term or with no time limitation except the contract must include a termination clause.

The bill increases the maximum limit for continuing contracts covered by the CCNA from an estimated per–project construction cost of $2 million to $4 million. The bill also increases the maximum limit for procuring a study using a continuing contract from $200,000 per study to $500,000.

CS/CS/SB 441 was signed by the governor on June 20, 2020 and is now referred to as Chapter 2020–127, Laws of Florida.

Keep Our Graduates Working Act
CS/CS/CS/HB 115 Duran & CS/SB 356 by Hutson
The Florida Department of Health (DOH) is authorized to discipline a health care practitioner’s license for failing to repay a government–backed student loan. Every month, DOH must obtain a list of Florida health care practitioners who have defaulted on their government–backed student loans from the United States Department of Health and Human Services (USHHS). Upon learning that a health care practitioner has defaulted on such a loan, DOH must notify the practitioner that he or she has 45 days to provide DOH with proof of a new repayment plan, or DOH will issue an emergency order suspending the practitioner’s license.

If DOH makes a finding in a disciplinary case that a health care practitioner has defaulted on student a loan, DOH, at a minimum, must take the following disciplinary action:

- Suspend the practitioner’s license until he or she agrees to new payment terms;
- Place the licensee on probation for the duration of the student loan period; and
- Impose a fine equal to 10 percent of the defaulted loan amount.

The bill:

- Prohibits any state authority, including DOH, from denying the issuance of, refusing to renew, suspending, or revoking a professional license based solely on the licensee being delinquent on a payment of or defaulting on his or her student loans;
- Repeals authorization for DOH to discipline a health care practitioner for failing to repay a student loan and the associated mandatory discipline;
- Repeals the requirement that DOH issue an emergency order suspending a health care practitioner’s license for a student loan default, absent timely proof of a new repayment plan; and
• Repeals the requirement that DOH obtain a monthly list from the USHHS of the health care practitioners who have defaulted on their student loans.

CS/CS/CS/HB 115 was signed by the governor on June 30, 2020 and is now referred to as Chapter 2020–125, Laws of Florida.

Qualifying Period Ended in Florida
Friday, June 12, 2020 at 12:00 noon was the deadline for individuals in the Florida House and Senate as well as multi–county special districts. The Primary will be held on Tuesday, August 18, 2020, and the General Election will be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2020.

All 120 House seats and 21 of the 40 Senate seats (odd–numbered districts) are up for election this cycle. District 20 (Brandon) opened up because Republican Senator Tom Lee announced that he would not run for re–election.

The Florida Senate
The Senate breakdown consists of 40 Senators which is currently comprised of 23 Republicans and 17 Democrats. At the close of the qualifying period, all incumbents had at least one Primary or General Election opponent. Therefore, no candidate was re–elected without opposition. A total of nine Senate seats do not have an incumbent running in them due to the member reaching his or her eight–year term limit or vacating the seat. Six of those seats were most recently held by Republicans while three were occupied by Democrats. One surprise was the late entry of Representative Heather Fitzenhagen in the Primary for the seat being vacated by Senator Lizbeth Benacquisto. Fitzenhagen will face Republican Representative Ray Rodrigues in the Primary.

There are also several crowded primaries for both parties, including the six–way Democratic primary for the South Florida seat vacated by Senator Oscar Braynon. In the General Election, the following seats are expected to be battleground races between the Republicans and the Democrats:

• District 3 (North Florida) – Democrat House member Loranne Ausley is seeking to win the seat by Senator Bill Montford. Ausley will face the winner of a two–person Republican primary.

• District 9 (Central Florida) – Former Representative Jason Brodeur will face the winner of a five–way Democratic primary in this seat vacated by term–limited Republican Senator David Simmons.

• District 39 (South Florida) – GOP House member Anna Marie Rodriguez will face the winner of a two–way Democratic primary which includes Representative Javier Fernandez. There is also a No Party Affiliation (NPA) candidate who will appear on the general election ballot in this seat formerly held by Republican Senator Anitere Flores.

Florida House
The House consists of 120 representatives which is currently comprised of 73 Republicans to 47 Democrats. Thirty–one seats (15 Republicans and 16 Democrats) are without an incumbent. The following ten House members (one Republican and nine Democrats) are unopposed following the qualifying period and are re–elected for a two–year term:

• District 5 (Defuniak Springs) – Brad Drake (R)
• District 8 (Tallahassee) – Ramon Alexander (D)
• District 45 (Orlando) – Kamia Brown (D)
• District 61 (Tampa) – Dianne Hart (D)
• District 63 (Tampa) – Fentrice Driskell (D)
• District 97 (Sunrise) – Dan Daley (D)
• District 98 (Plantation) – Michael Gottlieb (D)
• District 99 (Hollywood) – Evan Jenne (D)
• District 100 (Dania Beach) – Joe Geller (D)
• District 113 (North Bay Village) – Michael Grieco (D)

Newcomer Democrat Travaris McCurdy, was elected to District 46 in Orlando when he did not draw an opponent. McCurdy is a former legislative aide for two Senators and served as Deputy Political Director for the National Super PAC, For Our Future.

There are several crowded primaries in districts that historically perform heavily for one party or the other. One seat has five candidates running in the Democratic primary. The following are some of the races that may become battles between the Republican and Democratic parties:

• District 21 (Palatka) – Bobby Payne (R)
• District 26 (DeLand) – Elizabeth Fetterhoff (R)
• District 28 (Winter Springs) – David Smith
• District 30 (Maitland) – Joy Goff–Marcil (D)
• District 44 (Orlando) – Geraldine Thompson (D)
• District 69 (St. Petersburg) – Jennifer Webb (D)
National Glass Association Announces Cancellation of GlassBuild America

The National Glass Association (NGA) announced that GlassBuild America, slated for September 15–17, 2020, in Las Vegas, has been canceled. The event will return in 2021, September 13–15, in Atlanta. In anticipation of this outcome, NGA has worked behind the scenes to produce an online marketplace called GlassBuild Connect: The Glass & Fenestration Online Experience. GlassBuild Connect will showcase exhibitors’ product and services for buyers and prospects to explore online during the entire month of September.

DBPR Notice of Emergency Ruling

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION
Construction Industry Licensing Board

RULE NO.: 61G4ER20–6
RULE TITLE: Approval of Continuing Education Courses.

SPECIFIC REASONS FOR FINDING AN IMMEDIATE DANGER TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY OR WELFARE: The Construction Industry Licensing Board (Board) is required by statute to adopt rules to implement and enforce Chapter 489, Part I, Florida Statutes. In doing so the Board promulgated Rule 61G4–18.004 Approval of Continuing Education Courses., Florida Administrative Code, which set out the requirements for registered continuing education providers presenting courses in the classroom setting as well as by interactive distance learning, for construction professionals certified and registered by the Board. Many registered continuing education providers (providers) have Board approved continuing education classroom courses requiring in person attendance which were applied for under Rule 61G4–18.004 (3); which they are now unable to teach because in person attendance is logistically impossible due to the COVID–19 pandemic social distancing, requirements and restrictions on meetings of 50 people or more. Meanwhile, many certified and registered construction professionals are trying to complete their continuing education licensure renewal requirements by the biennium deadline of August 31, 2020; they need to take the courses in question but cannot do so in a classroom setting because of the restrictions further detailed below caused by the COVID–19 pandemic. The rule does not allow these providers or students to elect whether to provide or to attend approved classroom courses through interactive distance learning methods (webinars). Courses taught through interactive distance learning methods have to be separately applied for under Rule 61G4–18.004 (3)(a); the delay caused by reapplying for these same courses to be taught by webinar will greatly restrict the amount of courses available for those seeking licensure renewal in the short amount of time available, unless these courses can be presented in a webinar format on an expedited basis for those seeking licensure renewal by the August 31, 2020 deadline.

On March 1, 2020, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis issued Executive Order Number 20–51 which directed the State Health Officer and Surgeon General, Dr. Scott Rivkees, to declare a public health emergency pursuant to the spread of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID–19). On March 9, 2020, Governor DeSantis issued Executive Order Number 20–52 (Emergency Management – COVID–19 Public Health Emergency) and officially declared that a state of emergency exists in the State of Florida. COVID–19 is a severe acute respiratory illness that can spread among humans through respiratory transmission and presents with symptoms similar to those of influenza. The Center for Disease Control (“CDC”) recommends mitigation measures to combat the spread of COVID–19 such as staying home when sick, keeping away from others who are sick, staying home when a household member is sick with respiratory disease symptoms, and for those who are at higher risk, including older adults and those who have serious chronic medical conditions, to avoid non–essential air travel and to avoid crowds as much as possible. On June 5, 2020, Governor Ron DeSantis issued Executive Order Number 20–139 (Phase 2: Safe. Smart. Step–by–Step. Plan for Florida’s Recovery) Section 2 of the order concerning Responsible Individual Activity encourages all persons in Florida to follow appropriate social distancing and safety protocols issued by the CDC and OSHA and strongly encourages Senior Citizens and individuals with a significant underlying medical condition to...
avoid crowds and take measures to limit the risk of exposure to COVID–19. Further, the order provides that all persons in Florida are encouraged to avoid congregating in groups larger than 50 persons and requires that most businesses observe appropriate social distancing and operate at 50% capacity. The order also extends Executive Order Number 20–82 requiring all persons who enter the State of Florida from an area with substantial community spread, to include the New York Tri–State Area (Connecticut, New Jersey and New York), to isolate or quarantine for a period of 14 days from the time of entry into the State of Florida or the duration of the person’s presence in the State of Florida, whichever is shorter.

Since issuance of the Executive Orders and the declaration of a public health emergency, the Board Office has received numerous inquiries from registered course providers of approved classroom courses and from construction professionals seeking to complete their biennium continuing education requirements for licensure renewal. Providers ask whether they can provide these approved classroom course through interactive distance learning methods and the certificate and registration renewal applicants are especially concerned about the availability of such courses and the timely completion of their continuing education obligations by the August 31, 2020 deadline for licensure renewal. The in–person attendance requirement under Rule 61G4–18.004 (3) at approved continuing education courses in the current COVID–19 Pandemic has become a barrier to licensure renewal for the construction industry profession because of the scarcity of such courses and the threat of exposure to COVID–19, if these courses are attended in person. This rule revision to allow the courses to be presented in a webinar format on an expedited basis will avoid possible risk of non–licensure renewal by many construction industry professionals and ensure the continued availability of construction services to the public. This revision to allow interactive distance learning options is essential during this healthcare emergency.

Accordingly, the Board by emergency rule, for construction professionals seeking certificate and registration licensure renewal by the August 31, 2020 biennium immediately now permits attendance by interactive distance learning methods at Board–approved continuing education courses that were authorized solely for in person attendance and waives the requirement for these providers to seek separate approval to teach those courses. The Board finds that this not only assists timely licensure renewal, despite the barriers to doing so caused by the COVID–19 pandemic, it will also help construction professionals continue providing their construction services to the public. The Board finds that these actions are a measured regulatory approach that also helps to mitigate the threat of exposure to COVID–19 by construction professionals who are required to complete continuing education to maintain licensure renewal.

REASON FOR CONCLUDING THAT THE PROCEDURE IS FAIR UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES: Given the recently declared emergency in the State of Florida, the recent guidance from the CDC, the social distancing guidelines which will be in effect through at least June 30, 2020, and the risk of impeding licensure renewal and the availability of construction services to Florida citizens during and after the current declared emergency, the Board finds that an immediate danger to the public health, safety, or welfare necessitates immediate action. Notice of this emergency rule meeting was published in the Florida Administrative Register on May 29, 2020.

SUMMARY: The proposed emergency rule immediately permits attendance by interactive distance learning methods at Board–approved continuing education courses that were authorized solely for in person attendance and waives the requirement for providers to seek separate approval to teach those courses prior to doing so.

THE PERSON TO BE CONTACTED REGARDING THE EMERGENCY RULE IS: Daniel Biggins, Esq. Executive Director, Construction Industry Licensing Board, 2601 Blair Stone Road, Tallahassee, Florida 32399–1039.

THE FULL TEXT OF THE EMERGENCY RULE IS:

61G4ER20–6 (61G4–18.004) Approval of Continuing Education Courses.

(1) Through (2) No Change.

(3) Notwithstanding the in–person attendance requirement specified in Rule 61G4–18.004(3), registered course providers of approved courses in a classroom setting may now provide these same courses by interactive distance learning methods without separately applying to do so, and shall comply with all applicable statutes and Board rules in doing so. The application shall include the total number of classroom or interactive distance learning hours, the course syllabus, a detailed outline of the
contents of the course, the name and qualifications of all instructors known at the time of the application and the minimum qualifications of any instructors not known at the time of the application. Course instruction time shall be separated into intervals of no more than twenty-five (25) minutes. Each interval shall contain a descriptive outline stating the subject matter in such detail so as to describe the content of the interval. In addition, a course provider making an application to offer interactive distance learning must submit documents indicating the following:

(a) The means by which the course will demonstrate interactivity between the student and course provider within a maximum of 24 hours, which promotes student involvement, and demonstrates that the course measures learning and addresses comprehension of content at regular intervals.

(b) The means by which the course provider is able to monitor student enrollment, participation and course completion.

(c) The means by which the course provider will be able to satisfactorily demonstrate that stated course hours are consistent with the actual hours spent by each student to complete the course.

(d) The means by which the provider will assure qualified instructor(s) will be available to answer questions and provide students with necessary support during the duration of the course.

(e) That the student will be required to complete a statement at the beginning and end of the course that indicates that he/she personally completed each module/session of instruction.

(f) The means by which the course provider will verify student identification.

(4) Rule 61G4–18.004(3) F.A.C., is hereby superseded by the present rule Emergency Rule 61G4ER20–6 (4) Through (11) Renumbered as (5) Through (12).


This rule takes effect upon being filed with the Department of State unless a later time and date is specified in the rule.

Effective Date: June 17, 2020

OSHA Adopts Revised Enforcement Policies For Coronavirus

The U.S. Department of Labor’s Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has adopted revised policies for enforcing OSHA’s requirements with respect to coronavirus as economies reopen in states throughout the country.

Throughout the course of the pandemic, understanding about the transmission and prevention of infection has improved. The government and the private sector have taken rapid and evolving measures to slow the virus’s spread, protect employees, and adapt to new ways of doing business.

Now, as states begin reopening their economies, OSHA has issued two revised enforcement policies to ensure employers are taking action to protect their employees.

First, OSHA is increasing in–person inspections at all types of workplaces. The new enforcement guidance reflects changing circumstances in which many non–critical businesses have begun to reopen in areas of lower community spread. The risk of transmission is lower in specific categories of workplaces, and personal protective equipment potentially needed for inspections is more widely available. OSHA staff will continue to prioritize COVID–19 inspections, and will utilize all enforcement tools as OSHA has historically done.

Second, OSHA is revising its previous enforcement policy for recording cases of coronavirus. Under OSHA’s recordkeeping requirements, coronavirus is a recordable illness, and employers are responsible for recording cases of the coronavirus, if the case:

- Is confirmed as a coronavirus illness;
- Is work–related as defined by 29 CFR 1904.5; and
- Involves one or more of the general recording criteria in 29 CFR 1904.7, such as medical treatment beyond first aid or days away from work.
Under the new policy recently issued, OSHA will enforce the recordkeeping requirements of 29 CFR 1904 for employee coronavirus illnesses for all employers. Given the nature of the disease and community spread, however, in many instances it remains difficult to determine whether a coronavirus illness is work–related, especially when an employee has experienced potential exposure both in and out of the workplace. OSHA’s guidance emphasizes that employers must make reasonable efforts, based on the evidence available to the employer, to ascertain whether a particular case of coronavirus is work–related.

Recording a coronavirus illness does not mean that the employer has violated any OSHA standard. Following existing regulations, employers with 10 or fewer employees and certain employers in low hazard industries have no recording obligations; they need only report work–related coronavirus illnesses that result in a fatality or an employee’s in–patient hospitalization, amputation, or loss of an eye.[1]

For further information and resources about the coronavirus disease, please visit OSHA’s coronavirus webpage.

Under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, employers are responsible for providing safe and healthful workplaces for their employees. OSHA’s role is to help ensure these conditions for America’s working men and women by setting and enforcing standards, and providing training, education and assistance. For more information, visit www.osha.gov.

The mission of the Department of Labor is to foster, promote and develop the welfare of the wage earners, job seekers and retirees of the United States; improve working conditions; advance opportunities for profitable employment; and assure work–related benefits and rights.

As More Businesses Reopen, Worker Safety and Health Remains OSHA Priority

As more workplaces begin to reopen, the U.S. Department of Labor’s Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) is reminding employers that worker safety remains a priority amid both coronavirus and common workplace hazards.

In all phases of reopening, employers need to plan for potential hazards related to the coronavirus, as well as those stemming from routine workplace processes. Employers should be aware that the pandemic might increase employee stress, fatigue and distractions and should consider these factors in planning their employees’ return to work to ensure operations resume in a safe and healthful manner. Employers should also carefully plan before attempting to increase production or tasks to make up for downtime to avoid exposing employees to additional safety and health hazards.

As part of their reopening plans, OSHA recommends employers provide workers with “refreshers” on safety and health training and address maintenance issues they may have deferred during a shutdown. Employers should also revisit and update standard operating procedures and remember that exposures to hazards may increase during shutdown and start–up periods. It is important for employers to review and address process safety issues – including stagnant or expired chemicals – as part of their reopening effort. Employers also should remember that Section 11(c) of the Occupational Safety and Health Act, 29 U.S.C. 660(c), prohibits employers from retaliating against workers for raising concerns about safety and health conditions.

OSHA is providing coronavirus–related guidance to help employers develop policies and procedures that address the following issues:

- **Workplace flexibilities**;
- **Engineering and administrative controls, safe work practices, and personal protective equipment**;
- **Training workers on the signs, symptoms and risk factors associated with the coronavirus**;
- **Basic hygiene and housekeeping practices**;
- **Social distancing practices**;
- **Identifying and isolating sick workers**;
- **Return to work after worker illness or exposure**; and
- **Anti-retaliation practices**.

OSHA’s guidance for employers also includes
frequently asked questions related to coronavirus in the workplace such as worksite testing, temperature checks and health screenings, and the need for personal protective equipment.

This guidance is intended to accompany the U.S. Department of Labor and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ previously developed Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for COVID–19 and the White House Guidelines for Opening up America Again. Existing OSHA standards that apply to protecting workers from infection remain in place as employers and workers return to work.

Visit OSHA’s coronavirus webpage frequently for updates. For further information about the coronavirus, please visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, employers are responsible for providing safe and healthful workplaces for their employees. OSHA’s role is to help ensure these conditions for America’s working men and women by setting and enforcing standards, and providing training, education and assistance. For more information, visit www.osha.gov.

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OSHA Issues Frequently Asked Questions and Answers About Face Coverings, Surgical Masks and Respirators in the Workplace

The U.S. Department of Labor’s Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has published a series of frequently asked questions and answers regarding the use of masks in the workplace.

“As our economy reopens for business, millions of Americans will be wearing masks in their workplace for the first time,” said Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Occupational Safety and Health Loren Sweatt. “OSHA is ready to help workers and employers understand how to properly use masks so they can stay safe and healthy in the workplace.”

The new guidance outlines the differences between cloth face coverings, surgical masks and respirators. It further reminds employers not to use surgical masks or cloth face coverings when respirators are needed. In addition, the guidance notes the need for social distancing measures, even when workers are wearing cloth face coverings, and recommends following the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s guidance on washing face coverings.

These frequently asked questions and answers mark the latest guidance from OSHA addressing protective measures for workplaces during the coronavirus pandemic. Previously, OSHA published numerous guidance documents for workers and employers, available at https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/covid–19/, including five guidance documents aimed at expanding the availability of respirators.

For further information and resources about the coronavirus disease, please visit OSHA’s coronavirus webpage.

Under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, employers are responsible for providing safe and healthful workplaces for their employees. OSHA’s role is to help ensure these conditions for America’s working men and women by setting and enforcing standards, and providing training, education and assistance. For more information, visit www.osha.gov.

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U.S. Department of Labor Announces Online Tool to Help Workers Determine Eligibility for Paid Sick Leave Due to Coronavirus

The U.S. Department of Labor today launched an interactive online tool to help workers determine if they qualify for paid sick leave or extended family and medical leave to cover time away from work for reasons related to the coronavirus.

The tool guides workers through a series of questions to help them determine if the paid leave provisions of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) apply to their employer. If the provisions do apply, the tool helps them learn whether they qualify for either paid sick leave or extended family and medical leave under that law.

The FFCRA requires certain employers to provide employees with up to two weeks of paid sick leave if they are unable to work or telework due to a federal, state or local quarantine or stay-at-home order. Employees are also eligible if a healthcare provider has advised them to self-quarantine for reasons related to the coronavirus or are seeking diagnosis for coronavirus symptoms. Paid sick leave may also be available to workers caring for someone subject to a quarantine order or self-quarantining based on a healthcare provider’s advice, or caring for a child whose school, place of care or child care provider is closed or unavailable due to the coronavirus. Up to 10 additional weeks of expanded family and medical leave is available for workers forced to miss work to care for their children because the pandemic has closed or made unavailable their school, place of care or child care provider.

“This new tool makes it simple for workers to find out if they may be eligible for paid sick leave or extended family and medical leave under the critical protections of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act,” said Wage and Hour Division Administrator Cheryl Stanton. “As America reopens, this leave provides a crucial lifeline for millions of workers who need time off to care for themselves or their families. We want to ensure that everyone who is eligible knows about these protections and how to use them.”

The FFCRA helps the U.S. combat the workplace effects of the coronavirus by giving tax credits to American businesses with fewer than 500 employees to reimburse them for the cost of providing paid sick leave and expanded family and medical leave as required by the law. Please visit WHD’s “Quick Benefits Tips” for information about how much leave workers may qualify to use and the wages employers must pay. The law enables employers to provide their workers with paid leave, while at the same time ensuring that workers are not forced to choose between their paychecks and the public health measures needed to combat the virus.

WHD continues to provide updated information on its website and through extensive outreach efforts to ensure that workers and employers have the information they need about the benefits and protections of this new law. The agency also provides additional information on common issues employers and employees face when responding to the coronavirus and its effects on wages and hours worked under the Fair Labor Standards Act and on job-protected leave under the Family and Medical Leave Act at https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/pandemic.

For more information about the laws enforced by the WHD, call 866–4US–WAGE, or visit www.dol.gov/agencies/whd.

WHD developed the plain-language tool in partnership with the Office of Compliance Initiatives (OCI). OCI is a cross-agency effort that complements the Department’s enforcement activities by strengthening and innovating compliance assistance outreach to provide workers and employers with access to information about their rights and responsibilities. Through Worker.gov and Employer.gov, OCI provides information about worker rights and employer responsibilities.

The mission of the Department of Labor is to foster, promote and develop the welfare of the wage earners, job seekers and retirees of the United States; improve working conditions; advance opportunities for profitable employment; and assure work-related benefits and rights.
U.S. Department of Labor Announces Final Rule to Expand Access to Bonuses for American Workers

The U.S. Department of Labor’s Wage and Hour Division (WHD) recently announced a final rule that allows employers to offer bonuses or other incentive-based pay to employees whose hours vary from week to week.

The rule revises the regulation for computing overtime compensation for salaried, non-exempt employees who work hours vary each week (i.e., a fluctuating workweek) under the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA). It also clarifies that bonuses, premium payments, commissions and hazard pay on top of fixed salaries are compatible with the fluctuating workweek method of compensation, and that employers must include supplemental payments when calculating the regular rate of pay as appropriate under the FLSA. The final rule includes examples and minor revisions to make the rule easier to understand.

“This final rule offers another example of how the U.S. Department of Labor is working to reduce unnecessary regulatory burdens in order to benefit American workers,” said U.S. Secretary of Labor Eugene Scalia. “Because of the clarity provided by this rule, employers will know they can pay workers’ bonuses in a broader range of circumstances. This rule comes at a time when millions of Americans are returning to work and will benefit from added flexibility in compensation.”

“For far too long, job creators have faced uncertainty regarding their ability to provide bonus pay for workers with fluctuating workweeks,” Wage and Hour Division Administrator Cheryl Stanton said. “This final rule will provide much needed clarity for job creators who are looking for new ways to better compensate their workers. As employers navigate the challenges of the coronavirus, the rule enhances flexibility to provide hazard pay, and to promote health and safety in the workplace through flexible work schedules that stagger start and end times and implement social distancing in the workplace.”

The Notice of Proposed Rulemaking was available for public comment for 30 days. The Department received approximately 36 comments on the proposal, all of which are available to the public at www.regulations.gov.

WHD’s mission is to promote and achieve compliance with labor standards to protect and enhance the welfare of America’s workforce. WHD enforces federal minimum wage, overtime pay, recordkeeping and child-labor requirements of the FLSA. WHD also enforces the Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act, the Employee Polygraph Protection Act, the Family and Medical Leave Act, wage garnishment provisions of the Consumer Credit Protection Act, and a number of employment standards and worker protections as provided in several immigration-related statutes. Additionally, WHD administers and enforces the prevailing wage requirements of the Davis–Bacon Act and the Service Contract Act and other statutes applicable to federal contracts for construction and for the provision of goods and services.

The mission of the Department of Labor is to foster, promote and develop the welfare of the wage earners, job seekers and retirees of the United States; improve working conditions; advance opportunities for profitable employment; and assure work–related benefits and rights.

Introducing the Partition Post Safety Shield From Morse Industries

Safety Shield Partition Post Sneeze Guards Provide Protection for Businesses to Maintain Social Distancing Procedures

Morse Industries, one of North America’s leading providers of partitions and safety shield sneeze guards, along with other aluminum, vinyl, and stainless steel products, is proud to announce its new partition post safety shield – providing an essential item of protection in the fight against disease.
“For businesses around North America, effective protection against the spread of germs and disease is critical for safe and productive operation,” Terry Morse, President of Morse Industries, said. “Our partition post safety shield product delivers a comprehensive and customizable solution businesses everywhere need to ensure both great service and the safety of their customers.”

Partition post safety shields – commonly known as “sneeze guards” – are a recommended form of protection against the spread of COVID–19, as detailed in the CDC’s official guidelines. With Morse’s partition post safety shield, establishments can easily install a customized solution to fit the needs of any space.

The partition post safety shield:

- Provides the ability to both pass money and small objects below the infill (if needed) or to mount with the infill flush to the surface, so no gap remains
- Is made of high-quality extruded aluminum components
- Works with a variety of 1/4” thick infill material
- Requires no fabrication of the infill material

With the partition post safety shield, businesses everywhere can provide their customers the peace of mind – and the protection – they need to shop, dine and transact securely again. These safety shields are ideal for a wide range of establishments — from “sneeze guard” installations to front counters and anything in between.

Interested customers can visit www.morseindustries.com or call a representative at 1–800–325–7513 for more details.

ABOUT MORSE INDUSTRIES
Morse Industries, Inc. provides aluminum, vinyl, and stainless steel products in the United States, Canada, and abroad. It distributes architectural metals, such as glass railing hardware, hand railing, channels/angles/flat bars, slide track systems, trims, and extrusions. Morse also offers fixture products, including safety shields, price tag moldings, slide track systems, and more. The company also provides marine products, including rub rails, trims and hardware, tubing/canvas hardware, raling products, and hinges. Since being acquired by M–D Building Products in 2018, Morse now has aluminum and vinyl extrusion mills as well as full–service fabrication facilities and distribution centers throughout the United States.

For more information on Morse Industries, visit www.morseindustries.com.

New Hires at Morse Industries
Morse Industries is pleased to announce the following new hires:

- Santiago Jaramillo, customer service representative. Morse Industries continues to expand its team of customer service experts that are the pillar of its excellent service.

  With over 10 years of sales experience on his resume, Santiago has already begun to build relationships with his new clients, achieving peak levels of customer satisfaction through great communication and product knowledge. Director of Business Development, Jeremy Nolan, said, “Santiago has learned our products and processes at an impressive pace. His intelligence, team–oriented attitude and desire to please the customers is apparent in everything he does.”

- Gary Dalie, customer service representative. Morse Industries continues to expand its customer service group to cultivate emphasis on customer experience and focus on client needs to provide the highest quality products in the industry.

  With over 10 years of excellent customer communication in various demanding customer relations roles, Gary has impressed his peers and supervisors alike. When speaking about Gary, his colleague Santiago Jaramillo stated “Gary is a great addition to the team, his dedication to customer satisfaction is remarkable as well as his work ethic”. With the ability to work in a fast paced environment and inherent drive to take on his goals, Gary has already proven that he is ready to meet any challenge. He relocated to Washington 3 years ago, and is enjoying the new scenery with his wife of 20 years and their 11 year old son.

- Katie DeVore, customer service representative. With this addition to the team, Morse Industries continues to grow its client support and emphasis on developing customer relationships.

  Katie has a comprehensive background in sales, with over 10 years of experience involving various administrative roles,
guided by her strong interpersonal skills. With a focus on customer needs, attention to detail, and dedication to her goals, Katie has already demonstrated she is a valuable asset. Her colleague, Toni Tannich, spoke about Katie stating, “Katie is so fun and has really caught on quickly– we are so happy to have her on our team”. Katie balances out her hard work in the office with an impressive resume of creative hobbies, including poetry, painting, and quilting when she is at home with her three young boys.

- Patrick Martin, one of the team’s newest customer service representatives. Now with over 100 years of combined experience, Morse Industries continues to enrich the team’s collective customer service expertise. This diverse group of professionals build upon each other to propagate the outstanding customer service they provide.

Patrick alone possesses more than 24 years of customer service, including both inside and outside sales, eliciting his wide industry knowledge base. When speaking about Patrick, his colleague Daniel Morales, noted, “Patrick is no stranger to hard work, having owned his own businesses. He brings unique experience and insight to the table”. Clients appreciate Patrick’s dedication to keeping them up to date and persistence in working with his team to complete any task. When he’s not hard at work, Patrick can be found relaxing with his son, enjoying a Clemson Tiger game.

- Daniel Morales, customer service representative. Morse Industries is not only dedicated to delivering customers quality products, the company strives to supply its most valuable asset, the highly trained team of sales professionals ready to assist with any customer needs.

With a resume full of entrepreneurship and management, Daniel was an easy choice as an addition to Morse Industries. His personal integrity, industry knowledge, and respectful attitude allow him effortlessly forge relationships with clients. Daniel’s office partner Patrick Martin expressed, “He is a true customer-service-oriented team player, who is genuinely concerned for everyone’s well-being.” After working for one of the largest wireless tech companies in the world, Daniel transitioned into sales to have more time with his family. His personality truly shines when he is performing, including when singing at his local church.

- Cecil Boyd, the newest Western Territory Sales Manager. Morse is not only dedicated to delivering customers quality products, but is focused on building relationships and bringing value to each customer’s experience through the talented professionals that make up the team.

Business Development Director, Jeremy Nolan, expressed about Cecil “We’re very excited to see Cecil apply his extensive building industry experience as an expert consultative salesperson here at Morse”. With over 20 years of outstanding outside sales and business development experience, Cecil Boyd has developed his strong communication skills, the mindset to continue learning, and adaptability to ensure every customer need is met. In his free time Cecil can be found with his sense of adventure driving him and his wife across the Pacific Northwest into the backwoods, relaxing out on the golf course, or volunteering for multiple different organizations during the holidays. Morse is happy to welcome such a big-hearted individual to the company.

**Certified Contractor License Renewal Reminder**

Just a reminder that the Certified Contractor licenses issued by the Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR) are up for renewal on August 31, 2020.

Current law requires licenseholders to obtain 14 hours of continuing education with at least one hour in workplace safety, one hour in workers’ compensation, one hour in business practices, one hour in the advance building code module, one hour in laws and rules (Chapter 489) and one hour in wind mitigation (this requirement only affects general, residential, building, roofing and glass and glazing contractors).

**CILB Update**

**ADVERTISING: Signs to Social Media, License Numbers Required!**

Advertising is important to Florida contractors and can make the difference between a great business year and just making ends meet. Florida contractors have many new ways of promoting their businesses with
the increased use of internet websites and the advent of social media technologies. As advertising evolves, it is important for Florida contractors to remember that their license number must be included in all offers of service, bids, business proposals, contracts or advertisements, regardless of the medium. Pursuant to Rule 61G4–12.011, F.A.C., advertisements include any electronic media including Internet sites. So please remember to include your license number on your websites, social media pages and other advertisements.

If you have any questions regarding advertising requirements please review the Construction Industry Licensing Board’s FAQs or you may contact the DBPR’s Customer Contact Center at (850) 487–1395.

COVID–19 Q&A

Q: What are the key differences between cloth face coverings, surgical masks, and respirators?

Q: Should workers wear a cloth face covering while at work, in accordance with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommendation for all people to do so when in public?

Q: If workers wear cloth face coverings, do employers still need to ensure social distancing measures in the workplace?

Q: If I wear a reusable cloth face covering, how should I keep it clean?

Q: Are surgical masks or cloth face coverings acceptable respiratory protection in the construction industry, when respirators would be needed but are not available because of the COVID–19 pandemic?

A: Please click here for all the answers.

For additional information pertaining to COVID–19, here are a few links:

U.S. Department of Labor: https://www.dol.gov/coronavirus
OSHA: https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/covid–19/
Statewide Construction Industry Commitment:  
Pledge to Reduce the Spread of the 
Coronavirus (COVID-19) on Construction Sites

Whereas, the Construction Industry continues to be acknowledged as an essential business throughout the State of Florida, supporting infrastructure, government, medical and residential needs; and

Whereas, the Construction Industry is a unique industry in that workspaces are closed to the public, often with easily accessible fresh air and or outdoor jobsites; and

Whereas, the Construction Industry already works to ensure the highest level of health and safety standards on their jobsites; and

Whereas, the Construction Industry cares for the health and safety of their workers and for the families and loved ones they go home to; and

Whereas, the Construction Industry is heavily regulated by Federal, State and Local Governments as to what can and cannot take place on a jobsite, we the undersigned Florida Construction Associations, hereby commit to working with our members, throughout the State of Florida, to implement the following additional practices at a minimum, in an effort to eliminate the spread of the Coronavirus:

Personal Responsibilities
- Workers with CDC designated symptoms such as fever, cough, shortness of breath, etc. are to stay home and not report to work. Workers exhibiting these symptoms are to be sent home immediately

Social Distancing
- All workers are to maintain 6’ of separation
- No gatherings of more than 10 people when required to meet even when conducted outside.
- For stand-down meetings, disseminate information electronically and have each trade conduct the training on their own in groups not to exceed 10
- Common water coolers are to be discouraged
- Prop doors open when safe to do so
- Do not stack trades in the same space

Handwashing
- Wash stations with soap are to be installed/maintained at building entrances and food truck areas as well other strategic areas near offices, trailers, and jobsite egress areas with hot water when possible
- Encourage and direct employees to wash hands at breaks and as frequently as possible.
- Gloves are required for all trash removal

Hoists and Elevators
- Take steps to limit employees on buck-hoists and on elevators to maintain maximum distance
- Hoist/Elevator operators are to be provided and wear gloves
- Hoists/Elevators are to be sanitized daily

Lunch Trucks
- Encourage employees to bring their own lunch and consider eliminating truck where possible
- Ensure all lunch trucks are utilizing servers for bulk food trays, no self-serve from food trays
- Food items are to be individually wrapped when possible
- Physical distancing protocol shall be mandated during lunch and breaks
Communication
- Signage barring employees with COVID-19 symptoms from entering the worksite, sharing CDC recommendations that encourage staying home when sick, cough and sneeze etiquette, and hand hygiene are to be placed at the entrance to of the workplace and in other prominent areas.

*NOTE – This language was agreed to by the undersigned parties and cannot be altered, amended, or changed in any fashion.
Florida Construction Industry Commends and Thanks City and County Building Officials for their Efforts During the COVID-19 Response

The Florida Construction Industry commends Florida’s City and County Building Officials for taking proactive steps to protect their staff and the public from the spread of COVID-19 while facilitating the economic stability of the state’s construction industry.

The vast majority of Florida’s City and County Building Officials continue to accept building plans and permit applications electronically as well as using technology to conduct building plan reviews and inspections, which allows for adherence to social distancing guidelines.

The continuity of building plan submittal and review and building inspections is important to the economic stability of the State of Florida during the State’s COVID-19 response. Continuing to provide these crucial functions will aid in a swift economic recovery for all Floridians after the COVID-19 threat has passed.

The Florida Construction Industry extends its deepest gratitude to Florida’s City and County Building Officials and to their dedicated staff.