

State Tax Commission October 18, 2010 Tip
Topic: Real Estate Appraiser Credit



Dear STaCy,

Help. I have recently heard through the grapevine that the State Tax Commission's (STC) Home Study courses no longer qualify for Real Estate Appraiser pre-licensure and continuing education. And in fact, credit already issued to appraisers for these courses are being removed and extends retroactively back to the original August 2009 date the Department of Energy, Labor and Economic Growth (DELEG) approved them. Can you verify if this is true and help me understand what I need to do now?

Thanks,
Rea Les Tate

Dear Ms. Tate,

DELEG sent the STC initial notification on October 7, 2010 stating these classes were no longer approved for appraiser credit. The clarifying information below was provided to the STC on October 13, 2010.

The Appraiser occupation is regulated by federal laws and rules governing the licensure, education and renewal of all Real Estate Appraisers. A part of those laws and rules require the Appraisal Subcommittee to audit our records every two years. During that audit they send us a list of sponsors and courses they want to review. If there are problems with any of those records, they tell us how we have to correct the situation.

In this case, the home study courses were reviewed and found that they met the laws regarding who can offer approved educational courses, that being Section 339.2617(2)(c) A state or federal agency or commission.

The area our office missed when reviewing the courses as acceptable for distance education was under "Rule 339.23309(2)(b) The course meets 1 of the following criteria: (i) The course has been presented by an accredited college or university (through the commission on colleges or a regional accreditation association) that offers distance education programs in other disciplines" or "(ii) The course has received approval of the international distance education certification center (IDECC) for the course design and delivery mechanism . . ."

When the department was audited last month, the representatives from the Appraisal Subcommittee determined that these courses did not meet qualifying standards and notified us that anyone who used these courses would have to take additional coursework to substitute for the one being revoked now. In addition to those who took the courses for continuing education, the subcommittee indicated that anyone who used or will try to use the courses for upgrades also have to be notified.

The Appraisal Subcommittee notified us that anyone failing to take additional education will lose their ability to handle any federally funded appraisal transactions. We are sincerely sorry for the inconvenient this causes licensees, but we have to following the subcommittee's ruling.

If anyone you any questions regarding this matter, please refer them to Peggy Waugh at 517-241-9226 or Sue Sherman at 517-241-8273 at DELEG.

Please direct questions regarding this matter to DELEG.

Sincerely,
STaCy