



Commonwealth of Kentucky Public Protection Cabinet

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Department of Housing, Buildings, and Construction Meets Increased Demand for Services in FY 2017

Department focused on improving efficiency in inspections, permits, licensing

Frankfort, Ky. (Sept. 12, 2017) – The Department of Housing, Buildings, and Construction (HBC) increased the number of inspections, plan reviews, permits, licenses, and certifications provided to Kentuckians during fiscal year 2017.

HBC conducted 214,276 inspections from July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017, nearly 11,000 more than in the previous fiscal year. HBC inspects heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems, electrical, plumbing, elevators, boilers, sprinklers, and other systems in public buildings to ensure that they adhere to current building codes.

The department also provided over 66,000 permits statewide, a 5 percent increase from the previous year, for new and existing construction. HBC attributes the uptick to a surge in economic development projects across the state, which correspond with new construction opportunities. To meet the demand, HBC focused on improving customer service by developing more efficient and innovative service delivery methods, including cross training inspectors to improve efficiencies and providing electronic smart devices, rather than paper, for inspection reports.

“The construction industry is experiencing widespread growth,” said HBC Deputy Commissioner Tim House. “It’s important for the department to provide services that remove barriers in the industry and encourage Kentuckians to participate as workers, builders, and developers.”

The department also experienced a near 7 percent increase in the number of requested plan reviews, which are required by the Division of Building Codes Enforcement to ensure that plans comply with applicable construction standards. Despite the influx, the department dramatically reduced the average plan review turnaround time from 60 days in early 2016 to only five days in 2017.

“The strategy the department has implemented, and continues to execute, is delivering results we thought were unobtainable,” said Richard Vincent, Executive Vice President of the Associated General Contractors of Kentucky. “Despite increased demand, plan review times have gone from months to less than a week. The efficiencies the department has created translate into savings and increased productivity for our members and the clients they serve.”

The department issued over 42,000 licenses and certifications during fiscal year 2017 to the state’s building and construction professionals, including plumbers, HVAC specialists, elevator contractors, mechanics, electrical inspectors, underground storage tank installers, local building inspectors, and continuing education providers.

HBC is currently in the process of implementing online licensing renewal for the thousands of Kentuckians that seek licensure and certifications from the department. The department is also testing online plan review, which would further expedite the plan review process and create cost savings for both the industry and the department by decreasing paper and postage costs.

The following chart shows the number of inspections, plan reviews, permits, licenses, and certifications issued by the department in fiscal years 2016 and 2017.

HBC Services	7/1/15-6/30/16	7/1/16-6/30/17
Inspections	202,871	214,276
Plan Reviews	6,612	7,055
Permits Issued	63,005	66,271
Licenses Issued	39,983	40,921
Certifications	1,794	1,820

For additional information on the Department of Housing, Buildings and Construction, visit <http://dhbc.ky.gov/Pages/default.aspx>.

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