BACKGROUND

The Pennsylvania Uniform Construction Code requires the certification or registration of inspectors enforcing construction requirements. Often this requirement can be associated directly with the sub-code with which an inspector works. Generally speaking, inspections for Building Code compliance are construction related inspections while, generally, inspections for Property Maintenance Code compliance are not. However, a code may be a construction code while also being a maintenance code. The Philadelphia Fire Code is such a code; in a large part construction requirements and in a large part maintenance requirements. Accordingly inspectors enforcing the Fire Code may or may not be required to obtain certification depending on their role.

An interpretation of Uniform Construction Code requirements from the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry’s Uniform Construction Code Program confirmed this, saying if the inspectors are enforcing construction requirements, they must be UCC certified or registered but if they are enforcing the maintenance of fire safety requirements, they may continue to perform this work without UCC certification or registration.

POLICY

L&I Inspectors in job classifications responsible for enforcing the maintenance aspects of the Fire Code, for example C&I and Housing Inspectors, are not required to obtain UCC Certification.