



Illinois Chapter

MERIT UPDATE

APRIL 20, 2009

GUIDANCE ISSUED ON BUY AMERICAN PROVISIONS IN STIMULUS PACKAGE

THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET APRIL 3 ISSUED AN INTERIM FINAL GUIDANCE DOCUMENT ON THE BUY AMERICAN PROVISIONS CONTAINED IN THE \$787 BILLION AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT OF 2009 (H.R. 1). SECTION 1605 OF THE RECOVERY ACT REQUIRES ALL IRON, STEEL AND MANUFACTURED GOODS USED IN THE CONSTRUCTION, ALTERATION, MAINTENANCE OR REPAIR OF PUBLIC BUILDINGS OR PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS TO BE PRODUCED IN THE UNITED STATES. IN ADDITION, THIS PROHIBITION MUST BE APPLIED IN A MANNER CONSISTENT WITH U.S. OBLIGATIONS UNDER INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS. THE LAW SPECIFIES ONLY THREE CIRCUMSTANCES THAT WOULD TRIGGER A WAIVER FOR THE BUY AMERICAN PROVISION: WHEN IRON, STEEL OR RELEVANT MANUFACTURED GOODS ARE NOT PRODUCED IN THE U.S. IN SUFFICIENT AND REASONABLE QUANTITIES OR QUALITY; WHEN USE OF U.S. IRON, STEEL OR MANUFACTURED GOODS WOULD INCREASE THE OVERALL COST OF THE PROJECT BY MORE THAN 25 PERCENT; OR WHEN APPLYING THE DOMESTIC PREFERENCE WOULD BE INCONSISTENT WITH THE PUBLIC INTEREST.

THE GUIDANCE DOCUMENT OFFERS DEFINITIONS OF MANUFACTURED GOODS, STEEL AND WHAT CONSTITUTES A PUBLIC BUILDING OR PUBLIC WORK, AMONG OTHER CLARIFICATIONS. IN ADDITION, THE DOCUMENT ADVISES CONTRACTORS ON THE FINANCIAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS AND WHISTLEBLOWER PROVISIONS CONTAINED IN THE RECOVERY ACT. THE RECOVERY ACT INCLUDES \$27.5 BILLION FOR HIGHWAY AND BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION AND REPAIR; \$8.4 BILLION FOR MASS TRANSIT; \$9.3 BILLION FOR HIGH-SPEED RAILWAYS AND AMTRAK; AND \$20 BILLION FOR "GREEN" JOBS TO MAKE WIND TURBINES, SOLAR PANELS AND IMPROVE ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN SCHOOLS AND FEDERAL BUILDINGS, ALL OF WHICH WOULD BE SUBJECT TO THE BUY AMERICAN PROVISION.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT SEAN THURMAN AT ABC, THURMAN@ABC.ORG
TO READ THE GUIDANCE DOCUMENT, VISIT [HTTP://WWW.WHITEHOUSE.GOV/OMB/ASSETS/MEMORANDA_FY2009/M09-15.PDF](http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/assets/memoranda_fy2009/m09-15.pdf)

SOURCE: [ABC NEWSLINE](#)

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PRICES FOR CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS DIP AGAIN

CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS PRICES FELL FOR THE SIXTH CONSECUTIVE MONTH, SLIPPING 0.6 PERCENT IN MARCH, ACCORDING TO THE APRIL 14 PRODUCER PRICE INDEX (PPI) REPORT BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR. CONSTRUCTION INPUT PRICES HAVE FALLEN 1.9 PERCENT SINCE LAST YEAR. "CONSTRUCTION INPUT PRICES HAVE NOW SLIPPED INTO NEGATIVE TERRITORY ON A YEAR-OVER-YEAR BASIS," SAID ABC CHIEF ECONOMIST ANIRBAN BASU. "THIS IS SIGNIFICANT BECAUSE IT PROVIDES POTENTIAL RELIEF TO PROFIT MARGINS THAT CONTINUE TO BE SQUEEZED BY THE WEAK ECONOMY AND FIERCE PRICING COMPETITION BETWEEN FIRMS. FOR THE FIRST TIME IN RECENT MEMORY, BIDS ON MANY PUBLICLY FINANCED PROJECTS ARE COMING IN BELOW BUDGETARY EXPECTATIONS, A REFLECTION OF RETREATING PRODUCER PRICES, AS MANY FIRMS SEARCH FOR REVENUES IN THE HOPE TO REBUILD THEIR CONSTRUCTION BACKLOGS." PRICES FOR FABRICATED STRUCTURAL METAL PRODUCTS CONTINUE TO DROP – DOWN 0.8 PERCENT COMPARED TO FEBRUARY – BUT ARE STILL 4.6 PERCENT HIGHER THAN A YEAR AGO. PRICES FOR PLUMBING FIXTURES AND FITTINGS INCHED UP 0.3 PERCENT IN MARCH AND ARE UP 1.8 PERCENT FROM A YEAR AGO. NONFERROUS WIRE AND CABLE PRICES INCREASED FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE JULY 2008, RISING 1.1 PERCENT FROM LAST MONTH, BUT REMAIN 23.5 PERCENT BELOW MARCH 2008.

SOFTWOOD LUMBER PRICES CONTINUE TO TUMBLE, DOWN 3.5 PERCENT COMPARED TO FEBRUARY AND DOWN 11.3 PERCENT ON A YEAR-OVER-YEAR BASIS. PRICES FOR ASPHALT FELTS AND COATINGS CLIMBED 4.4 PERCENT FROM FEBRUARY AND ARE 60.3 PERCENT HIGHER THAN MARCH 2008. AFTER POSTING AN 8.5 PERCENT DECREASE COMPARED TO FEBRUARY, CRUDE ENERGY PRICES ROSE 1.6 PERCENT IN MARCH DUE TO A 30 PERCENT INCREASE IN CRUDE PETROLEUM PRICES.

"THE IMPLICATION FROM TODAY'S DATA IS THAT THE RECESSION REMAINS ONGOING AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE REFLECTED IN PRODUCER PRICES IN THE MONTHS AHEAD," BASU NOTED. "TO MANY OBSERVERS, IT MAY BE SURPRISING THAT IT REQUIRED SIXTEEN MONTHS OF RECESSION TO BRING CONSTRUCTION INPUT PRICES DOWN ON A YEAR-OVER-YEAR BASIS. HOWEVER, THIS DECLINE IN PRICES IS CONSISTENT WITH WIDELY ACCEPTED THEORIES OF PRICE BEHAVIOR." OVERALL, THE NATION'S WHOLESALE PRICES FELL 1.2 PERCENT IN MARCH. THIS IS THE LARGEST YEAR-OVER-YEAR DECLINE SINCE 1950.

SOURCE: [ABC NEWSLINE](#)

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ELK GROVE VILLAGE, IL
60007
847-709-2960
847-709-2970 FAX

SPRINGFIELD OFFICE
526 E. ALLEN
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62703
217-523-4692
217-523-4752 FAX

LOBBY DAY

ABCIL IS HOSTING A LOBBY DAY AT THE CAPITAL ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 2009. ROB AND ALICIA WILL SCHEDULE APPOINTMENTS FOR GUESTS TO MEET WITH AS MANY LEGISLATORS IN LEADERSHIP POSITIONS AND OTHER KEY LEGISLATORS IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AS POSSIBLE PLEASE PLAN TO MEET AT THE ABCIL (SPRINGFIELD) OFFICE ON THE 22ND AT 8:30 AM FOR A LIGHT BREAKFAST, A BRIEFING OF THE DAY'S AGENDA, AND TO REVIEW TALKING POINTS . THE GROUP WILL DEPART FOR THE CAPITAL AROUND 10:00 AM . AT APPROXIMATELY 12:00 WE WILL MEET AT BENNIGAN'S RESTAURANT FOR LUNCH AND DISCUSSION.

PLEASE CONFIRM YOUR ATTENDANCE WITH KARI OR ALICIA AT 217-523-4692 BY APRIL 17TH SO WE CAN UTILIZE OUR TIME AT THE CAPITAL AS EFFICIENTLY AS POSSIBLE!

IN THE MEANTIME, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATORS IN THEIR DISTRICT OFFICES TO DISCUSS THE NEGATIVE IMPACT THAT SB 43 (PREVAILING WAGE EXPANSION INTO TIF DISTRICTS AND EZ'S) WILL HAVE ON BUSINESS. TO FIND OUT THE CONTACT INFORMATION FOR YOUR LEGISLATOR VISIT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY'S WEBSITE AT WWW.ILGA.GOV OR CALL THE ABCIL OFFICE.

THANK YOU AGAIN FOR YOUR ACTIVE ROLE IN PROTECTING THE MERIT SHOP PHILOSOPHY. WE LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU SOON AND TO A SUCCESSFUL DAY AT THE CAPITAL ON THE 22ND!

**2009-2010
DIRECTORY**

PROMOTE YOUR BUSINESS IN THE ONLY MERIT SHOP TRADE DIRECTORY IN ILLINOIS!

INCREASE YOUR VISIBILITY TO NEW BUSINESS PROSPECTS.

DON'T LET YOUR CHANCE AT BUILDING MORE BUSINESS PASS YOU BY, ADVERTISE TODAY!

TO ADVERTISE PLEASE RETURN YOUR CONTRACT BY

MAIL:
1541 ELMHURST RD.
ELK GROVE VILLAGE,
IL 60007

EMAIL:
LISA@ABCIL.ORG
OR
FAX: (847) 709-2970

APRIL AFTERHOURS REMINDER

What: Network with members, guests, and staff! *When:* Thursday, April 23, 2009 6:00 PM

Where: ABCIL Office - 1541 Elmhurst Rd. Elk Grove Village, IL 60007 *Cost:* \$25.00 Per Person (cost includes buffet dinner with your choice of beer, wine, soda, or

CALL THE ABCIL OFFICE TODAY TO REGISTER!

SAFETY ON A NEW JOB SITE

IT'S IMPORTANT FOR YOU TO REMEMBER THAT MOST ACCIDENTS ARE CAUSED BY CARELESSNESS OR THOUGHTLESSNESS--YOURS, OR SOMEONE ELSE ON THE JOB. WHEN AN ACCIDENT OCCURS, IT IS BECAUSE SOMEONE HAS FAILED TO FORESEE THAT IT COULD HAPPEN. IF YOU THINK AHEAD OF THE POSSIBLE HAZARDS LIKELY TO CONFRONT YOU, YOU CAN PLAN HOW TO AVOID THEM. WHEN STARTING WORK AT A NEW JOB SITE, SIZE UP THE SITUATION AND THINK OF WAYS TO PREVENT ACCIDENTS AND KEEP THE JOB SAFE.

TAKE TIME TO EVALUATE YOUR SHARE OF THE WORK AS SOON AS YOU ARRIVE ON THE SITE. ASK YOUR SUPERVISOR TO EXPLAIN ANY PHASE OF THE JOB THAT YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND. IF YOU ARE WORKING WITH A NEW EMPLOYEE, BE SURE TO EXPLAIN THE WORK TO BE DONE AND BE SURE THAT HE/SHE IS QUALIFIED TO DO THE WORK. THIS WILL ALLOW YOU TO WORK SAFELY WITH THIS PERSON AND PREVENT ACCIDENTS.

ALWAYS CHECK THAT YOU HAVE THE NECESSARY TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT REQUIRED TO DO THE JOB. USE TOOLS ONLY FOR THE PURPOSE THEY WERE DESIGNED FOR. REPAIR AND REPLACE IMMEDIATELY ANY DEFECTIVE TOOLS SUCH AS CHISELS WITH MUSHROOMED HEADS, WRENCHES WITH SPRUNG OR SPREAD JAWS, HAMMERS WITH SPLIT HANDLES, ETC. INSPECT THE WIRING OF ALL ELECTRICAL HAND TOOLS TO BE SURE THEY ARE EQUIPPED WITH A THREE-PRONG GROUNDED PLUG. POWER TOOLS WITH FRAYED OR BROKEN INSULATION ON WIRES SHOULD BE TAKEN OUT OF SERVICE UNTIL REPAIRED. WHEN USING LADDERS, MAKE SURE THAT THEY ARE IN GOOD SHAPE WITH NO BROKEN OR MISSING RUNGS. NEVER USE ALUMINUM LADDERS WHEN WORKING AROUND ELECTRICITY. WEAR HARD HATS AND OTHER PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT WHEN CALLED FOR ON THE SITE. WHEN USING SCAFFOLDING, MAKE SURE THAT IT IS PROPERLY SET UP WITH SCAFFOLD GRADE PLANKS AND GOOD, STABLE FOOTING. DO NOT WORK ON SCAFFOLDING THAT IS SHAKY OR MISSING COMPONENTS.

REMEMBER, A JOB IS ONLY AS SAFE AS EACH PERSON MAKES IT. IF EACH EMPLOYEE WILL TAKE NOTHING FOR GRANTED, CHECK ALL TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT FOR SAFE OPERATION, KEEP THE JOB NEAT AND FOLLOW COMPANY RULES, THEY WILL BE CONTRIBUTING TO THE SAFETY OF THEMSELVES AND THEIR FELLOW WORKERS.

SIZE UP THE SITUATION - PLAN AHEAD - WORK SAFELY !!!

SOURCE: TOOLBOXTOPICS.COM

DON'T MISS THESE EVENTS!

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ABCIL'S ANNUAL CHICAGOLAND GOLF OUTING



COST:

- ⇒ INDIVIDUAL GOLF & DINNER \$165
- ⇒ FOURSOME GOLF & DINNER \$600,
- ⇒ DINNER ONLY \$40

COST INCLUDES:

- ⇒ GREEN FEES
- ⇒ LUNCH
- ⇒ ALL BEVERAGES AND ITEMS FROM THE BEVERAGE CART/KEG HOLE
- ⇒ DINNER BUFFET
- ⇒ ONE HOUR OPEN BAR AT DINNER
- ⇒ DOOR PRIZES

AVAILABLE SPONSORSHIPS:

PRESENTING SPONSOR
\$3,000

GOLF THEMED DINNER
FAVOR SPONSOR: \$2,000

DINNER SPONSOR \$1,000

BEVERAGE CART
SPONSOR: \$600 EACH (2
AVAILABLE)

DOOR PRIZE SPONSOR \$500
EACH (4 AVAILABLE)

HOLE SPONSOR \$ 250
(18 AVAILABLE)

KEG HOLE SPONSOR \$200

CONTEST HOLE SPONSOR
\$100 PLUS GIFT FOR
CONTEST WINNER

GOODIE BAG
SPONSOR PRODUCT ONLY

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR
TO REGISTER/SPONSOR
PLEASE CONTACT LISA AT
LISA@ABCIL.ORG

APRIL 22, 2009

LOBBY DAY— MEET WITH LEGISLATORS TO DISCUSS ABCIL'S POSITION ON UPCOMING BILLS
ABCIL MEMBERS WILL MEET AT THE ABCIL (SPRINGFIELD) OFFICE (526 E. ALLEN, SPRINGFIELD, IL) AT 8:30 AM FOR BREAKFAST, A BRIEFING ON THE DAYS AGENDA, AND TALKING POINTS. GUESTS WILL DEPART FOR THE CAPITAL AT APPROXIMATELY 10:00 AM TO MEET WITH KEY LEGISLATORS. GUESTS AND ABCIL STAFF WILL MEET FOR LUNCH AT BENNIGAN'S (700 EAST ADAMS STREET) AT 12:00 TO DISCUSS THE DAYS EVENTS. THE COST IS \$15.00 PER PERSON. **FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT KARI AT KARI@ABCIL.ORG OR ALICIA AT ALICIA@ABCIL.ORG**

APRIL 23, 2009

ABCIL AFTERHOURS

WHY DO SOME COMPANIES FAIL IN TOUGH ECONOMIC TIMES WHILE OTHER STRIVE? JOIN US AT 6:00 PM AT THE ABCIL OFFICE, 1541 ELMHURST RD. ELK GROVE VILLAGE, IL TO FIND OUT! COST IS \$25.00 PER PERSON WHICH INCLUDES A BUFFET DINNER WITH YOUR CHOICE OF BEER, WINE, SODA, OR WATER AND A PRESENTATION BY JOHN MAUTNER, COSI INSTITUTE. JOHN WILL SHOW MEMBERS HOW TO:

- ⇒ BRAINSTORM AND DISCOVER HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS DOLLARS OF SALES AND PROFIT OPPORTUNITIES INSIDE THEIR COMPANIES
- ⇒ MAP OUT THE BUSINESS MODEL TO DRIVE UP EFFICIENCY AND PRODUCTIVITY
- ⇒ LAUNCH / IMPLEMENT SOLUTIONS FOR RAPID PROFITABILITY
- ⇒ LEARN TO INSTILL AND MANAGE THESE IMPROVEMENTS ON AN ONGOING BASIS

FOR MORE INFORMATION OF TO REGISTER PLEASE CONTACT LISA AT LISA@ABCIL.ORG

APRIL 24, 2009

TIME MANAGEMENT AND PERSONAL EFFECTIVENESS SKILLS

THIS FULL DAY WORKSHOP WILL IDENTIFY THE ESSENTIAL PERSONAL EFFECTIVENESS SKILLS NEEDED IN TODAY'S FAST PACED ENVIRONMENT, AND FOCUS ON APPLYING THESE KEY SKILLS UTILIZING THE PROCESS YOU CHOOSE (PAPER BASED, E-TOOLS, OR BOTH). **FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT WWW.C-KG.COM OR CONTACT DEAN CARROLL AT DCARROLL@C-KG.COM**

JULY 30, 2009

ABCIL ANNUAL CHICAGOLAND GOLF OUTING

THE EVENT WILL BE HELD AT PHEASANT RUN RESORT, 4051 EAST MAIN ST. SAINT. CHARLES, IL 60174. REGISTRATION WILL BEGIN AT 11:45 AM, LUNCH WILL BE SERVED AT 12:00 PM, FOLLOWED BY A 1:00 PM SHOTGUN START. DINNER WILL BEGIN AT 6:00 PM. (PLEASE SEE THE COST LIST IN THE LEFT MARGIN)

FOR MORE INFORMATION OF TO REGISTER PLEASE CONTACT LISA AT LISA@ABCIL.ORG