

Builder Education Requirements: Frequently Asked Questions

1. I am an experienced builder/contractor. Why do I have to complete courses to become registered with Tarion?

Tarion is committed to protecting new home buyers and continually improving the new home buying experience. The new requirements will help ensure a level of knowledge that will ultimately lead to more professionalism in the industry, a better home buyer experience, and fewer warranty claims.

2. I have considerable experience running a business as a renovator and new home builder/contractor. Do I qualify for exemptions or equivalencies for the 7 courses?

Tarion will not accept experience only as an exemption to the courses: education is a requirement.

You may apply for equivalency based on our published criteria by submitting an [Equivalency Request Form](#). If you propose to rely on prior formal education, you must show that your education meets the [minimum core learning requirements](#) along with your residential building experience. Also, you may choose not to take the course and only write the assessment/exam to prove your competency.

Equivalency Criteria

- Applicants who were Principals, Officers, or Directors for five or more years with a registered builder;
- Applicants who were employees engaged in the customer service, construction or business management of a registered builder, and who have five or more years in that capacity;
- Applicants who have obtained comparable core competencies with another Canadian Warranty Program;

- Applicants who have achieved a professional designation or obtained formal education in an area related to an area of competency;
- Applicants who have achieved Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing recognition for competency in Part 9 of the Building Code.

3. How do I apply for equivalencies and what do you require as supporting documentation?

You must submit an [Equivalency Request Form](#) and provide proof such as degrees, diplomas, professional designations, and support for your submission such as a résumé. You may need to provide course syllabuses showing that your previous education meets the [minimum core learning requirements](#) for the competency you request. It is up to you to prove your competency request based on our criteria. Send your request to L&U@tarion.com. Tarion will contact you to discuss your request and respond to you indicating if any equivalencies apply.

4. Can I apply for exemptions or equivalencies prior to making application to Tarion?

Yes. You must submit an [Equivalency Request Form](#) and provide proof such as degrees, diplomas, professional designations and support for your submission such as a résumé. You may also need to provide course syllabuses showing that your previous education meets the [minimum core learning requirements](#) for the competency you request. It is up to you to prove your competency request based on our criteria.

Tarion will contact you to discuss your request and respond to you indicating if any equivalencies apply. Send your request to L&U@tarion.com.

5. How long does it take for Tarion to review my request for equivalency?

Tarion will review and respond to your request within 30 days.

6. What happens to my Tarion application if I do not have all 7 of the core competency courses?

Tarion will return your application to you. As of September 1, 2016, achieving the 7 competencies is a prerequisite if you propose to build residential freehold and low-rise condominium construction under Part 9 of the Ontario Building Code.

7. I was previously registered with Tarion, or ONHWP. How does Tarion consider that experience?

This experience may exempt you from some or all of the competency requirements, depending on the time you were registered, the number of homes built, your history with Tarion, and your role in the previous registration.

8. Can I take the competency courses from several of the approved providers on the Tarion website? Do I need to take them all from one provider?

There are several providers who specialize in both online and classroom training. You do not need to take them all from one provider.

9. Do I have to take the full course, or can I just take an exam?

If you feel you have a good background and experience in a competency, you may choose to write the exams offered through Algonquin College. It is not mandatory that you take the course, but you must prove competency by successfully completing the exam.

10. Do high rise condominium builders have to complete the education requirements?

This proposal does not apply to Part 3 construction (high rise). High Rise applicants are assessed using a specific interview process which weighs the applicant's overall experience with the experience of the construction team being used. They are also bound by Builder Bulletin 19 requirements, which means more stringent auditing and inspections during the construction process.

Builders of low rise condominiums under Part 9 are required to complete the education requirements.

11. How do these new Ontario requirements compare to the regulations in other provinces?

In March 2015, British Columbia's Homeowner Protection Office (HPO) announced a similar implementation of an enhanced education program for residential freehold/low rise builders in BC.