

Who will be affected by the new Pennsylvania Home Improvement Consumer Protection Act?

The new law requires contractors to register with the Office of the Attorney General by July 1, 2009, if they performed \$5,000 or more of “home improvements” in Pennsylvania during the previous year.

The law’s definition of “contractor” and “home improvements” are broad. “Contractor” includes any person who owns and operates a home improvement business or who performs or agrees to perform any home improvement.

“Home Improvement” includes work on a private residence when the total cash price of all work is more than \$500.

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Contact one of our offices to learn whether this new law will affect you and to discuss how to minimize its impact on your business.

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How will the Pennsylvania Home Improvement Consumer Protection Act affect your business?

Requirements:

- Register with the Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General by July 1, 2009 and annually thereafter.
- Maintain a minimum level of insurance in order to register and operate.
- Include registration number in all advertisements, contracts, estimates, and proposals.
- Place contracts in writing and include certain mandatory notices and provisions.

Penalties:

- Failure to register could subject a contractor to possible enforcement actions and civil penalties in excess of \$1,000.
- Any home improvement contract that falls short of the requirements under the statute may be unenforceable.
- Intentional or inadvertent home improvement fraud can result in felony charges and increased civil liability, especially if the victim is over 60.
- A violation of this new law is also considered a violation of the Consumer Protection Law and can result in treble damages.

The above is just a brief summary of the law. There are many additional requirements. It is advisable to have an attorney review all contracts before July 1, 2009 to ensure compliance.

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Contact one of our offices to learn more about how this new law will affect your business and for assistance in registration and compliance.

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