



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**EPA REQUIRES NEW LEAD PAINT CERTIFICATION FOR CONTRACTORS**

**March 15, 2010** – Beginning April 22, contractors working on facilities built prior to 1978 are required to have EPA lead paint certification. Renovations that disturb painted surfaces in homes, day care centers and schools must be performed by a certified firm with a certified renovator on staff. Such activities include, but are not limited to modification, repair, sanding, scraping and removal or replacement of components such as windows and doors.

“This is an important rule that consumers should know about,” said Keith Wingfield, HBA President and builder in Central Arkansas. “Unfortunately, many folks I’ve talked with have never heard of this.”

The EPA’s Remodeling, Renovation and Painting Regulation (RPP) sets requirements for contractor training, certification, work practices, cleaning verification, consumer education and record keeping. These practices may be waived if the home was built after 1978, the repairs disturb less than six square feet of interior (or 20 square feet exterior) space, or the house is determined to already be free of lead paint.

“Since most of our area’s housing stock predates 1978, this rule affects most consumers and contractors,” said Keith. “Because of this, the Home Builders Association of Greater Little Rock has posted some comprehensive information for both the public and remodelers on its website: [www.hbaglr.com](http://www.hbaglr.com).”

Many industry experts have compared the EPA’s new lead rules to that of asbestos remediation that took center stage in the 1980s and 1990s. As a service to the community, the Home Builders Association is hosting monthly EPA contractor certification seminars. More information can be found at [www.hbaglr.com](http://www.hbaglr.com) or by visiting [www.epa.gov/lead/](http://www.epa.gov/lead/).

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The Home Builders Association of Greater Little Rock was established in 1952 to promote the housing industry, and professionalism within the industry. Quality workmanship and products, reliable craftsmanship, and a desire to provide safe and secure homes for the Central Arkansas area have been the benchmark of the Association for over 50 years.