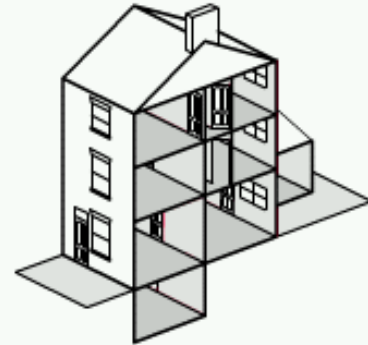




Home Inspector Training Service (HITS) Newsletter No.6 Feb. 2006

Dates for next HITS Home Inspector technical training courses



We are organising a number of new two-day Home Inspector Technical training courses for experienced practitioners on the following dates:

- March 21/22nd 2006, Cedar Court near Wakefield, South Yorks
- May 10/11th 2006, RICS Offices, Coventry

More dates will be added if demand increases. If you want a place on the March course, please contact Karen Smith on 0114 225 3187 or at HITS@shu.ac.uk as soon as possible as time is running short.

We are also collaborating with BlueBox Partners who have launched a training programme designed for experienced practitioners. This consists of three separate modules:

- Module 1 – preparing the portfolio
- Module 2 – Home Inspector technical training (provided by the HITS team)
- Module 3 – Understanding the customer and the external test.

The next programmes are due to start on the 9th March in Hemel Hempstead and 3rd May in Coventry.

For more information contact BlueBox through their website at www.blueboxpartners.com



New Entrants course is a success!

Safe As... and the HITS Team at Sheffield Hallam University launched their New Entrants Home Inspector Training Programme in January with an intake of 53 participants. Since then, the level of demand has surprised us all and we have added (and filled) another four courses giving a total of 250 participants. This demand was fuelled by an article in the Daily Telegraph that claimed that home inspector courses are proving popular with retired and semi retired people. The story was picked up by day time TV and resulted in the highest ever level of enquiries at the RICS call centre in one day. The number of visits to the website also sky rocketed. The HITS team were also swamped with calls and emails. The media circus continues as cameras from the Trevor MacDonald ITV programme were at a recent HITS/Safe As.. workshop.

This clearly shows that all the energy and enthusiasm is coming from those new to the residential sector. Several assessment centres report similar experiences with experienced practitioners still reluctant to begin the assessment process. If you want more information on courses for new entrants please contact www.rics.org/safeas

The HCR and inspecting larger and older buildings

Monday, 27th March 2006

Oxley Conservation, together with Phil Parnham from the HITS team is holding a one-day seminar style course that has been specifically designed for prospective Home Inspectors. The course will focus on the issues of inspecting larger or older buildings for the Home Condition Report component of the Home Information Pack that will be introduced in 2007.

The course will be held in "The Abbey" in Sutton Courtney, Near Abingdon, a Grade I listed building. This provides the ideal setting for specialist training as it will expose delegates to real-life situations that will be encountered when inspecting and reporting on larger and/or older buildings for the Home Condition Report.

For more information, contact Oxley Conservation at www.oxleyconservation.co.uk or telephone 01491 682288.



Become an assessor with Safe as...

With the 2007 date for the introduction of HIPs now confirmed, many more candidates are registering to undertake the diploma in home inspection and Safe as... is currently recruiting assessors to join their assessment team.

The primary role of the assessor is to assess candidates' performance and/or related knowledge in a range of tasks and to ensure that the competence and knowledge demonstrated meets the requirements of the standards. Assessors therefore need to have occupational expertise in the areas to be assessed.

The A1 assessor award is the professional qualification that you need to achieve in order to work as an assessor for the HI diploma. It is an experience based qualification that can be achieved over a 6-9 month period whilst you are working towards the diploma in home inspection.

Being an assessor offers a number of benefits. You will be allocated candidates via the Safe as... assessment centre on a regional basis and you'll be paid a competitive rate on a per candidate basis plus expenses. In addition you can progress to train to be an internal verifier or use the A1 award as an accreditation towards other qualifications in the field of learning and development.

As with other RICS assessorships the role of a Safe as.. assessor provides you with a range of career opportunities and practical rewards. If you are an RICS member you can use your assessor qualification in support of an application for RICS fellowship. Non-members can use assessor training to take a fast track route to becoming an RICS member.

If you are interested in finding out more about becoming an assessor for the HI diploma and to check whether you are eligible email safeas@rics.org

For more information on the HITS initiative at Sheffield Hallam University, please contact Karen Smith on Karen.Smith@shu.ac.uk, (0114) 225 3187 or write to HITS Team, Faculty of Development and Society, Howard Street, Sheffield S1 1WB