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**NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE CIRCULATION**

NASCLA National Examination Program for Commercial General Contractors

PHOENIX, AZ – APRIL 23, 2007. The National Association of State Contractors Licensing Agencies (NASCLA) National Examination Committee has been working diligently to finalize the details of the NASCLA National Examination Program. Many people and organizations have provided input over the last nine years to define the goals and procedures for the long-awaited program that will be implemented later this year. The first examination to be offered will be the Commercial General Contractor examination.

The impetus for the National Examination Program was twofold: 1) To reduce redundant licensing examination requirements for contractors who travel from state to state; and 2) To improve the overall quality and validity of contractor licensing examinations. An important requirement of the program was to maintain the ongoing relationships between states and their existing testing providers. In order to accomplish these goals, an approval/accreditation process was developed whereby existing testing providers can request that their business, examination security, examination development, and examination administration processes be audited by independent auditors hired by NASCLA. The audit criteria were developed and revised over several years (and many committee meetings!) with input from psychometric consultants, testing providers and NASCLA member states.

NASCLA selected Professional Examination Service (PES) through an RFP process to conduct a national occupational analysis study of commercial general contractors that was completed in 2006. The results of this study provide examination specifications for testing providers to develop a national examination and have it accredited by NASCLA. States can be confident that contractors who pass a NASCLA-accredited examination possess the trade knowledge necessary to be licensed. Applicants who pass the national examination must still fulfill all other state specific licensure requirements (e.g., law and business examination, bonds, financial statements, etc.). NASCLA will also have a separate approval process for testing providers who have passed only the business, examination security, and administration audits, but have not developed an accredited examination.

NASCLA has retained the services of Kara Schmitt, Ph.D. to perform the examination-related portions of the audit, Mukai Greenlee & Company, P.C. to perform the business portion of the audit, and ShareVista to provide a National Examination Database (NED) to manage the data from contractors who have taken an accredited examination. Member states will be able to access the database to verify that applicants have passed the examination. The National Examination Committee will be finalizing the application and procedures in June 2007 and releasing the documents to interested testing providers in July.

For additional information regarding the national contractors licensing exam, please contact the association at (602) 485-3941 or email info@nascla.org.