

July 10, 2014

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265 companies renew manufactured housing licenses in West Virginia

A total of 94 manufactured housing retailers renewed their West Virginia licenses for the 2014-15 fiscal year while 11 have not, the industry's regulatory board was told Thursday. In addition, 34 manufacturers and 137 industry contractors renewed their licenses for the new fiscal year.

Mitch Woodrum, director of manufactured housing for the state Division of Labor, told the West Virginia Manufactured Housing Construction and Safety Standards Board he expects some missing retailers, many of which remain established businesses, to renew their licenses.

He released to the State Board a list of the following retailers who have not renewed their licenses: Bob's Quality Homes Inc., Rt. 21 Homes Inc., Silverpoint Homes Inc., Fortney Homes Inc., Cozy Home Center, Varner Trailer Sales, Midwest Manufactured Homes LLC, Barker's Mobile Homes Inc., Tri County Manufactured Homes, Double T Homes Inc., and Quality Homes of Bluefield Inc.

Only three of those companies are considered "inactive" and not in operation any more. Adventure Homes LLC was the only manufacturer not to renew.

The board disciplined seven retailers, two of which were from Virginia, and a North Carolina manufacturer, imposing fines totaling \$3,000 on them, mostly for failing to meet warranty obligations.

Another 24 contractors were fined \$75 each for failing to file with the DOL reports that detailed their quarterly business activity. Seven of the companies failed twice to file their quarterly reports. They were: May Transporting, Kallner's Home Service, Bob's Quality Homes Inc., Robert A. Johnson doing business as Cozy Home Center, WV Home Sales Inc., Alford Home Solutions Inc. and Leonard Trivitt.

The board issued a contractor license to Jimmy's Home Improvements LLC of Madison, Boone County.

A total of \$1.5 million is in the fund the industry voluntarily established to pay for homes improperly installed or needing repairs for manufacturers who have gone out of business. Woodrum said the recovery fund has funded \$800,000 in repairs since 2002.

The board set its next meeting for Dec. 4.