



## **Unlicensed Installer: Common Problem, Easy Solution**

The Manufactured Housing Institute has been working with local and state officials to combat the problem of unlicensed installers setting up manufactured homes. MHISC has consulted with the staff of the South Carolina Manufactured Housing Board, as well as building and planning officials around the state, and the industry has developed a proposed policy for consideration by local governments that would address the issue:

When a person comes in to apply for a permit to place a manufactured home, the local department that issues the permit should require a photocopy of the installer's license before the permit will be issued.

Requiring a copy of the license to be submitted with the permit paperwork should resolve most of the problems that counties have with unlicensed installers. David Bennett, administrator of the South Carolina Manufactured Housing Board, said "Quite simply, this will protect the public from unlicensed and untrained installers."

From a practical standpoint, this policy would also have minimum time and financial impact on the industry, consumers, and local government. Unlicensed installers often operate without the proper knowledge and tools to install a manufactured home, and sometimes disappear when money is given to them up front. It is an unfortunate problem that can result in an unsafe home and financial loss for the owner. However, the problem is one that can easily be solved by using the policy developed by government officials and MHISC.

For additional information about MHISC or a sample ordinance, please contact MHISC at [mhisc@mhisc.com](mailto:mhisc@mhisc.com) or call (803) 771-9046.