This manual will be beneficial for providers who would like to submit continuing education units (CEU) for IDCEC approval. All providers must be registered with IDCEC before they submit a CEU for approval.
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**IDCEC’s Mission**

It is the mission of the Interior Design Continuing Education Council (IDCEC) to serve as the premier advocate for continuing education in the advancement of the interior design profession, and to inspire and guide providers of continuing education programs to deliver high-quality, lifelong learning activities for interior design practitioners.

**IDCEC’s Vision**

Continuing education strengthens the interior design profession by improving individual attitudes, competencies, knowledge and skills in subject areas essential to the growth and success of the industry. Because of this significance, IDCEC aims to streamline and centralize the support to learners, providers, reviewers and administrators as well as enhance the administration and approval process of professional continuing education units (CEUs) within the interior design industry.

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All registered providers will use the IDCEC online portal to submit CEU’s, report attendance and manage their CEU activity. All IDCEC administration is handled centrally through the online portal. Paper CEU submissions are not accepted.

Please visit [www.idcec.org](http://www.idcec.org)
This instruction manual has been prepared to help facilitate quality and consistency in IDCEC approved continuing education CEU submissions. It is important that you read and understand these instructions before you submit a CEU for IDCEC approval.

All providers who are industry members of ASID, IIDA and IDC must adhere to the Code of Ethics for their professional association. CEUs developed and delivered must primarily support the learning of interior designers and the community.

IDCEC Attributes for CEUs:

- Inform learners of the objectives
- Stimulate recall of prior learning
- Teach current content and material
- Provide learning guidance and feedback
- Enhance retention and transfer of learning
- Generic and non-proprietary content
## CEU Categories

### Type of Offering

**One time**

Single offerings of a CEU are offered through core member Chapters and Provinces. All single offering CEUs are approved for the date indicated in the submission. Approval expires after this date.

**Ongoing**

An ongoing offering is valid for a period of two years from the date it is approved. It can be offered any number of times, as the provider sees fit. CEUs cannot be offered after the expiry date. Once expired, a CEU must be submitted as a new submission. It is recommended that the Provider of the CEU refreshes the content to reflect the most current trends.

**Conference**

Conference offerings are offered as part of a conference or trade show and are one time offerings.

### Type of Delivery

CEUs can be offered in two formats: in-class and distance learning. The mode of delivery for a CEU must be declared at the time of submission.

A CEU can have a delivery type of “In-Class”, “Distance Learning” or “Both” (includes in-class and distance learning delivery).

A CEU offered by distance learning must have details outlining the trial results required for a distance learning CEU. There is one submission fee for both modes of delivery. “Distance Learning” and “Both” delivery submissions are subject to a distance learning class-code fee.
**CEU-Related Criteria**

Interior design CEU content must be directed to the practice of interior design. In-depth study of one subject or closely allied subjects is required. CEU content must focus on specific application and/or knowledge directly related to the IDCEC Subject Code Index.

**CEU Calculation**

CEU length must be appropriate to the subject matter. A continuing education unit submitted for IDCEC approval must be a minimum of 60 minutes excluding break/recess time.

1 contact hour = 1.0 CEU  
Minimum CEU length is one hour. CEUs are approved in increments of half hours (0.5) and the maximum length of a CEU is 9 (nine) hours.

1 contact hour = 60 minutes of instruction  
Contact hours do not include breaks or meals.  
Contact hours do not include travel to destinations

**Subject Index Code**

The Subject Code is made up of two parts; the primary code which falls under the main interior design categories and the secondary code which indicates the specific area of learning. Example: 2;10 (Interior design; Space Planning).

**Non-Proprietary Content of CEUs**

Subject matter must be generic and nonproprietary. CEU content and materials containing examples predominately from one manufacturer, product line or source are not permitted. Proprietary product-oriented material and promotion of products, services, books, video or audio media are not permitted and will result in a denial of approval.

When using a case study as a means of illustration, if the case study is proprietary to the CE provider or presenting company, additional nonproprietary case studies must be presented to further augment the stated learning objective(s) and ensure CEU content is generic in nature and not promoting a specific product(s) or service.

Illustrations of products or other visuals in presentation materials must not be from only one company - such as the CEU provider’s company. Proprietary product numbers or names cannot be included on the illustrations. This violates the concept of generic information.

Authors or providers may make their copyright information visible in a small size only at the bottom of the first and last page/slide, whether it is hard copy material or in multimedia format. Trademark logos, company and/or an individual’s information may be visible on the first
slide/page of hard copy handout material or a multimedia presentation, and may be listed on the last page of the same presentation if so desired. Trademarks and logos can only be shown on the first and last page/slide.
Activities that do not qualify for IDCEC approval

IDCEC promotes and strengthens the interior design profession by approving CEUs that improve individual attitudes, competencies, knowledge and skills in subject areas essential to the growth and success of the interior design industry. Types of activities below are some examples of learning that cannot be accepted for review by IDCEC.

Travel and Tours

Information CEUs on trips or tours undertaken by an individual to countries or places of interest are not accepted by IDCEC for approval and can be claimed as self-directed learning if accepted by the member organizations to fulfill professional development requirements. Lectures at museums and other cultural institutions which are led by qualified instructors and directly relate to the interior design industry can be submitted for approval. IDCEC will only approve the individual lecture component and not the entire tour.

A submission of this nature must be developed as a learning unit and include all the components such as learning objectives, time allocation and topic organization. A script or talking notes must accompany the CEU submission. Once approved by IDCEC the lecture can be offered within a tour. IDCEC will not approve the tour, only the lecture as a CEU within the tour.

Exam/Exam Preparation

IDCEC will not accept a submission that has content related to training or preparation for passing, marking or developing a credentialing exam such as NCIDQ or LEED. Exam preparatory CEUs that address the minimum competency to practice are also not eligible for IDCEC approval.

Committee, Special Taskforce or Advisory Council

Material including case studies and discussion notes, policy documents or white papers that are used by an organization for project work, advisory committee work or meetings are not considered learning units or professional development and will not be accepted for review.

Self-guided tours, entertainment and recreation learning

Self-guided or personal trips and visits to historical and cultural places of interest are not accepted by IDCEC. Self- improvement learning courses are for personal development and therefore not accepted as professional development.
Mass media learning programs (i.e., through television, radio, newspaper)

Newspaper articles, television documentaries or films are not accepted by IDCEC for approval as a CEU.

Sales Presentations

Promotional material for specific products or services geared to encourage sales cannot be submitted to IDCEC for review.
Submitting a CEU for Review

Every education provider must have one assigned CEU administrator. The individual who submits the CEU for approval is the main point of contact for the organization. You must have an IDCEC account and pay an annual registration fee to submit a CEU. If you are not registered please create an account and register with IDCEC as a provider.

The review process takes approximately 3 weeks. You may not advertise your program as IDCEC-approved until you have officially been notified of approval. Please plan early to allow adequate time for marketing your CEU appropriately following the IDCEC decision. Conditional approvals are not granted.

A CEU approved by AIA or GBCI is not automatically accepted by IDCEC. IDCEC does an independent review and does not rely on approvals granted by AIA or GBCI.

Once registered as a provider and the annual fee is paid, you will obtain a unique provider number. This number is confidential and it is recommended that you do not share this number unless you are sure and trust the individual(s).

The identification number allows you access to the secured IDCEC provider portal. The provider portal allows the assigned administrator access to submit CEUs, schedule events, report attendance, add instructors, maintain their profile and manage all activities on behalf of the provider through the portal dashboard.

CEU submission can be completed in sections and saved on the portal. This gives the CEU administrator the flexibility to submit parts of the CEU over a period of time and use the portal functionality as work in progress.

Requirements of a CEU submission

Successful CEU submissions must include:

- Minimum of four learning objectives
- Detailed content outline broken down by topics in time segments
- CEU description/ Presenter’s script or talking notes/CEU Content
- Audience information
- Content bibliography from reliable sources
- Mode of Delivery (In-class, Distance Learning or Both)
- Classification of Learning (Basic, Intermediate or Advanced)
- Designation (General or HSW)
- Instructor Information Form
- Distance Learning Supplement – required for all distance learning CEUs
- The addition of the mandatory IDCEC slide in your presentation
If a CEU has been previously submitted to AIA or GBCI you will have an opportunity to declare this when you submit the CEU online. IDCEC does an independent review and will not grant approval based on approval granted by other organizations. It is expected that a provider submit a CEU that is designed for interior designers. Do not submit the same package that you previously submitted to AIA or GBCI without paying attention to the IDCEC requirements for CEU approval. This will delay approval of the CEU.

A quantified CEU outline must be included in the CEU submission. Regardless of the CEU length, the outline must offer specific time allocations to illustrate how the content complements the stated learning objective(s). IDCEC recommends the outline be as detailed as possible to expedite the approval process.

Handouts and presentation material used during the CEU presentation must be included in the CEU submission. Presentations submitted for approval must include a script or talking notes to give the reviewer insight into the content of the presentation. Presentation slides with pictures alone do not allow for a fair evaluation of a CEU. You may not advertise your program as IDCEC-approved or advertise CEUs until you have officially been notified of approval.

When uploading presentation slides and content it is recommended that files are converted to formats that can be opened by the reviewers. It is preferable to convert a multimedia presentation into a PDF before uploading it to the portal. Mac users must convert files so that they can be opened by Windows Explorer.

**Instruction-Related Criteria**

Instructors must have appropriate experience related to the subject matter. They must also have an understanding of the purposes and intended CEU objectives of the continuing education experience. Knowledge and skill in instructional methods and learning processes are required, along with the ability to communicate content to participants at an appropriate level.

The number of instructors must be appropriate to the CEU length and format.

Tours of showrooms will typically result in denial and self-guided tours are not acceptable for CEU credit. Tours cannot be included in the time allocated for professional continuing education. They must be kept separate and will not be included for CEU credit.

**Mode of CEU Delivery**

**In Person:**

Most CEUs are classroom based. These CEUs are guided by an instructor or presenter. In-Person CEUs may also be delivered live via webinar, however, they must be led by an instructor in real time.
Distance Learning:

Distance learning CEUs allow participants to acquire knowledge and skills through designed information and instruction encompassing multimedia components, text based information and/or other forms of learning content accessed independently. Distance learning CEUs may be characterized by:

- Separation of place and/or time between instructor and learner. The CEU does not take place in a live environment
- Interaction between the learner and instructor through one or more pre-recorded media.

Since the instructor is not physically present when the learning takes place, distance learning CEUs require the use of an assessment instrument in order to verify learners have achieved the learning objectives. These CEUs also require a diagnostic test with at least a three person sample to validate CEU length and evaluation instrument.

Representative learners for distance learning CEU programs that include learning activities where learners progress at their own pace must use a trial run of the CEU to establish number of contact hours. The trial should use at least three representative learners. You must provide contact information and the time it took for each learner to complete the CEU. The representative learners’ average time will be used to help reviewers determine an accurate CEU value.

Assessment and evaluation for distance learning CEU providers must systematically and appropriately determine learning outcomes using an assessment method such as a multiple-choice test, written essay or project. Include the time learners take to complete the assessment in the total contact hours for the CEU.

Learners must obtain a minimum score of 80% on the assessment to obtain credit for the CEU.

Classification of Learning Levels:

Reviewers will evaluate each CEU for content classification and will assign a classification for pre-requisite knowledge required and for level of learning outcome.

Basic

Basic level CEUs provide general information, awareness and understanding of a topic. They transfer new information without substantial prerequisite knowledge to process or use it. Learning objectives may be to understand, describe, define, or recognize new information. This level is appropriate for CEUs that are presenting new concepts or conveying information in a limited time frame with minimal interaction by the participants.
Intermediate

Intermediate CEUs focus on understanding and comprehension of a topic with in-depth material or explanation by the instructor. They require the learner to be more engaged and produce more tangible outcomes, interacting with the material and using the information in practice applications and therefore require some prerequisite knowledge. Objectives may be to analyze, assess, select, or compare/contrast new information. At this level, CEUs should include activities such as discussions, practice assignments, or self-check assessments.

Advanced

Advanced CEUs focus on extensive application and implementation of highly technical or detailed topics, preparing learners to complete a definitive action after the CEU, and require substantial prerequisite knowledge. The CEU material and activities allow the learner to gain the new knowledge, practice its application and be able to apply the information on their own. Objectives may be to implement, design, calculate, produce, validate or create a tangible product or action. At this level, CEUs encompass enough material and time, typically several hours to allow the learner to achieve and demonstrate the objectives. CEUs should include interactive activities and assessment measures.

CEU Bibliography

A bibliography is mandatory with the application. It must list the resources, i.e. books, articles, that were used to develop CEU materials. The bibliography also serves as a reference tool for reviewers so they may assess the relevance and timeliness of the research and resources used. IDCEC expects that continuing education is validated through a variety of reliable sources.

For example, Wikipedia would not be considered a valid source. IDCEC understands that there may be cases where providing a bibliography is not possible. If so, you must include written justification. IDCEC reserves the right to deny any application based on its bibliography or justification statement.

CEU Designation:

CEU developers must meet the 75% requirement or their CEU will fall under the General Knowledge designation. A CEU developer must devote at least 75% of the slides, statements and training to achieving the specific designation. It is important to provide a script as picture slides do not always make clear the content being taught. You may request a designation for your submitted CEU; however, the final decision resides with the reviewers. The specific categories are below.
Health, Safety and Welfare Designation:

IDCEC defines a health safety and welfare (HSW) designated CEU as one where a minimum of 75% of the CEU content covers knowledge and practice of interior design that is focused on protection of the public and the environment. The subject of these CEUs can include, but is not limited to, codes, fire and life safety systems, sustainability, barrier free, energy compliance (HVAC, water, acoustics, electrical, etc.)

General Designation

IDCEC defines a general knowledge CEU as one where the CEU covers general knowledge regarding interior design practice and process and where less than 75% of the CEU content covers health, safety, welfare, barrier free design or sustainability. The subject of these CEUs may include, but is not limited to, the five phases of design including programming, schematic design, design development, construction documents and contract administration.

Facilities and/or Equipment Required

The facility requirements should identify the physical environment and type of seating arrangement most suitable to the presentation, as well as any audiovisual equipment that may be necessary. This information is helpful for individuals who would be interested in hosting a course.

Instructor Information

References

Please include the contact information for two references who can attest to each instructor’s capability in instructional methods/design and learning processes as well as their ability to communicate content effectively and at an appropriate level for the desired audience. IDCEC representatives will contact all references. References should come from individuals who have attended one of your previous presentations or someone outside your firm who can speak to the instructor’s presentation skills and professional background. References may not be from co-workers at the same company, university or firm.

Biography

A brief biography (50-100 words) about each instructor must be submitted.
Intellectual Property

During the review process, the intellectual property rights of authors/CE providers will be protected, regulated and maintained, no matter how vast the distribution of information in print, electronically, or otherwise. IDCEC will make sure that copyrights and other intellectual property rights are respected and not infringed upon by IDCEC or any of its subcommittees residing in managing organizations or any other individual or group acting on behalf of IDCEC.

IDCEC recommends authors/CE providers copyright their material.
CEU Maintenance and Assessment

All ongoing CEUs must maintain positive ratings to remain in the CEU database. If there are consistently poor evaluations, a CEU will lose its IDCEC approval until the necessary modifications have been made. All ongoing CEUs are approved for a maximum of 2 years. At the conclusion of that two year period the CE provider is required to resubmit their CEU(s) for IDCEC approval.

Record Keeping

By submitting your CEU for IDCEC approval you are agreeing to abide by the requirements, policies and guidelines set forth by IDCEC.

Attendee sign-in sheets must be retained for a period of three years. In the event of an audit, instructors must produce these records if requested.

Audit

From time to time IDCEC conducts quality control audits. Audits may be random, at will, or the result of an attendee complaint. Instructors and their CEUs may be audited at any time without notice. Should an instructor be selected for an audit, he/she will be expected to comply with all requests in order for IDCEC to successfully complete the audit process. IDCEC reserves the right to attend an in person CEU or a distance learning event without notification for the purpose of auditing that CEU.

Probation

An instructor/provider may be placed on probation if IDCEC finds them in violation of the policies, processes, criteria and guidelines set forth by IDCEC. Probation is no less than 30 days and no longer than 90 days. Violations include but are not limited to:

- Routinely violating the submission process
- Presenting misleading and/or inaccurate information
- Failure to present a CEU as it was submitted and approved
- Including proprietary information during the presentation
- Inaccurately offering a HSW credit
- Failure to complete post presentation documentation
- Giving credits that were not earned
- Failing to provide attendance records
- Poor CEU evaluations
- Offering a CEU that has expired
Suspension

Providers may be permanently suspended should a violation of any of the following occur:
- Failure to make necessary revision during the probation period.
- Being placed on probation three times.

CEU Retraction

A CEU may be retracted if it is determined to contain inaccurate, outdated or inappropriate information. Once a CEU has been retracted it will no longer carry CEUs or IDCEC approval. Instructors will have 30 days to make necessary corrections and resubmit for approval. Additional fees may be assessed for the resubmittal process.

A CEU may not be advertised as IDCEC approved until it has been reviewed and approved.
Provider Responsibilities After Approval

The information below and the IDCEC approval stamp must be included as a dedicated slide in all presentation. The dedicated IDCEC slide is available to all registered providers for download on the CEU Provider registration page of the website. The provider administrative contact must monitor the provider dashboard and ensure that all outstanding items and fees are attended to and up to date.

This CEU is registered with the Interior Design Continuing Education Council (IDCEC) for continuing education credits. This credit will be accepted by most interior design associations and State Boards.

The content included is not deemed or construed to be an approval or endorsement by IDCEC of any material or construction or any method or manner of handling, using, distributing or dealing in any material or product.

Questions related to specific materials, methods and services should be directed to the instructor or provider of this CEU.
This program is registered for ____ CEU value.

Include the information below in your presentation slide:

- Your attendance will be reported by your instructor after this CEU. Please provide your IDCEC number to the instructor before you leave.
- Certificates of completion will be automatically issued. You may also obtain a transcript of your CEU activity thorough your account dashboard.
- Attendees who do not have a unique IDCEC number will be provided with a Certificate of Completion after this CEU.

Event registration and IDCEC identification

Providers must collect the IDCEC unique identification numbers of learners when they register for a CEU. Please include space for the IDCEC number in your CEU registration form or use the IDCEC attendance template to collect learner numbers.
Credit cannot not be granted for those CEUs that have expired. Please make sure that a CEU is current and has not expired before you offer it.

**Schedule of events and class code**

When a provider delivers a CEU event must be scheduled in the online form through the IDCEC website and CEU portal. Once an event is scheduled, a unique class-code is generated for each event. This class-code must be handed out to CEU attendees at the end of the event. You may also obtain a class-code after the event is held.

The provider/instructor is also responsible for taking attendance and submitting this to IDCEC through the online provider portal. This allows IDCEC to match the attendance record from the provider and enable audit and control of records. This allows for credible records for the IDCEC transcript.

**Submission of Attendance**

All providers must submit attendance within 5-7 business days of the event being held. Failure to submit attendance records may result in probation or suspension of the CEU. Attendance will only be accepted online through the provider dashboard. Provider records in paper format are not accepted. Providers do not have to report attendance for learners who do not have an IDCEC number (e.g. Architects).

**CEU Survey**

CEU surveys will be completed by the attendees online after attendance has been reported by the Provider of the CEU. CEU survey results will be reviewed and released to providers on request to ensure that the CEUs are maintaining the IDCEC required ratings. Surveys that show poor ratings will be removed from the calendar of events and the provider will be required to update and resubmit the CEU for approval. To request a copy of your survey results please email jroberts@idcec.org.

**Certificates of Completion**

All certificates of completion will be issued to the learner online. for those whom have a unique IDCEC identification.

Providers are required to issue paper certificates of completion for non-IDCEC learners (E.g. Architects). The certificate of completion template can be found in the secured provider section on the IDCEC website.

Do not issue a paper certificate of completion to any learner who has an IDCEC number. Search for their number at www.idcec.org (top right corner near the Login button)
Learners who do not have an IDCEC number and who wish to use the IDCEC registry can self-report their CEU’s by creating an IDCEC registry account. There is a fee of $5 per recorded CEU.

**Adding instructor names after CEU approval**

Additional names of instructors can be added once the CEU is approved. All references provided will be checked by IDCEC. The Provider can allow the instructor to present the CEU as soon as training is completed by the Provider.
Submitting a Conference

A Conference is a series of one time only CEUs or seminars offered within a specific period or number of days. The organizer of the conference must submit information on the conference, description of the CEUs and presenter information.

Typically, conference CEUs are reviewed and selected by a qualified conference review committee. IDCEC does everything possible to ensure that all conference CEU presentations are of the best possible quality and use a rigorous evaluation and selection process.

A separate review process is employed for these types of CEUs and therefore these submissions do not have the same information requirements as ongoing CEUs. Unique IDCEC numbers will be issued for each individual CEU taking place during the conference.

Organizers must first register as a conference provider and obtain a unique identification number to submit a conference. Conferences must be submitted in advance so that they can be marketed as approved by IDCEC. The IDCEC stamp of approval must be included in all marketing material for the conference pertaining to approved CEUs.

Attendance records

All conference providers must supply attendees with proof of attendance. Proof of attendance can be provided with either a conference attendance card or a certificate of completion. Proof of completion must contain the Conference name and number, title of the CEU, date, CEU value and the issuing authority signature. Attendance cards must be stamped by room monitors as proof of attending the CEU.

Attendance will be self-reported by the attendees directly to their associations. Those attendees who have an IDCEC number will self-report their attendance through the IDCEC portal.

The conference attendance card template can be found on the conference provider registration page on the IDCEC website.
Benefits to the CEU Provider

- Convenient secure access and tracking of attendance records
- Direct link from IDCEC website to provider website to register for CEUs
- Provider logo with CEU title and description
- Searchable CEU once approved for all of North America
- Increased visibility for provider with IIDA, ASID, IDC and State Boards
- Quick turnaround of CEU approvals
- Direct contact with IDCEC in a self-serve centralized environment
- Automated reporting and metrics provided by IDCEC portal
- Automated reminders and dashboard for every registered provider
- Automated certificates of completion and CEU survey