



NCARB Record holders can earn one HSW/SD free by reading this informative article about specification writing and then taking the online quiz.

SPEC WRITING 101

While some architects may cringe at the thought of writing a spec, others look at it as an opportunity to make an important contribution to a project. NCARB's new mini-monograph, "Who Needs a Spec Writer" looks at how specifications are developed and the important role they play in protecting the public's health, safety, and welfare.

"Who Needs a Spec Writer" and the three previously published mini-monographs, "Building Envelope," "Hidden Risks of Green Buildings," and "Ethics and Professional Rules of Conduct: Distinction and Clarification" can be downloaded from the NCARB web site at www.ncarb.org/publications/pdpmonographs.html. Each mini-monograph provides an opportunity for you to earn one health, safety, and welfare (HSW) and sustainable design (SD) Professional Development Unit (PDU) credit by taking the online quiz.

All mini-monograph quizzes are free for active NCARB Record holders. To take a quiz, log on to "My NCARB Record," and then click on "Mini-Monograph Quiz."

If you are not an NCARB Record holder, you can earn one PDU for \$35. Just go to www.ncarb.org and click on "Publications" under the "Resources" menu. Select the monograph link and then find the mini-monograph for which you would like to take the quiz. You'll be prompted to fill out the payment information. An online access code will be automatically e-mailed to you, which you can use to take the quiz at any time. You will also receive one free retest should you not pass the first time.

When you have completed the quiz, your results will be available immediately. If you pass, you can print a certificate of completion and NCARB will report the credit earned to AIA at no cost.

We hope you find our mini-monograph "Who Needs a Spec Writer" to be informative, provocative, and educational. There are more than 25 titles available in NCARB's monograph series that offer a convenient, low-cost way for you to learn about new developments in the industry. You'll find a complete list of monograph titles—all of which meet AIA's health, safety, and welfare and sustainable design requirements—on the back cover or by visiting www.ncarb.org/publications/pdpmonographs.html. **DC**