

7.0 Schuck and Sons Construction

"We always thought we did a pretty good job, and we know now that we do. This [program] helps us take it to that next level and do it a little better." Craig Steele, Schuck and Sons Construction Company, Inc.

At Schuck and Sons Construction Company, Inc., implementation of the quality assurance system began in June 1999. The system became fully operational in May 2000.

On February 1, 2001, Schuck and Sons Construction Company, Inc. became one of the first three framing contractors to be certified by the NAHB Research Center, Inc.

7.1 Company Profile

Area Served	Phoenix, Tuscon, and Prescott, Arizona
Type of homes	Single-family homes \$150,000 to more than \$1,000,000
Services	Carpentry contractor Truss plant Lumber yard Door manufacturer
Workforce	500 framing employees and 950 total employees Crews organized by phases of framing
Other	Employee-owned company All crews are com- pany employees In-house truss plant Stick-built construction

7.2 Benefits and Results

The NAHB Research Center, Inc., measured and analyzed business performance before and then one year after implementation of the quality system. The following areas showed significant improvement:

Prevention of Quality Defects

The NAHB Research Center, Inc., measured a 65 percent reduction in the number of quality problems per home during the first year of quality system operation.

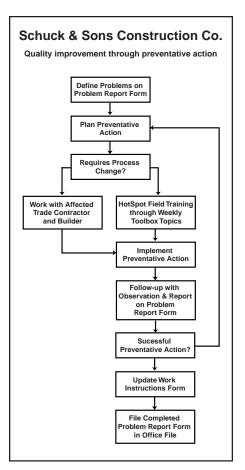
The data is based on job ratings by company area superintendents who perform independent job inspections. They rate the framing quality of every home at one of two levels: meeting expectations or, when problems are encountered, below expectations. Rating data were tabulated in May 2000 through April 2001. During this period, the area superintendents who rated the homes and the rating standards themselves remained unchanged.

> "One of the main hurdles in the home building industry is the number of times that people have to go back and do rework, and we fall into that category, too. This program has reduced that dramatically." Craig Steele, Schuck and Sons Construction Company, Inc.

Improved Productivity

Despite regional carpenter labor wage increases, contract pricing on renewed bids and profitability remained at current levels.

In comparison, the most recent U.S. Department of Labor¹² cost data for carpenter labor increased by more than 12 percent.



Preventative Action Process

¹²U.S. Department of Labor, *National Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics*. Arizona carpenter mean hour rates 1999 and 1998.



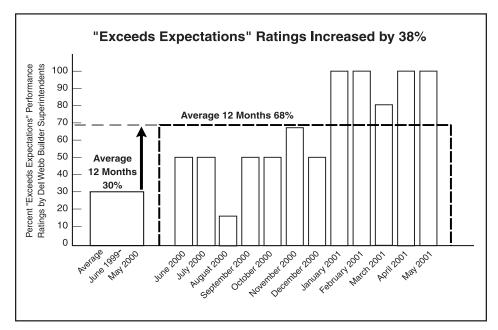
Builder Satisfaction

Builder satisfaction survey ratings from Schuck and Sons Construction Company, Inc.'s largest client, Del Webb's Contracting Services Sun City Grand, have improved to 100 percent. Each of the builder's field superintendents provides monthly satisfaction ratings at three levels: falls short of, meets, or exceeds expectations.

	E Schuck	Date: <u>March 01</u>
following questions by check	king the appropriate box If you check "Fail	pectations during the last month. Please indicate your response to the ied to meet expectations" for any of the questions, you MUST include stion. This section can also be used for any positive comments you stion.
Please complete the fo	ollowing sentences: (check only or	ne response)
	ns OM Met expectation	□ Fell Short of expectations
Comments:		
Exceeded expectation	ng: Pricing is returned in a timely in a second seco	Fell Short of expectations
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Exceeded expectation Comments:	ns Met expectations nent: Contractor routinely sugges processes.	Fell Short of expectations

Builder Satisfaction Survey

In 1999, less that 50 percent of the ratings were at the "exceed" level. Ratings trends improved during the implementation period. Ratings are now at the 100 percent "exceeds" level.



Performance Evaluation



Workforce Development

Low workforce turnover is an indication of high employee satisfaction. Throughout the study period, turnover of field superintendents has been less than 5 percent. One foreman was hired in the last two years to replace a foreman who left the company. There has been no turnover among the six field superintendents. Schuck and Son Construction Company, Inc. management attributes the low turnover rates to improved levels of job satisfaction.

> "We have an in-house apprenticeship program. Some of the information for the program comes from the [quality hotspot] training for the certified framer program we've incorporated into our apprenticeship training program." Craig Steele, Schuck and Sons Construction Company, Inc.

Schuck and Son Construction Company, Inc. reports that in-house training of field personnel has increased substantially during the study period. The increased activity can be attributed primarily to institutionalizing hotspot training about construction details on a routine basis two to four times every month.

> "I found the one thing that we took for granted was that new employees said they had a [skill] level. We just took it at face value until they worked for a while and then they didn't have that level. This dave us a means to track where they really are and improve on their ability. This gives you some tools to say he's probably going to make a good employee, but he's a little deficient in this area. You provide him with the training, and, in most cases, he becomes a good employee. They appreciate the training." Craig Steele, Schuck and Sons Construction Company, Inc.

7.3 Implementation of the Quality System

Before implementation of the quality assurance system, Schuck and Son Construction Company, Inc. was already performing many of the activities required by the system. Therefore, during the study period, implementation focused on formalizing activities, performing them on a regular basis, and documenting results.

"We're always looking for things to make us better at what we do...but there's a little bit of tweaking that we needed to do to bring us to another level and this [Quality assurance program] did that." Craig Steele, Schuck and Sons Construction Company, Inc.

To establish the quality assurance system, the general superintendent, the vice president of operations, and the NAHB Research Center, Inc., collaborated to provide details required by the quality plan.



Appointment of the Quality Representative

The general superintendent had been performing many of the quality representative duties as part of his normal job. The company president formalized the role through a memorandum appointing him as the quality representative with specific quality responsibilities and authority.

The quality representative in turn assumed responsibility for the quality of field operations and served as chief decision maker on field quality issues. The most significant change in his responsibilities was the requirement to tabulate field inspection data.

> "The quality representative collects the data from the field and enters it into the computer, so he's got some additional duties. Right now it is handwritten on paper forms and then entered into the computer database. We're currently in the process of developing...paperless electronic inspections and downloading [data] that way." Craig Steele, Schuck and Sons Construction Company, Inc.

Schuck & Sons Quality

Schuck & Sons Construction is committed to providing our customers with the best quality products and workmanship. We are continually looking for ways to improve the services we provide by staying on the cutting edge of technology, material advancements, and construction process improvements. In so doing, our customers benefit in the form of on-time deliveries, quality construction, reduced cycle times, fewer service requests, and confidence in the structural and aesthetic integrity of their homes. Our customers can offer their homebuyers the assurance that their home is framed and trimmed using the latest materials and methods for lasting durability and value. Schuck & Sons Construction has been instrumental in bringing ISO 9000 standards to the homebuilding industry. Our Quality Representative, Doug Hassinger, is responsible for managing and administering the company's Ouality Plan. His duties are to ensure that the materials and construction procedures we use adhere to strict quality guidelines set forth by senior management in accordance with ISO 9000 standards and all applicable codes and builder specifications.

Craig Steele President and CEO Schuck & Sons Construction

Quality Representative Appointment Letter



Schuck & Sons Construction Company

Quality Statement

Our company is committed to the workmanship quality, performance, and durability of the constructed product. To this end, we pledge:

- Compliance with applicable regulations, safety requirements, construction codes, and good workmanship practices.
- Contract requirements will be fulfilled in their entirety
- All crews will work under the direction of an on-site qualified Crew Leader
- QA system policies and procedures will be followed at all times
- Continual improvement toward the prevention of defects

Quality Responsibilities

Quality is everyone's responsibility. All employees have a personal responsibility to:

- Use only approved materials and related construction procedures.
- Never use defective or damaged materials or equipment.
- Prevent and/or report potential quality and safety problems.
- Stop work in the affected area if continuing work in that area may be unsafe, adversely affect quality results, or cover-up a defect.

The Crew Leaders have additional responsibilities to ensure that:

- Employees are capable of performing assigned tasks.
- Work activities comply with approved materials.
- Only approved materials and equipment are used.
- Job inspection records accurately record job activity.
- Each job meets good workmanship practices, contract, code, regulatory, and guality system requirements.
- The builder is notified of any unresolved nonconformance remaining at the completion of the job.

Craig Steele, President/CEO 3-15.00

Doug Hassinger,

Quality Representative 15-00 Date

Quality Policy

Date

Quality Policy

The vice president of operations crafted a company quality policy that was ratified by the senior management team and signed by the president. The quality policy articulates the importance of quality to the organization and defines the quality responsibilities of all employees.

The company president reviewed the quality policy with employees at a series of production meetings and field talks. Poster-sized copies of the quality policy were framed and posted in the company offices. Articles in the quarterly company newsletter reinforced the quality message.



List of Qualified Crew Foremen

Foremen and superintendents are formally qualified to lead and/or inspect specific types of field crews. A foreman's evaluation form identified 12 criteria ranging from jobsite safety and framing techniques to quality standards.

Related to foreman qualifications is a required training program. The quality representative checks

boxes on a form when the foreman

completes training modules.

FOREMAN'S NAME	ר ר	ATE	٦	
	JL			
1) JOBSITE SAFETY	KNOWLEGDE	PROFICIENCY	EXPERIENCE	TRAINING REQ'D
2) BLUEPRINT READING	1			
3) MATERIAL USAGE	1			
-				
4) HARDWARE APPLICATION	1			
5) ACCEPTED FRAMING TECHIQUES	1			
6) UNDERSTANDING LOCAL FRAMING CODES THEIR				
APPLICATION				
7) UNDERSTANDING TRADE NEEDS				
8) UNDERSTANDING QUALITY STANDARDS				
9) KNOWING BUILDER'S REQUIREMENTS				
10) BASIC STRUCTURAL RULES OF FRAMING				
11) UNDERSTANDING OF COMPANY POLICY				
12) PROPER USE OF EQUIPMENT & TOOLS				
			L	
ADDITIONAL TRAINING ANY RATING UNDER 85% REFER TO PROGRAM FOR A		INC		
ANY RATING UNDER 85% REFER TO PROGRAM FOR A FORM & CORRESPONDING #	UDITONAL TRAIN	ING		

Foreman's Evaluation Form

FOREMAN'S NAME	DATE OF TRAINING
HARDWARE REVIEW APPROPRIATE SECTIONS IN CURRENT SIMPSON BOOK VIEW ANY HELFFUL PICTURES ON APPLICATIONS WALK ANY HOUSE THAT WOULD DEFINE PROBLEM AREAS DISCUSS PROPER HARDWARE APPLICATION AND CODE NAILING	
PLUMB, LEVEL & LINE REVIEW QUALITY MANUAL STANDARDS ON FOLLOWING AREAS: FRAMING PERFORMANCE GUIDELINES ON: WALLS BEING PLUMB ALL OPENINGS FLUMB & LEVEL (GLASS BLOCK, WINDOW, W SQUARE WRAPPED OPENINGS & WINDOW OPENINGS STANDARDS ON CEILING STRAIGHTNESS	/RAPPED)
HOUSEKEEPING REVIEW SAFETY ISSUES CONSIDER OSHA STANDARDS AND BUILDER'S REQUIREMENTS REVIEW WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE WITH BRACE MATERIAL	
MATERIAL USAGE REVIEW GRADE OF MATERIAL TO USE FOR DIFFERENT APPLICATIONS CONSIDER BULEPRINTS ON STUD, TRIMMER DESIGNATION REVIEW WHY HEADER SIZES ARE IMPORTANT CONSIDER HOW TO KEEP FASCIA STRAIGHT WITH APPROPRIATE MATH TRUSS STORAGE AND HANDLING	
SAFETY REVIEW COMPANY POLICIES REVIEW SAFETY PROCEDURES VIEW COMPANY'S SAFETY VIDEO CONSIDER MANUFACTURER'S INSTRUCTIONS FOR SAFE EQUIPMENT U CONDUCT A SAFETY MEETING USING AN APPROPRIATE ITEM FROM COMPANY 12 WEEK TAILGATE SAFETY MEETING PROGRAM	JSAGE
ATTACHMENT/INSTALLATION REVIEW NAILING SCHEDULE FOR SHEAR WALL NAILING REVIEW UBC & SCHUCK STANDARDS ON NAILING CONSIDER WHY A GAP IS NECESSARY ON OSB SHEATHING	

Foreman's Training Evaluation



When a foreman meets all criteria for a specific crew type, the individual's name is entered on the foreman qualification list.

NAME	LAYOUT		TRUSS/ROOF SET/FRAMING	INTERIOR FRAMING	EXTERIOR	
					TRIM	
PHIL K	APPRV'D	APPRV'D	N/A	N/A	N/A	
JOSE C	APPRV'D	APPRVD	N/A	APPRV'D	APPRV'D	
JAMES D	APPRV'D	APPRVD	N/A	APPRV'D	APPRV'D	
DANIEL T	N/A	APPRV'D	N/A	N/A	APPRV'D	
THURMAN B	N/A	N/A	APPRV'D	N/A	APPRV'D	
RAPHAEL B	APPRV'D	APPRV'D	APPRV'D	APRRV'D	APPRV'D	
CHESTER D	N/A	N/A	APPRV'D	N/A	APPRV'D	
ORLANDO P	N/A	N/A	APPRV'D	N/A	APPRV'D	
LEONARD B	N/A	APPRV'D	N/A	APPRV'D	APPRV'D	
DERRICK H	APPRV'D	APPRV'D	N/A	APPRV'D	APPRV'D	
ROBBIE M	APPRV'D	APPRV'D	APPRV'D	APPRV'D	APPRV'D	
GEORGE P	APPRVD	APPRV'D	APPRV'D	APPRV'D	APPRV'D	

version 2. May 30, 2000

Foreman Qualification List

Lists of Standard Materials

Schuck and Sons Construction Company, Inc. listed only those materials not usually specified by their builders. The quality manager also assembled copies of related installation instructions as well as instructions for the array of materials specified by the builders, i.e., the Simpson Strong-tie catalog and NER reports for engineered wood products.

> "With this program, you have a huge focus on the manufacturer's installation specifications, and it gave us consistency from crew to crew. So something that one crew was doing really well maybe another crew wasn't in the past and now everybody is on the same sheet of music." Craig Steele, Schuck and Sons Construction Company, Inc.

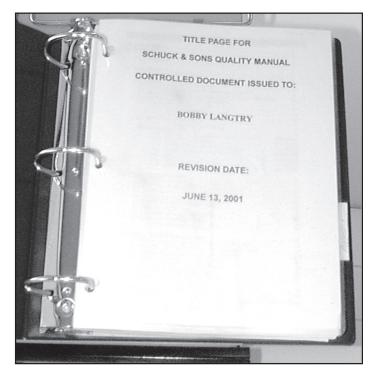
SCHUCK & SONS APPROVED MATERIAL LIST			
M TERIAL/EQUIPMENT	COMPANY REQUIREMENT	APPROVED USE/PLACEMENT	
rad gun	Stantech sequential fire	Nail gun must not be modified	
Skilsaw (circular saw)	Skilsaw make	Skilsaw must not be modified. Follow manufacturer's instructions.	
Hammer	Must be in good condition	Select hammer of choice	
Ladder	Type 1A 300 lbs. Non-conductive Fiberglass extra heavy duty. OSHA Approved ANSI A14.5	Use as needed	
Hardhat	Type 1 class E ANSI Z89.1-1997	Worn at all times	
Safety glasses	ANSI Z94.3/Z87.1	Worn at all times	
Footwear	Hard soled footwear. Sneakers may be worn by roof sheathers	Worn at all times	
Measuring tape	25 ft. minimum length	Use as needed	
Level	4-ft. minimum length	Must be check for accuracy	
Portable electric generator	GFI circuit Grounded 3-conductor electrical cord	Use as needed when temp. Not available	
í ins	Metal gas can with flame arrestor	As needed for portable generators, compressors	
Electrical extension cord	3-conductor	As needed for power tools. Only minor repairs To outer casing with shrink sleeving permitted.	
Nails	Nominal .131 in. shank or larger	General use for fastening 2x dimensional lumber As required for hardware application	
Blocking	Utility grade lumber or better	For sheathing, wall backing and standard practice	

Approved Materials List



FRAMING PERFORMANCE GUIDELINES CON'T		
WALL, STUD SPACING	WALL STUD SPACING VARIATION AS MEASURED FRO	M 1/2 IN. SCHUCK & SONS
WALL, PLACEMENT	WALL PLACEMENT VARIATION FROM DRAWING AS MEASURED FROM CORNER	1/2 IN. SCHUCK & SONS
WALL, DIMENSIONS	WALL DIMENSION VARIATION FROM DRAWING AS MEASURED FROM CORNER	1/2 IN. SCHUCK & SONS
WALL, OPENING PLACEMENT	WALL OPENING PLACEMENT VARIATION FROM DRAWING AS MEASURED FROM CORNER	1/2 IN. SCHUCK & SONS
WALL, OPENING DIMENSIONS	WALL OPENING DIMENSION VARIATION FROM DRAWING	1/2 IN. SCHUCK & SONS
WALL, PLUMB	WALL PLUMBNESS	1/4 IN. PER 8 FT. DEL WEBB 1/4 IN. FLOOR TO CEILING/AZ REGISTRAR
WALL, BOW	WALL BOW IN THE HORIZONTAL AND VERTICAL DIRECTION	1/4 IN. PER 8 FT. BOTH DIRECTIONS FOR NON- CABINET WALLS, 1/8 IN. PER 8 FT. BOTH DIRECTIONS FOR CABINET WALLS DEL WEBB
WALL, SQUÂRE	WALL SQUARENESS	1/4 IN. DEVIATION IN THE DIAGONAL OF 6-8-10 PER AZ. REGISTRAR
WALL, TOP PLATE LEVEL	WALL TOP PLATE LEVEL	1/4 IN. PER 10 FT. DEL WEBB
WALL, OPENINGS PLUMB	WALL OPENINGS PLUMB	1/8 PER 8 FT. DEL WEBB
WALL, OPENING TWIST	WALL OPENING TWIST	1/8 IN. PER 5 FT. DEL WEBB
WINDOW, SILL LEVEL	WINDOW SILL LEVEL	1/8 IN. PER 8 FT. DEL WEBB
WINDOW OPENING DIMENSION	WINDOW OPENING DIMENSION VARIATION	1/4 IN. SCHUCK & SONS
WINDOW OPENING PLUMB	WINDOW OPENING PLUMB AT TRIMMERS	1/8 IN. PER 8 FT. DEL WEBB
WINDOW OPENING, PLACEMENT	WINDOW OPENING PLACEMENT VARIATION FROM DRAWING AS MEASURED FROM CORNER	1/2 IN. SCHUCK & SONS
WINDOW OPENING, TWIST	WINDOW OPENING TWIST AT TRIMMERS	1/8 IN PER 5 FT. DEL WEBB
WINDOW SILL, TWIST	WINDOW SILL TWIST	1/8 IN. PER 8 FT. DEL WEBB
WINDOW, HEADER LEVEL	WINDOW HEADER LÉVEL	1/8 IN. PER 8 FT. DEL WEBB

Framing Performance Guidelines



Schuck Quality Manual

Regulatory Requirements

The quality manual references the applicable sections of the 1997 Uniform Building Code and Arizona state warranty regulations.

Workmanship Performance Tolerances

Schuck and Sons Construction Company, Inc. established internal standards for workmanship tolerances. If builder specifications do not supersede the tolerances, the tolerances serve as default specifications.

Quality Manual

The above items were assembled into the "Schuck & Sons Quality Manual."The manual closely follows the *Quality Assurance System for Wood Framing Contractors.*¹⁴

¹⁴ NAHB Research Center, Inc., *Quality Assurance System for Wood Framing Contractors* (NAHBRC, 2000), Upper Marlboro, MD; 800-638-8556.



7.4 Operation of the Quality System

The quality assurance system became fully operational in May 2000 as verified by an internal quality system review. In August 2000, the NAHB Research Center, Inc., performed a full-day certification audit of quality records, interviewed employees, and verified jobsite Quality assurance policies and procedures. On February 1, 2001, Schuck and Sons Construction Company, Inc. became one of the first three framing contractors to be certified by the NAHB Research Center, Inc.

"[There was] resistance to begin with, a lot of resistance for two reasons. One. it was more paperwork and most of the time they don't like paperwork. And the other thing is there was an accountability trail. And when people are held accountable. the first thing they think of is there's going to be retribution or something like that. We didn't want them to feel that this was a tool for punishment or retribution; we wanted it to be viewed as a tool to make their job easier and to reduce the amount of rework that they would have to do and make them better at what they do. It took a while to get that point across, but now it is readily accepted." Craig Steele, Schuck and Sons Construction Company, Inc.

Job Inspections

Schuck and Sons Construction Company, Inc. area superintendents perform inspections on each home, rating each phase of the framing process. Scores indicate the number of quality issues that need correction. The scores are recorded on an inspection form.

> "There weren't many changes, not for the field personnel. It did not change the way that they did things; it just gave them kind of a path to make sure that they were doing everything that they were supposed to do." Craig Steele, Schuck and Sons Construction Company, Inc.



<u>ood622-10 Lot 93 1-25-01</u> STRAP/SHEAR MON Rocks FRAME WALKS Duis Dame T.	the second is a second	SCHUCK AND SONS CONSTRUCTION COMPANY SCHUCK COMPONENT SYSTEMS, INC. 8205 NORTH 67TH AVENUE GLENDALE, ARIZONA 85302	「「「「」」、「「」」
FRAME			
WALKS ADavis Deenvel T.			
	2	WALKS Davis Duriel T.	
	EX.B		

Final Inspection Sticker

When the final inspection is completed, an area superintendent affixes a signed sticker to the home.

Completed inspection reports are submitted to the company quality representative. Inspection ratings for each job are entered into a computer database. The quality representative created the database and input form.

Quality Improvement and Training

Every month, a series of computer inspection reports show quality data and trends for each phase of construction and for each foreman. The quality representative identifies quality hotspots that trigger training of the appropriate field personnel. Typically, one type of crew undergoes hotspot training every week. Training rotates among the five crew types. Training starts during the weekly production meeting when area superintendents review the hotspots and distribute a hotspot training sheet to crew foremen and review the topic in a jobsite toolbox talk.

"Through our data collection, we are able to pinpoint errors and then focus our training where it's needed most. This creates a continuing education and improvement cycle, which ultimately results in reducing callbacks." Frank Serpa, Schuck and Sons Construction Company, Inc.

Recent hotspot training topics include:

- sway brace spacing at gables;
- shear placement per option plans;
- shear transfer—interpretation of details; and
- tightening redheads.



Builder Satisfaction Surveys

Before implementation of the quality system, some builders supplied unsolicited satisfaction ratings. Now, a builder satisfaction survey is sent to every builder. Returned surveys are used as topics of discussion and to identify improvement areas.

7.5 Future Plans

Shuck and Sons Construction Company, Inc. is expanding implementation of the quality system to nonframing business operations.

> "We're taking [the quality system] from our framing operation into our plant because we have truss assemblers and door assemblers and lumber handlers. We're using the same principles on our own and taking it into the plant." Craig Steele, Schuck and Sons Construction Company, Inc.

BUILDER SATISFACTION SURVEY DATE BUILDER REVIEWER LOCATION PLEASE RATE YOUR RECENT EXPERIENCE IN EACH OF THE FOLLOWING AREAS. MOST QUESTIONS REQUIRE ONLY THAT YOU CIRCLE AN ANSWER, FEEL FREE TO ADD YOUR COMMENTS TO ANY QUESTION. 1) CONTRACT & JOB SPECIFICATIONS ARE CONSISTENTLY MET 654 32 2) BUILDING CODES AND REGULATIONS ARE CONSISTENTLY MET 321 n/a 3) SAFETY REGULATIONS ARE CONSISTENTLY MFT n/a n/a 654 321 4) SCHEDULE COMMITMENTS ARE CONSISTENTLY MET 654 321 5) BUILDER SPECIFIED MATERIALS ARE ALWAYS USED WHEN SPECIFIED 654 32 n/a 6) CONTRACTOR SELECTED MATERIALS ARE A GOOD BALANCE OF QUALITY & PRICE 7) THE CRAFTSMEN PRODUCE GOOD QUALITY WORKMANSHIP WITH MINIMAL MISTAKES 8) THE CONSTRUCTION PROCESS USUALLY GOES SMOOTHLY 2 n/a 854 32 n/a 9) PRODUCTION PROBLEMS, SHOULD THEY OCCUR, ARE CORRECTED QUICKLY AND EFFECTIVELY 10) PROBLEMS ARE PREVENTED FROM RECURRING 654 32 n/a 654 32 HOUSE AND THE PREVENTED AND INCOMPANY AND ADDRESS AND 1 n/a 32 32 654 n/a 654 n/a 13) OTHER TRADE CONTRACTORS ARE SATISFIED WITH THE QUALITY OF THE CONTRACTOR'S WORK n/a 14) OVERALL. THE CONTRACTOR HAS GOOD QUALITY CONTROL 32 32 654 n/a 5) OVERALL SATISFACTION WITH THE WORK OF THE CONTRACTOR IS EXCELLENT 6-STRONGLY AGREE 5-AGREE 4-SLIGHTLY AGREE 3-SLIGHTLY DISAGREE 2-DISAGREE 1-STRONGLY DISAGREE comments:

Builder Satisfaction Survey

7.6 Contact

Craig Steele, president Schuck and Sons Construction Company, Inc. 8205 North 67th Ave. Glendale, AZ 85302 623-931-3661 U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development HUD User P.O. Box 6091 Rockville, MD 20849

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