

## WHY BECOME LICENSED?

WITH A CSLB-ISSUED LICENSE YOU CAN GROW YOUR BUSINESS, EARN MORE MONEY, AND AVOID FINES AND PENALTIES FOR UNLICENSED CONTRACTING.

For more information about becoming a California licensed contractor, view CSLB publications and forms at [www.cslb.ca.gov](http://www.cslb.ca.gov), including the annual *California Contractor License Law & Reference Book*.

## How much does it cost to apply?

As of July 1, 2017, there is a non-refundable \$330 fee for an original application and a \$200 initial license fee for one classification. The application fee for each additional classification is \$150. The license must be renewed every two years; the renewal fee is \$400.

## Are there additional financial requirements to qualify for a license?

Yes. All applicants must submit to CSLB a contractor bond or cash deposit payable to CSLB in the amount of \$15,000. CSLB does not issue bonds.

## Is workers' compensation insurance required?

All contractors who have employees must present proof of workers' compensation insurance coverage. Contractors without employees are required to file a certificate of exemption with CSLB. However, C-39 Roofing contractors are not eligible for an exemption from the workers' compensation insurance requirement and must file with CSLB either a Certificate of Workers' Compensation Insurance or a Certificate of Self-Insurance.

## What are the other application requirements?

All applicants must be fingerprinted (at an additional cost to the applicant) and undergo a criminal background check before CSLB will issue a license.

## How can I apply?

The "Application for Original Contractor License" is available online at [www.cslb.ca.gov](http://www.cslb.ca.gov), at any CSLB office, through the mail by writing to P.O. Box 26000, Sacramento, CA 95826, or by calling CSLB's 24-hour automated information line, (800) 321-CSLB (2752).



### CONTRACTORS STATE LICENSE BOARD

P.O. Box 26000  
Sacramento, CA 95826-0026  
1-800-321-CSLB (2752)  
[www.cslb.ca.gov](http://www.cslb.ca.gov)

DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS

CONTRACTORS STATE LICENSE BOARD  
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## BUILDING YOUR CAREER AS A LICENSED CONTRACTOR



## Answers to questions about...

### Who can become a licensed contractor?

A licensed contractor must be 18 years of age or older, have either a Social Security number or individual taxpayer identification number, and have the experience and skills necessary to manage the daily activities of a construction business, including field supervision, or be represented by someone (a “qualifying individual”) with the necessary experience and skills.

### Who must be licensed as a contractor?

All businesses or individuals that construct or alter any building, highway, road, parking facility, railroad, excavation, or other structure in California must be licensed by the Contractors State License Board if the combined labor and material costs for one or more contracts on the project is \$500 or more. Contractors must be licensed before submitting bids.

### Is there an exam requirement?

Yes. The qualifying individual (either you or your representative) is required to pass written law and trade exams, unless he or she meets the requirements for a waiver. CSLB schedules exams after the application is submitted, reviewed, and accepted as complete.

### What kind of experience is required?

At least four years of journey-level experience is required to qualify for the exams. Credit may be given for experience as a journeyman, foreman, supervising employee or contractor in the particular classification for which you are applying.

### Is school necessary?

No. There are no educational requirements to qualify for a contractor license. You may receive credit for technical training, apprenticeship training, military training, or education instead of a portion of the required four years of practical experience. At least one year must be practical experience.

### What are the California contractor license classifications?

CSLB issues licenses to contract in specific trades or fields of construction. Each trade is recognized as a “classification.” You may add as many classifications to your license for which you qualify.

#### Class “A” General Engineering

The principal business is in connection with fixed works requiring specialized engineering knowledge and skill.

#### Class “B” General Building

The principal business is in connection with any structure built, being built, or to be built, requiring in its construction the use of at least two unrelated building trades or crafts; however, framing or carpentry projects may be performed without limitation. In some instances, a General Building contractor may take a contract for projects involving one trade only if the contractor holds the appropriate specialty license or subcontracts with an appropriately licensed specialty contractor to perform the work.

#### Class “C” Specialty

There are 42 separate “C” classifications for contractors whose principal contracting business involves the use of specialized building trades or crafts. Manufacturers are considered contractors if engaged in on-site construction, alteration, repair, or installation.

## CLASSIFICATION CODE

|   |      |
|---|------|
| ASBESTOS ABATEMENT                                    | C-22 |
| BOILER, HOT-WATER HEATING AND STEAM FITTING           | C-4  |
| BUILDING MOVING/DEMOLITION                            | C-21 |
| CABINET, MILLWORK AND FINISH CARPENTRY                | C-6  |
| CERAMIC AND MOSAIC TILE                               | C-54 |
| CONCRETE  | C-8  |
| CONSTRUCTION ZONE TRAFFIC CONTROL                     | C-31 |
| DRYWALL   | C-9  |
| EARTHWORK AND PAVING                                  | C-12 |
| ELECTRICAL (GENERAL)                                  | C-10 |
| ELEVATOR  | C-11 |
| FENCING   | C-13 |
| FIRE PROTECTION                                       | C-16 |
| FLOORING AND FLOOR COVERING                           | C-15 |
| FRAMING AND ROUGH CARPENTRY                           | C-5  |
| GENERAL MANUFACTURED HOUSING                          | C-47 |
| GLAZING   | C-17 |
| INSULATION AND ACOUSTICAL                             | C-2  |
| LANDSCAPING   | C-27 |
| LATHING AND PLASTERING                                | C-35 |
| LIMITED SPECIALTY                                     | C-61 |
| LOCK AND SECURITY EQUIPMENT                           | C-28 |
| LOW VOLTAGE SYSTEMS                                   | C-7  |
| MASONRY   | C-29 |
| ORNAMENTAL METAL                                      | C-23 |
| PAINTING AND DECORATING                               | C-33 |
| PARKING AND HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT                       | C-32 |
| PIPELINE  | C-34 |
| PLUMBING  | C-36 |
| REFRIGERATION   | C-38 |
| ROOFING   | C-39 |
| SANITATION SYSTEM                                     | C-42 |
| SHEET METAL   | C-43 |
| SIGN  | C-45 |
| SOLAR   | C-46 |
| STEEL, REINFORCING                                    | C-50 |
| STEEL, STRUCTURAL                                     | C-51 |
| SWIMMING POOL   | C-53 |
| WARM-AIR HEATING, VENTILATING<br>AND AIR-CONDITIONING | C-20 |
| WATER CONDITIONING                                    | C-55 |
| WELDING   | C-60 |
| WELL DRILLING (WATER)                                 | C-57 |