

Louisiana State Licensing Board for Contractors 2014 Annual Report



Michael McDuff, Executive Director

Judy Dupuy, Board Administrator

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Executive Director

Michael McDuff



The Louisiana State Licensing Board for Contractors (LSLBC) is doing more with less, doing it better, more efficiently, and streamlined operations to serve the public and the construction industry. All State Governments and regulatory agencies throughout the country are faced with the same challenges, and LSLBC has taken it on with positive results.

Applications and renewal of licenses have been expedited tremendously with online computer services that eliminate numerous steps in the process. Contractors save time and money, and staff eliminates the confusion and bulk paper train that can be misplaced in the postal world.

Trade examination for licenses has also been computerized for scheduling and completion that simplifies the process. The contractor can schedule the trade exam at his or her convenience, and upon completion of the final question of the test, a notification of pass or fail is provided instantly. Making phone calls or waiting on letters mailed to the applicant are days of the past. In addition to examination testing at the agency office in Baton Rouge, LSLBC has partnered with satellite offices in Alexandria, Bossier City, Lake Charles, and New Orleans for the convenience of trade examinations.

The compliance and enforcement of our contractor licensing laws is a major function of this agency. Partnerships and cooperative efforts with permit offices and other law enforcement agencies are critical for our capabilities to serve the public. Consumers and business owners have the responsibility to check references and verify licensure before hiring or paying a contractor for services. To further this effort, LSLBC launched a new website in 2014, along with a free mobile app to instantly allow Apple and Android users to verify licensure or file a complaint. The app, LA. Contractor, can be downloaded free at the Apple and Google stores.

Cheap prices and things that sound too good to be true are clear warning signs for unlicensed and fraudulent actions.

Michael McDuff
Executive Director

The Louisiana State Licensing Board for Contractors (LSLBC) was created in 1956 by Act 233, and is governed under Title 37:2150-2192 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes, Chapter 24.

The LSLBC mission is the protection of the health, safety, and general welfare of all those persons dealing with persons engaged in the contracting vocation, and the affording of such persons of an effective and practical protection against the incompetent, inexperienced, unlawful and fraudulent acts of contractors with whom they contract.

Through the Commercial Board and its Residential Subcommittee, the LSLBC regulates commercial, industrial and residential contractors who bid or perform construction projects whose value is:

- \$50,000 or more for commercial and industrial projects
- In excess of \$75,000 for residential construction
- In excess of \$10,000 for mechanical, electrical, or plumbing
- Exceeds \$7,500 for home improvement but does not exceed \$75,000 for home improvement
- \$1 or more for mold remediation

Through its various divisions, the LSLBC receives and processes new applications and renewals for licensure, administers business and law and trade examinations for applicants, and conducts monthly administrative and disciplinary hearings of alleged violations.



Commercial Board

The State Licensing Board consists of fifteen (15) members appointed by the Governor. For the five-year period prior to their appointment, prospective board members must have been a resident of the state of Louisiana and must have been actively engaged as a responsible contractor in the construction classification that they represent on the Board. Requisite classification experience includes highway and street construction, building or industrial construction, mechanical construction, electrical construction, subcontractor in construction fields other than electrical or mechanical, oil field construction, and two “at-large” members who do not earn their livelihood in a construction-related industry. Terms range to six years. Each congressional district is represented on the Board.

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| <p>Lee Mallet Chairman <i>Subcontractor</i></p> | <p>Victor Weston Vice Chairman <i>Building & Industrial</i></p> | <p>Nelson “Andy” Dupuy, Jr. Treasurer <i>Building & Industrial</i></p> |
| <p>Byron E. Talbot Secretary <i>Highway & Street</i></p> | <p>Lloyd “Chip” Badaeux <i>Member-At-Large</i></p> | <p>William J. Clouatre <i>Building & Industrial</i></p> |
| <p>N. R. “Noah” Broussard <i>Oilfield</i></p> | <p>Courtney A. Fenet, Jr. <i>Highway & Street</i></p> | <p>August Gallo <i>Mechanical</i></p> |
| <p>Danny R. Graham <i>Building & Industrial</i></p> | <p>Kenneth W. Jones <i>Subcontractor</i></p> | <p>Donald G. Lambert <i>Highway & Street</i></p> |
| <p>Garland Meredith <i>Electrical</i></p> | <p>Christopher N. Stuart <i>Highway & Street</i></p> | <p>Art O. Walker <i>Member-At-Large</i></p> |

Residential Subcommittee

The Residential Building Contractors Subcommittee consists of five (5) members appointed by the Governor. For the five-year period prior to their appointment, members must have been residents of Louisiana, and must have been actively engaged in residential contracting. Three members of the subcommittee are nominated by the Louisiana Homebuilders Association. Terms range from one to three years. An ex-officio member of the State Licensing Board for Contractors is appointed to serve on the subcommittee as Chairman. Lloyd Badeaux and Lee Mallett currently serve as Chairman and Vice Chairman, respectively.

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| Nick Castjohn <i>1st Congressional District</i> | Karon “Kay” Gibson <i>3rd Congressional District</i> | Jodi Penn <i>4th & 5th Congressional Districts</i> |
| William “Billy” Ward <i>6th Congressional District</i> | | Wes Wyman <i>2nd Congressional District</i> |



Applications Division

Emma Payne, Director

The Applications Division oversees the processing and issuance of new applications, licenses and renewals for Louisiana’s 24,000+ commercial, industrial and residential contractors. Efficiency and simplification of the licensing process is a top priority. Online renewal and application for licensure have been provided for convenience and savings for the construction industry.

To obtain a license with the LSLBC, contractors must be registered and in current good standing with the Louisiana Secretary of State, and be authorized to conduct business in Louisiana. Applicants must demonstrate that there are no liens or financial judgments against the company or its officers through the submission of financial documents, and meet the statutory minimum net worth requirements.

The Division also processes all name or corporate structural changes to licenses, and provides assistance to already licensed contractors with the addition of classifications to their existing licenses. The Division monitors residential contractors, home improvement registrants, and mold remediation contractors to ensure that the statutorily required insurance coverage is current, and monitors environmental contractors to ensure that the statutorily required certifications with the Department of Environmental Quality are maintained.

Licenses and Registrations by Category

| Year | Commercial | Residential | Home Improvement | Mold Remediation | Total |
|------|------------|-------------|------------------|------------------|-------|
| 2012 | 17199 | 2894 | 1238 | 163 | 21414 |
| 2013 | 17698 | 2930 | 1258 | 161 | 22047 |
| 2014 | 19219 | 3294 | 1551 | 189 | 24208 |

Examinations & Assessment

Doug Traylor, Director

Each year this Division helps safeguard the public by providing a means to evaluate contractors for basic competency in their trade(s) by developing, validating and administering examinations and other assessment tools. Currently the division administers examinations for over 100 classifications, and requires contractor applicants for an additional 45 classifications to acquire special credentials (such as licensing with other state agencies, certification, or training).

| Most Frequently Administered Examinations in 2014 | |
|---|-------|
| Business and Law | 1,427 |
| Building Construction | 312 |
| Residential Building Contractor | 238 |
| Electrical Work (Statewide) | 170 |
| Mechanical Work (Statewide) | 110 |
| Heavy Construction | 98 |
| Municipal and Public Works Construction | 51 |
| Asbestos Removal and Abatement | 46 |
| Highway, Street, and Bridge Construction | 34 |

In 2014, this Division administered 2,791 computer-based examinations statewide. Over one third of these examinations were administered by the Board's satellite testing center partners at Delgado Community College in New Orleans, Bossier Parish Community College in Bossier City, Sowela Technical Community College in Lake Charles, and Louisiana State University at Alexandria.

At present the Board has reciprocity or examination endorsement agreements with 22 Boards in 12 states, and the Examinations and Assessment Division reviews and accredits equivalent examinations taken by contractors from other states in accordance with these agreements. Reciprocity agreements and examination endorsement agreements reflect an effort to reduce

jurisdictional barriers and regulatory burdens for contractors working throughout the nation. The Board also participates in the Accredited Examination Program of the National Association of State Contractors Licensing Agencies (NASCLA).

| Number of Licenses with Major Classifications in 2014 | |
|---|-------|
| Building Construction | 7,275 |
| Residential Building Contractor | 3,000 |
| Electrical Work (Statewide) | 2,794 |
| Mechanical Work (Statewide) | 1,989 |
| Heavy Construction | 1,614 |
| Municipal and Public Works Construction | 1,365 |
| Highway, Street, and Bridge Construction | 1,311 |
| Plumbing | 527 |
| Electrical Work (Restricted) | 267 |
| Mechanical Work (Restricted) | 196 |

Compliance Division

Marianne Sullivan, Director

The Compliance Division is the investigative and enforcement arm of the LSLBC. The Division works to ensure that construction projects throughout the state are conducted in accordance with the contractor licensing laws of Louisiana.

Investigators make routine construction site visits, handle complaints and allegations of unlicensed activities, monitor permit offices, and partner with various law enforcement agencies in order to protect the general public.

| 2014 | |
|---|--------|
| Job Site Visits | 11,648 |
| Complaints Received | 617 |
| Complaints Scheduled for Administrative Hearings | 482 |
| Contractors Found Guilty and Fined | 406 |
| Contractors Found Not Guilty/Dismissed | 27 |
| Cases Against Licensed Contractors | 188 |
| Cases Against Unlicensed Contractors | 282 |
| Commercial Construction Cases | 325 |
| Residential and Home Improvement Construction Cases | 157 |
| Contractors Licenses Suspended/Probation | 19 |
| Contractors Licenses Revoked | 11 |

If a determination is made that a contractor is working without the proper license, documentation is gathered indicating the nature of the violation, and the contractor is summoned to appear before the Board for administrative hearing.

While some contractors are interested in operating according to the dictates of the law, there are those who choose to ignore the regulations, or are unaware of them. By maintaining a presence throughout the state, the Compliance Division has an opportunity to inform contractors and the general public of the LSLBC licensing laws.



Staff Listing

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