

ANNUAL

Louisiana State Licensing Board for Contractors **2015 Annual Report**

REPORT

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Executive Director



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Board Administrator



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Letter from the Executive Director

The regulations and enforcement of the contractor licensing laws of Louisiana is the purpose and mission of this agency, to protect the citizens of this state as well as the integrity of the construction industry. The Louisiana State Licensing Board for Contractors (LSLBC) applauds so many contractors and construction trade associations that do things the right way to build a better Louisiana. Professionalism and high standards of excellence separate the very good from the very bad. Unfortunately, in Louisiana and throughout the country there are so many unqualified, unscrupulous fraud and scam artists that cause great damage and financial losses to consumers. For these reasons, the licensing and enforcement of our contractor licensing laws are so important.

Partnerships and cooperative efforts with permit offices, the Attorney General's Office, the Louisiana Department of Insurance, District Attorney and Sheriff Offices, and other agencies are critical to better serve the public. Consumers and business owners have the responsibilities to check references and verify licensure before hiring and paying a contractor. Cheap prices provided with no written contract nor actual physical office address, are clear warnings signs for unlicensed and fraudulent actions. The licensed and professional contractor carries all required insurances and pays taxes to the State of Louisiana. The unlicensed contractor does not. Everyone loses. Our website, www.lacontractor.org and mobile app, are free, easy tools to use in the verification of licensure.

Michael McDuff
Executive Director

Overview

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 ensures the integrity of the construction industry through its licensing, enforcement, and public awareness efforts, as well as being a resource that educates contractors and consumers alike.

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
- ◆ Exceeds \$7,500 but does not exceed \$75,000 for home improvement
- ◆ In excess of \$10,000 for mechanical, electrical, or plumbing
- ◆ \$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 from two to six years. Each congressional district is represented on the Board.

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



Residential Subcommittee

The Residential 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. Kenneth W. Jones 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

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.

The website www.lacontractor.org provides new tutorial assistance with Frequently Asked Questions on how to complete the application. We are here to help those that want to be compliant and legal to do business in Louisiana.

Licenses and Registrations by Category

Year	Commercial	Residential	Home Improvement	Mold Remediation	Total
2015	19,175	3,406	1,613	173	24,367
2014	19,219	3,294	1,551	189	24,253
2013	17,698	2,930	1,258	161	22,047

Examinations & Assessment Division

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.

Most Frequently Administered Examinations in 2015

Business and Law	1,682
Building Construction	330
Residential Building Contractor	317
Electrical Work (Statewide)	187
Mechanical Work (Statewide)	126
Heavy Construction	137
Municipal and Public Works Construction	58
Asbestos Removal and Abatement	29
Highway, Street, and Bridge Construction	77

In 2015, this Division administered 2,958 computer-based examinations statewide. Of these examinations, 518 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.

Number of Current Licenses with Major Classifications in 2015

Building Construction	7,317
Residential Building Contractor	3,121
Electrical Work (Statewide)	2,844
Mechanical Work (Statewide)	2,004
Heavy Construction	1,584
Municipal and Public Works Construction	1,364
Highway, Street, and Bridge Construction	1,309
Plumbing	516
Electrical Work (Restricted)	135
Mechanical Work (Restricted)	102

Compliance Division

The Compliance Division is the investigative and enforcement arm of the LSLBC. This 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 to protect the general public.

If a contractor appears to be in violation of LSLBC's licensing laws, documentation is gathered indicating the nature of the violation, and the contractor is summoned to appear before the Board for an 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.

2015	
Job Site Visits	12,461
Complaints Received	495
Complaints Scheduled for Administrative Hearings	416
Contractors Found Guilty and Fined	379
Contractors Found Not Guilty/Dismissed	24
Cases Against Licensed Contractors	168
Cases Against Unlicensed Contractors	248
Commercial Construction Cases	320
Residential and Home Improvement Construction Cases	96
Contractors Licenses Suspended/Probation	11
Contractors Licenses Revoked	12

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