

Act 725 Grandfathering

Important Information. Please read before attempting to complete application.

From the volume of telephone calls the Board is receiving, there are a lot of misconceptions about what this act does or does not do. This act applies only to those electricians or persons involved in mechanical work who bid or perform work as a **contractor**. It does not apply to journeymen or masters in either trade who are employees of an organization - be it a contracting firm or governmental entity. Unlike other states and certainly municipalities and parishes, the Board does not regulate individual journeymen or masters. The Board regulates contractors only. Thus, if you intend to bid or perform work as a contractor, this act applies to you.

It is important that applicants applying for classifications under Act 725 understand the ramifications of this Act. First, grandfathering does not mean that you will simply be given your license. Grandfathering means that you will be exempt from having to take either the electrical or mechanical trade examinations. All other requirements for licensure remain in effect.

It must then be understood that there is no way around the law to become licensed. You must complete the application in its entirety; you must submit all appropriate fees; you must provide a financial statement; you must complete the qualifying party application; you must take and pass the Business and Law exam; you must qualify for grandfathering by completing the form and submitting the required proof; and your application must be submitted to the Board for Board approval. Under ideal conditions it is sometimes possible to become licensed in sixty (60) days. The reality is that it normally takes anywhere from sixty (60) to one hundred and twenty (120) days or longer to become licensed. Your license cannot be submitted for Board approval until all requirements are met. You can significantly affect how long the process takes by making sure that your application meets all requirements. If you fail to submit documentation (e.g. Articles of Incorporation, bank references), you will adversely affect the length of time it will take to issue your license.

Next, it is important to understand the difference between the various types of electrical and Mechanical classifications. Contractors holding the classifications of Electrical Work (Statewide) or Mechanical Work (Statewide) may bid and perform work anywhere across the state. Contractors holding the classifications of Electrical Work (Restricted) or Mechanical Work (Restricted) may bid and perform work in any city or parish which does not have local licensure and also in those parishes in which they have taken the local exam.

Contractors applying for licensure under Act 725 will be restricted to those parishes in which they currently work and will be further restricted as to the settings (commercial, residential, industrial) in which they work. Once you are licensed under Act 725, if an opportunity arises for you to bid or perform work in a parish for which you are not

licensed, you will not be able to bid or perform that work or add that parish to your license. Careful thought should be given to this. If you foresee opportunities in the future, you might be better served to simply make application for Electrical Work (Statewide) or Mechanical Work (Statewide). The only difference in the application process would be that you would have to take and pass the exam instead of being grandfathered. If, however, an opportunity arose, you would not have to worry about whether you could bid or perform that job.

If you elect for licensure under Act 725, you must consider which classification best suits your need. If you work in more than one setting, you may need multiple classifications. The classifications are:

HVACR – Restricted (Commercial)	Commercial Electrical Work (Restricted)
HVACR – Restricted (Industrial)	Industrial Electrical Work (Restricted)
HVACR – Restricted (Residential)	Residential Electrical Work (Restricted)

Please carefully consider your options based upon your work experience. Remember you will be restricted not only to the parishes in which you currently work but also to the type of work you perform. You must complete an Act 725 Grandfathering form for each classification option that you chose. Carefully read and comply with the instructions found for each form. Forms may be found at our website located at:

<http://www.lslbc.louisiana.gov/forms.htm>

We want to make it very clear that all permits will be subject to investigation and that the permits must be pulled in your name. We will not accept permits pulled by someone else with the explanation “I was working for Mr. Smith.” In addition, we must have copies of the original permit. We will not accept letters from permit offices stating that you pulled the permit.

Those who choose the individual job option will be required to submit substantial documentation (subject to investigation). We will not accept affidavits in lieu of substantial documentation such as contracts, permits, invoices, etc.

Those who choose the examination option must provide copies of the local license; copy of the grade notice; and the contents of the examination. The examination you took must be similar in content to our examination. Please be advised that not all examinations will be accepted since not all exams will substantially match the content of our examination. The exam must have been a master level exam. We will not accept journeyman exams.