

# Louisiana State Licensing Board for Contractors 2018 Annual Report



**Michael McDuff, Executive Director**

**Judy Dupuy, Board Administrator**

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# Executive Staff

The Louisiana State Licensing Board for Contractors (LSLBC) was created in 1956 to better protect the public from contractor fraud by maintaining the integrity of the construction industry. Regulations and enforcement of contractor licensing laws are in place to maintain a level playing field for the competency and credentials to do business in Louisiana. The licensed and professional contractors carry all requirements by state and federal laws. Unfortunately the unlicensed, unscrupulous scam artists do not, and cause severe damages and financial losses to our consumers and state.

Consumers and business owners have the responsibilities to check references and verify licensure before hiring a contractor. Cheap prices, with no written contract, that sound too good to be true are clear warning signs for contractor fraud.

Partnerships and cooperative efforts with permit offices and the various state and local law enforcement offices are so important for this office in serving the public.

As a top priority of this office, LSLBC will continue working towards efficiencies and simplification for contractor licensing and customer service.



***Michael McDuff***  
Executive Director



***Judy Dupuy***  
Board Administrator

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 with the following thresholds, including materials and labor:

- Commercial and Industrial - \$50,000 or more
- Home Improvement – projects which exceed \$7,500 but do not exceed \$75,000
- Mechanical, Electrical or Plumbing – in excess of \$10,000
- Mold Remediation – projects of \$1 or more
- Residential Construction – projects (residential building or home improvement) in excess of \$75,000
- Residential Specialties in the following areas for work which exceeds \$7,500 on any new single family residential home, duplex, triplex, or fourplex.
  - Residential Pile Driving
  - Residential Foundations (Including Forming; Steel Reinforcement Placement; and Concrete Placement and Finishing)
  - Residential Framing
  - Residential Roofing
  - Residential Masonry/Stucco
  - Residential Swimming Pools
- Asbestos, Hazardous Waste, Lead-Based Paint Abatement/Removal, Underground Storage Tanks require a license for projects with a value of \$1 or more.

In 2018, the LSLBC promulgated rules to simplify and streamline the application, examination and renewal processes for applicants and licensed contractors.

- Insurance documents will be collected at application and renewal time with contractors certifying that they will maintain continuous coverage while licensed/registered and certifying that copies of insurance documents will be provided to consumers as part of their contract in accordance with Act 231 of the 2017 Regular Session.
- Residential Building Contractors must meet the six (6) hours continuing education requirement annually and must maintain documentation of such for a five-year period.
- The Business and Law requirement of every applicant, will be converted from a test to a course.

The State Licensing Board consists of nineteen (19) 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. 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 three “at-large” members.

<b>Commercial Board</b>	
Lee Mallett, Chairman	Subcontractor
William J. Clouatre, Vice Chairman	Building or Industrial Construction
Nelson "Andy" Dupuy, Jr., Treasurer	Building or Industrial Construction
Byron E. Talbot, Secretary	Highway & Street Construction
Lloyd "Chip" Badeaux	Member-At-Large
N. R. "Noah" Broussard	Oilfield Construction
Courtney A. Fenet, Jr.	Highway & Street Construction
August Gallo	Mechanical Construction
Danny R. Graham	Building or Industrial Construction
Jaclyn S. Hotard	Member-At-Large
Kenneth W. Jones	Subcontractor
Donald G. Lambert	Highway & Street Construction
Garland Meredith	Electrical Construction
Christopher N. Stuart	Highway & Street Construction
Elliott Temple	NAACP
Victor Weston	Building or Industrial Construction

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. An ex-officio member of the State Licensing Board for Contractors is appointed to serve on the subcommittee as Chairman.

<b>Residential Subcommittee</b>
Lloyd "Chip" Badeaux, Chairman
Elliott Temple, Vice Chairman
James C. Fine
Jody S. Guidry
Robert J. Hamilton
Frank W. Morse, Jr.
Wes Wyman

# Applications Division

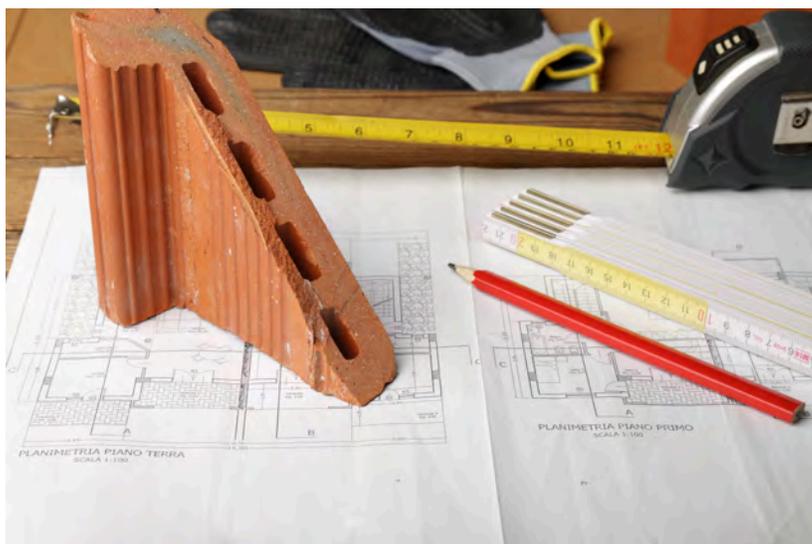
The Applications Division oversees the processing and issuance of new applications, licenses/registrations, and renewals for Louisiana's 24,000+ commercial, industrial, residential and home improvement contractors. Entities who are required to be registered with the Secretary of State must submit articles of incorporation/organization or partnership agreements. Applicants must demonstrate that there are no liens or financial judgments against the company or its officers through the submission of financial documents, and must meet the statutory minimum requirement of \$10,000 net worth.

Efficiency and simplification of the licensing process continues to be a top priority. The LSLBC implemented a new interactive contractor's tracking system/database called ARLS in October, 2018. Through a portal, contractors will be able to update their own information, renew online, etc. This system will allow for additional streamlining and acceleration in processing applications and renewals.

The Division also processes all name or corporate structural changes to licenses, and provides assistance to already licensed contractors with the addition of classifications, qualifying parties, and other changes to their existing licenses. Daily assistance is available in person or by phone to those contractors desiring to become licensed or to active contractors needing assistance with any aspect of their license.

## Licenses and Registrations by Category

Year	Commercial	Residential	Home Improvement	Mold Remediation	Total
2018	18,395	3,934	1,965	192	24,486
2017	19,222	4,062	2,277	204	25,765
2016	19,065	3,804	2,294	212	25,375



# Examinations & Assessment

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. In an effort to better assist contractors through the licensing process, two new initiatives were developed in 2018 for applicants: the interactive Classification Matrix allows contractors to determine the most appropriate classification for the type of work they perform. The second initiative is the diagnostic assessment tool. After a classification has been identified, the assessment tool assists in test preparation. By taking a sample test, contractors will receive a focused direction of study based on their individual needs as well as become familiar with the types of questions that could be present on the actual test.

<b>Most Frequently Administered Exams 2018</b>	
Business & Law/Law, Rules & Regulations	1,419
Building Construction	314
Residential Building Contractor	292
Electrical Work (Statewide)	200
Mechanical Work (Statewide)	133
Heavy Construction	110
Highway, Street & Bridge Construction	70
Municipal & Public Works	42
Roofing and Sheet Metal, Siding	28

In 2018, this Division administered 2,904 computer-based examinations statewide. Of these examinations, 712 were administered by the Board's satellite testing center partners at Bossier Parish Community College in Bossier City, Delgado Community College in New Orleans, Fletcher Technical Community College in Shriever, Louisiana State University at Alexandria, Louisiana Delta Community College in Monroe, Northshore Technical Community College in Mandeville, Nunez Community College in Chalmette, South Louisiana Community College in Lafayette, and Sowela Technical Community College in Lake Charles.

<b>Number of Current Licenses 2018</b>	
Building Construction	8,042
Residential Building Contractor	3,914
Electrical Work (Statewide)	3,292
Mechanical Work (Statewide)	2,273
Heavy Construction	1,814
Municipal & Public Works Construction	1,556
Highway, Street & Bridge Construction	1,514
Plumbing	582

# 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.

2018	
Complaints Received	451
Complaints Schedule for Administrative Hearings	400
Contractors Found Guilty and Fined	394
Contractors Found Not Guilty/Dismissed	6
Cases Against Licensed Contractors	81
Cases Against Unlicensed Contractors	319
Commercial Construction Cases	195
Residential and Home Improvement Construction Cases	206
Contractors Licenses Suspended/Probation	2
Contractors Licenses Revoked	3



# Staff Listing

<b>Administration</b>			
Michael McDuff	Executive Director	mmcduff@lslbc.louisiana.gov	225.763.3983
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<b>Accounting</b>			
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