

Louisiana State Licensing Board For Contractors 2019 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 protect the public from fraudulent, inexperienced, and incompetent contractors. Its authority includes the monitoring of construction projects to ensure compliance with licensing requirements. Through its regulation and enforcement of contractor licensing laws, the LSLBC promotes integrity in the construction industry. This role ensures a level playing field for companies licensed to do business in Louisiana.

Licensed and professional contractors carry all requirements of state and federal laws. Unfortunately, the unlicensed, unscrupulous scam artists do not and cause severe damage and financial losses to our consumers and state. Consumers and business owners have the responsibility to check references and verify licensure before hiring a contractor. Cheap prices that sound too good to be true, with no written contract, are clear warning signs for contractor fraud. Partnerships and cooperative efforts with permit offices, as well as state and local law enforcement, lead to a systemic response in serving the public.

LSLBC maintains as top priorities customer service and a continued effort to work toward efficiencies and simplification in serving licensed contractors.



Michael McDuff
Executive Director



Judy Dupuy
Board Administrator

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 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 residential project with no more than four incorporated or attached dwelling units
 - 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 and 2019, the LSLBC promulgated rules and updated statutes to simplify and streamline the application, examination and renewal processes for applicants and licensed contractors.

Now, in its 64th year, the LSLBC staff, board members and partners stand ready to embrace and honor its commitment to the construction industry and to the public.

Governance

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.

Commercial Board	
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
Brian J. Bordelon	Building or Industrial Construction
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
Joel Rushing	Building or Industrial 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.

Residential Board	
Lloyd “Chip” Badeaux	Chairman
Elliott Temple	Vice Chairman
James C. Fine	
Robert J. Hamilton	
Frank W. Morse, Jr.	
Wes Wyman	

Applications/Licensing Division

The Applications/Licensing 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. Licenses are issued to companies (not individuals, unless operating as a sole proprietor). Entities who are required to be registered with the Secretary of State must submit articles of incorporation, articles of organization or partnership agreements. Applicants must demonstrate that there are no liens or financial judgments against the company or its officers, and must submit financial documents which indicate that the entity meets 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 called ARLS in October, 2018. Contractors are able to update their own information, renew online, etc. through an online portal. This system allows 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
2019	18,219	4,012	1,920	197	24,428
2018	18,395	3,934	1,965	192	24,486
2017	19,222	4,062	2,277	204	25,765



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 recently developed 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.

Most Frequently Administered Exams 2019	
Building Construction	337
Residential Building Contractor	258
Electrical Work (Statewide)	201
Mechanical Work (Statewide)	137
Heavy Construction	117
Highway, Street & Bridge Construction	65
Municipal & Public Works Construction	63
Roofing and Sheet Metal, Siding	41

In 2019, this Division administered 1,727 computer-based examinations statewide. Of these examinations, 643 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.

Number of Current Licenses 2019	
Building Construction	7,360
Residential Building Contractor	3,760
Electrical Work (Statewide)	3,084
Mechanical Work (Statewide)	2,142
Heavy Construction	1,557
Municipal & Public Works Construction	1,332
Highway, Street & Bridge Construction	1,297
Plumbing	572

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 most 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.

2019	
Complaints Received	276
Complaints Scheduled for Administrative Hearings	470
Contractors Found Guilty and Fined	460
Contractors Found Not Guilty/Dismissed	10
Cases Against Licensed Contractors	133
Cases Against Unlicensed Contractors	337
Commercial Construction Cases	250
Residential and Home Improvement Construction Cases	220



Staff Listing

Administration		
Michael McDuff	Executive Director	225.763.3983
Judy Dupuy	Board Administrator	225.763.3982
John Dixon	Information Technology Director	225.765.2301 x 1261
Applications/Licensing		
Elaine Riggins	Applications Director	225.765.2301 x 1243
Tarah Revette	Applications Manager	225.765.2301 x 1213
Examinations/Assessment		
Janna Lege	Examinations Director/ Human Resources	225.765.2301 x 1233
Nikki Lopez	Examinations/Assessments	225.765.2301 x 1259
Doug Traylor	Examinations/Assessments	225.765.2301 x 1229
Shannon Temple	Examinations	225.765.2301 x 1228
Compliance		
Brad Hassert	Compliance Director	225.765.2301 x 1248
Leann Evans	Administrative Program Director	225.765.2301 x 1216
Carrie Morgan	Compliance Manager	225.765.2301 x 1215
Bobby Abraham	Compliance Supervisor	225.765.2301
Todd Brady	Compliance Supervisor	225.765.2301 x 1223
Accounting		
Tracy Guidry	Accountant Administrator	225.765.2301 x 1219
Maria Brady	Accounting Supervisor	225.765.2301 x 1236

