Contractor License State Requirements: California

California Contractor License
General Information

Residency &Citizenship

Neither California residency nor U.S. Citizenship required.

Classifications
In California, contractor's licenses are grouped into three main classes: General Engineering (A), General Building (B), and Specialty (C) contractors. In addition, there are two certifications: Asbestos Abatement and Hazardous Substances Removal.

Working Experience
The applicant must have four full years of experience within the past 10 years, in the classification s/he is applying for, at the level of Journeyman, Foreman, Supervisor, or Contractor.

Examination
In general, applicants for a contractor's license must pass a two-part exam:

The Law Exam covers license, lien, and labor law including worker's compensation and payroll taxes, and business administration and elementary accountancy principles.

The exams are multiple choice. The Law exam will consist of 115 questions.

The trade exam covers the contractor's trade classification. The trade exam will consist of practical questions and problems in the specific classification for which you are applying. Example, the trade Plumber is tested on the uniform plumbing code, plumbing tools, materials, equipment, trade practices, safety procedures, and plans and specifications.

The Trade exams vary in length depending on your classification. On average, there are about 80 questions on the trade.

Further information concerning the examination will be sent with your exam notification letter.

Exam Locations
The exams are held in Buena Park, Inglewood, Fresno, Oakland, Sacramento, San Diego and Ventura.

The exams are given every weekday. Generally, it will take about seven weeks from the time you apply until you are scheduled to take the test.

Additional License Requirements
After the Qualifying Individual has passed the written examination or obtained exemption there from and there is no cause for further review, you will receive instructions on the license requirements. The requirements will include an additional $150 fee (this fee is for issuance of a license for two years), bonds, proof of worker's compensation coverage or exemption from worker's compensation, and asbestos open book exam.