



The Contractors State License Board, which operates under the umbrella of the California Department of Consumer Affairs, licenses and regulates California's 285,000 contractors, and is regarded as one of the leading consumer protection agencies in the United States.

## “B” General Building Contractor License

The “B” General Building Contractor license is the most common contractor license classification in California, with almost 104,000 active licenses.\* As a result, the Contractors State License Board (CSLB) often receives questions about what jobs a B General Building licensee can legally perform.

The purpose of this *Fast Facts* sheet is to provide basic information regarding the permissible scope of work for contractors holding a B General Building Contractor license.

**Business and Professions Code (BPC) section 7057** defines a General Building contractor as someone whose principal contracting business is in connection with “any structure built, being built, or to be built for the support, shelter, and enclosure of persons, animals, chattels or movable property of any kind, requiring in its construction the use of at least two unrelated building trades or crafts, or to do or superintend the whole or any part thereof.” The BPC provides additional clarification as summarized below.

### A “B” General Building Contractor Can...

- Enter a prime or sub-contract for a framing or carpentry project and self-perform the work.
- Enter a prime or sub-contract for two or more separate and unrelated trades and self-perform the work (framing and carpentry cannot count as one of the trades).
- Enter a prime or sub-contract for a single trade. However, unless the “B” holds the appropriate specialty classification, the performance of the work (other than carpentry or framing that can be self-performed) must be subcontracted to a contractor that holds the appropriate classification.

### A “B” General Building Contractor Cannot...

- Enter a prime contract for any project involving trades other than framing or carpentry **unless**:
  - The prime contract requires at least two other, unrelated building trades or crafts; **or**
  - The “B” General Building contractor holds the appropriate license classification or subcontracts with an appropriately licensed specialty contractor to perform the work.
- Enter a sub-contract involving trades other than framing or carpentry **unless**:
  - The sub-contract requires at least two other, unrelated trades or crafts; **or**
  - The “B” General Building contractor holds the appropriate license classification.
- Include framing or carpentry in calculating the two unrelated trades necessary for the B General Building contractor to be able to take a prime or sub-contract for a project involving other trades.

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- Enter a contract for any project which includes the C-16 Fire Protection or C-57 Well Drilling specialty classifications **unless**:
  - The "B" General Building contractor holds the specialty license, **or**
  - The "B" General Building contractor sub-contracts with the appropriately licensed specialty contractor (pursuant to Sections 7026.12 and 7026.13 of the BPC and Section 13750.5 of the Water Code, respectively).

#### **Additional Authorization and Limitations**

A "B" General Building contractor that contracts for work that includes framing, carpentry or two unrelated trades may perform the following work as follows:

- **Hazardous Substances** – "B" General Building contractors can perform hazardous substance removal if they have a Hazardous Substances Removal Certification.
- **Underground Storage Tanks** – "B" General Building contractors can remove an underground storage if they have a Hazardous Substances Removal Certification.
- **Asbestos** – "B" General Building contractors cannot contract for jobs involving asbestos abatement **unless they**:
  - Hold a C-22 Asbestos Abatement specialty license, **or**
  - Hold an asbestos certification (pursuant to BPC section 7058.5) **and** are registered with the Department of Industrial Relation's Division of Occupational Safety and Health, **or**
  - Subcontract with an appropriately licensed contractor.
- **Solar Energy Systems** – A "B" General Building contractor may contract and self-perform installation of a solar energy system on a structure because installation of the solar energy system constitutes two or more unrelated trades pursuant to Title 16, California Code of Regulations Section 832.62(b)
- **Roofing** – A "B" General Building contractor may contract for projects that include roofing. However, they must subcontract to a C-39 roofing contractor if the roofing is a standalone contract – not included in a larger project that includes two unrelated trades such as home construction, room addition, or remodeling.

#### **Additional Information**

This information is simply a summary of the permissible scope of work for "B" General Building contractors. Additional information regarding license classifications is available on CSLB's website ([www.cslb.ca.gov](http://www.cslb.ca.gov)).

Specific questions about the permissible scope of work for "B" General Building contractors should be directed to CSLB's Classifications Deputy via email at [classifications@cslb.ca.gov](mailto:classifications@cslb.ca.gov). Those writing on behalf of a government agency should include your agency name in the subject line to ensure priority handling.

Representatives of government agencies with questions can contact CSLB's Executive Office at (916) 255-4000.