

CALIFORNIA LICENSED CONTRACTOR NEWSLETTER

Quarterly Newsletter from the Contractors State License Board



New C-49 Tree and Palm Classification Takes Effect

CSLB is now accepting applications for the new C-49 – Tree and Palm Contractor classification, effective as of January 1, 2024.

CSLB created this classification to ensure tree service contractors are tested on health and safety protocols in the tree service industry. The regulation establishing the C-49 was approved on March 30, 2022. The C-49 trade examination was developed and finalized in December 2022.

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California Licensed Contractor Newsletter

is an official publication of the Contractors State License Board.



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Contractors State License Board



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A Message from Board Chair, Diana Love



As Chair of the Contractors State License Board, I want to update you on CSLB's efforts to expand our reach to applicants and licensees.

CSLB now has 10 of its licensing exams available in Spanish. Staff identified the trade exams where a Spanish translator is most often requested and have translated the following exams into Spanish: Law and Business, B - General Building, C-8 Concrete, C-9 Drywall, C-15 Flooring and Floor Covering, C-27 Landscaping, C-33 Painting and Decorating, C-36 Plumbing, C-39 Roofing, and C-54 Ceramic and Mosaic Tile. All of CSLB's study guides for the 48 exams have been translated into Spanish and are available on CSLB's website (visit www.cslb.ca.gov, choose the "Applicants" tab, then scroll to "**Exam Study Guides**"). Since the initial rollout of the Spanish exams, more than 2,000 Spanish exams have been taken so far.

This is part of CSLB's efforts to remove barriers to licensure, including bringing more women and minorities into the contracting field. CSLB is gathering more details about its licensee population with voluntary surveys of new licensees and anticipates surveying all licensees in early 2024 on how CSLB can better serve its licensees.

Thank you for your dedication to our profession and your ongoing support of consumer protection. It is through our collective efforts that we strengthen the integrity of the construction industry and ensure a brighter future for California.

Sincerely,

Diana Love
Board Chair, Contractors State License Board



Improve Your Business through Caltrans' Construction Mentor and Protégé Program



CMPP North Region Workshop 1 in Marysville, CA included a packed room of participants from Caltrans staff, CPM Logistics, and CMPP Mentors and Protégés.

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), with consultants from CPM Logistics, recently kicked off its statewide Construction Mentor Protégé Program (CMPP). Seven mentors from the construction field will join 16 small business protégés for a 6-month voluntary program to network and help each other grow their businesses. The goal of this statewide program is to assist small construction businesses with learning how to successfully bid and/or complete Caltrans public works projects.

The monthly CMPP events will be held either in-person (at the Caltrans district office) or virtually and consists of presentations by mentors and protégés on a variety of topics such as: contracts, estimating, disputes, and change orders.

Participants of the program can be Protégés or Mentors:

Protégés are small and emerging construction contractors who have demonstrated interest succeeding as a construction firm in their local communities and are looking to grow and participate in Caltrans Public Works transportation improvement construction projects. Protégés include small business firms, disadvantaged business enterprises, disabled veterans business enterprises, public works small business enterprises, and micro businesses.

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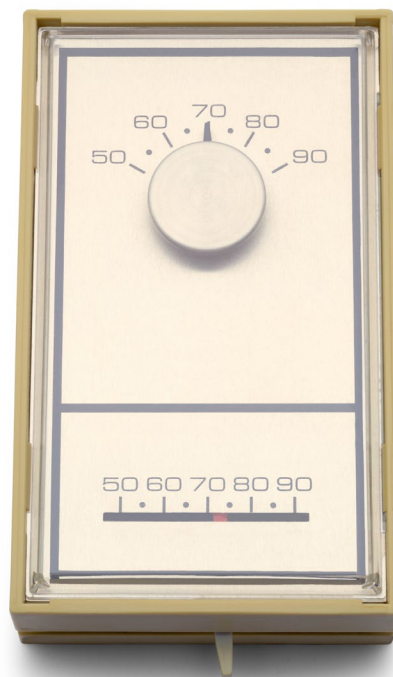
Reminder to Contractors About Proper Disposal of Mercury Thermostats

Mercury thermostats are considered universal waste and can pose a serious health hazard to our communities and environment. In 2006, the State of California banned the sale of mercury-containing thermostats due to public health and safety concerns, but there are still old mercury thermostats in circulation across the state.

California licensed contractors, particularly in the C-20 Warm-Air Heating, Ventilating and Air-Conditioning and C-21 Building Moving and Demolition classifications, play a crucial role in ensuring the safe disposal of these thermostats because they are likely to come across mercury thermostats in their projects. For example, contractors assisting a resident in replacing a manual mercury thermostat with a digital or smart energy-saving thermostat must adhere to Universal Waste Regulations concerning proper handling and disposal.

If mercury-containing thermostats are mishandled, they can easily

break, become a health risk, and contaminate water and soil. With this in mind, mercury thermostats cannot be discarded in regular



household trash. The improper disposal of just one mercury thermostat can have a significant impact on public health.

Thermostat Care is a nonprofit program tasked by the **California Department of Toxic Substances Control** with keeping mercury thermostats out of our landfills

and ensuring they are disposed of safely. Thermostat Care helps contractors across California comply with regulations by providing a free collection container with pre-paid shipping to send mercury thermostats to Thermostat Care for safe and proper management.

Contractors can request a free collection container with pre-paid shipping by completing a **large bin** or **small pail** request form and emailing it to the Thermostat Care team at ContainerRequests@ThermostatCare.org.

For more information on safe disposal, visit Thermostat Care's contractors page at thermostatcare.org/contractors.





Hawaii Disaster Response

CSLB continues to provide support to disaster survivors, including those in other states.

The August fires in Lahaina on the island of Maui damaged or destroyed around 2,200 structures and killed 97 people. The fire was driven by high winds and dry conditions, similar to many of the fires that occur in California.

With that experience from past fires such as the Camp Fire in Paradise and the Tubbs Fire in Sonoma and Napa counties, CSLB reached out to the Hawaii Contractors Board to provide support following the Maui fire.

In September, senior staff from CSLB and the Hawaii Contractors Board shared best practices for wildfire cleanup and successful outreach tools. CSLB also noted the benefits of staff putting signs in disaster areas to remind homeowners to use licensed

contractors when rebuilding and to be aware of unlicensed contractors.

CSLB provided the Hawaii Contractors Board with materials from its Disaster Outreach Kits, which can be found in CSLB's **Disaster Help Center** by going online to www.cslb.ca.gov/Disaster. Some of the key materials include “Rebuilding After a Disaster,” “Disaster Debris Removal and Construction Scams,” and “10 Tips for Hiring a Contractor.” These are materials that CSLB regularly distributes at Local Assistance Centers/Disaster Recovery Centers following declared disasters in California.



To view the 2023-2024
Committee Assignments
[CLICK HERE](#)

Caltrans' Construction Mentor and Protégé Program (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

Mentors are established and successful construction firms that have a proven track record of successfully bidding and performing Caltrans Public Works transportation improvement construction projects and have a willingness to help others succeed

by sharing their knowledge and expertise.

The CMPP provides protégés the opportunity to connect with CPM Logistics, consultants facilitating the program with Caltrans, and/or mentors to address individual goals and concerns.

For eligibility requirements, please review the **Construction Mentor Protégé Program** information on the Caltrans website by visiting www.dot.ca.gov.



New C-49 Tree and Palm Classification Takes Effect

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

The following changes now affect tree service specialty contractors:

- CSLB will no longer accept applications for the C-61/D-49 Tree Service limited specialty classification. Applications received for the C-61/D-49 Tree Service classification will be processed as a C-49 Tree and Palm application.
- Contractors who wish to specialize in tree service work who do not hold a C-61/D-49 Tree Service classification will need to apply for the C-49 Tree and Palm Contractor classification.
- All applicants for the C-49 Tree and Palm Contractor classification will need to sit for a trade examination regardless of other license classifications they hold.
- CSLB will prioritize the application experience review for C-49 applicants that have held an active C-61/D-49 Tree Service license for at least four years.

Contractors who hold a C-61/D-49 Tree Service classification issued before January 1, 2024, may retain and work under that classification. However, C-61/D-49 are encouraged to apply for the C-49 classification, which will become the industry standard.

While the C-49 and C-61/D-49 classification descriptions differ slightly (the C-49 description includes palms) CSLB regards the classification of work as the same.

The existing **C-61/D-49 Tree Service Contractor classification** description is available online (visit www.cslb.ca.gov, choose the "Licencees" tab, then "CSLB License Classifications," then scroll to "C-61 - Limited Specialty"). To view the new **C-49 Tree and Palm classification** description, visit www.govt.westlaw.com/calregs, then search for "Section 832.49."

ADD A CLASS TO YOUR LICENSE

Submit your "Application for Additional Classification" today!

Prioritize Jobsite Mental Health

Mental health should be just as important as wearing protective gear - check in on your team members.

If you're experiencing difficult thoughts, call 988



In Case You Missed It!

Here are the highlights from the December Quarterly Board Meeting.

On December 13, CSLB held its quarterly meeting at Headquarters in Sacramento, California.

During the meeting, board members and senior staff shared pertinent updates from CSLB, including the following:

- The Board approved the 2023 Sunset Report. You may find Chapter 10 (Response to Prior Issues) and Chapter 11 (New Issues) to be of particular interest. The full **Sunset Review Report** is available on CSLB's website to view and download (visit www.cslb.ca.gov, choose the "Resources" tab, then "CSLB Reports," then scroll to "2023 CSLB Sunset Report").
- Enforcement provided investigative highlights (including criminal investigations and proactive enforcement) and statistical updates.
- The Board approved action to grant Construction Management Education account awards to five institutions while Licensing and Testing program statistical updates were provided confirming record low processing times.



- Public Affairs provided an update including disaster-related outreach, videos produced, and a summary of Senior Scam Stopper seminars conducted during the last quarter of 2023. Low wait times for the Call Center were also noted.

Want more than just the highlights?

Download the [December Quarterly Board Meeting packet](#) and watch the meeting on [YouTube](#).



HOT TOPICS

Legislative Corner

New California laws may affect your business. All the below bills were signed by the governor and took effect January 1, 2024, unless noted otherwise.

AB 336 (Cervantes, 2023) requires licensees who are not **exempt** from workers' compensation requirements to certify on the CSLB license renewal form the top three (by payroll) workers' compensation classification codes (WCC) endorsed on the licensee's workers' compensation policy. (Please note this bill takes effect July 1, 2024.)

AB 1204 (Holden, 2023) prohibits specialty contractors from subcontracting with more than one subcontractor in the same classification as the specialty contractor on the same jobsite unless: 1) the subcontractor has employees who perform the work in the relevant classification or 2) the specialty contractor is signatory to a collective bargaining agreement for the work being conducted. This bill makes a violation of this section cause for disciplinary action.

SB 601 (McGuire, 2023) increases the statute of limitations for misdemeanor violations pertaining to unlawful use of a license and would increase the civil penalties for specified home improvement contract violations in declared disaster areas.

SB 630 (Dodd, 2023) requires CSLB applicants and licensees to provide an email address, if available, at the time of initial licensure and renewal. This bill would require licensees to update their email address within 30 days of a change and specify that licensee email addresses are not subject to disclosure under the California Public Records Act (CPRA). Additionally, this bill authorizes the Registrar to revoke a license when probationary conditions placed upon that license are not met.

RECENT ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS





Workers' Compensation Requirements

Workers' compensation (WC) insurance exists for employees who get hurt or sick because of work. It provides basic benefits, including medical care, temporary disability benefits, permanent disability benefits, supplemental job displacement benefits and a return-to-work supplement, and death benefits.

Classifications required to carry WC insurance, regardless of whether they have employees:

- C-8 Concrete
- C-20 Warm-Air Heating, Ventilating and Air-Conditioning
- C-22 Asbestos Abatement
- C-39 Roofing
- C-61/D-49 Tree Service

Please note: All classifications will be required to have workers' compensation insurance beginning January 1, 2026.

Submit your Workers' Compensation Insurance online!

Access the [Online Submission Form](#) or download [Completion Instructions](#)

Additional Resources:

- Industry Bulletin: [CSLB Shares Additional Details Regarding Workers' Compensation Insurance Requirement for Four License Classifications](#)

RECENT ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS



CSLB Hot Topics (continued)

2024 'California Contractors License Law & Reference Book' Undergoes Significant Update

CSLB is pleased to introduce for 2024 a streamlined law and reference book that includes essential information for the California construction industry. The **Contractors License Law & Reference Book (2024 Edition)** is available on CSLB's website, visit www.cslb.ca.gov, click on the "Resources" tab, and choose "CSLB Publications."

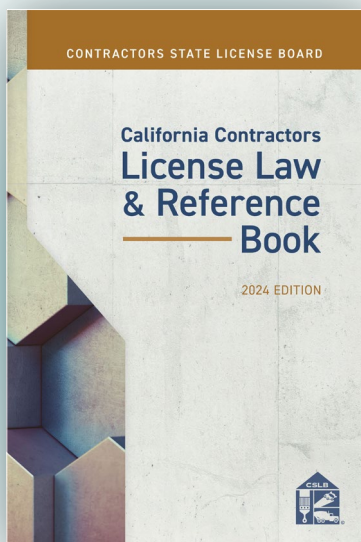
CSLB has reviewed and made noteworthy changes to the book, cutting the book to half its previous size.

Key changes include removal of:

- **Chapter 1. Becoming a Licensed Contractor:**
This information is available in the [Get Licensed to Build guide](#) on CSLB's website.
- **Chapter 2. Your Existing License: Maintaining and Changing It:**
This information is available on the [Maintain and Change Your License](#) page on CSLB's website.
- **Chapter 3. Access to License Information:**
This information is available on different parts of CSLB's website, depending on what licensee information you're looking to access.
- **Chapter 7. Safety and Health in Construction:**
This information is available on Cal/OSHA's website (visit www.dir.ca.gov/dosh), which also links to the Cal/OSHA construction, electrical, and general industry safety orders (visit www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/construction-guide-summary.html).

As a result, the chapters were renumbered to reflect the changes.

Also, sections of law from California state codes that are not from the Business and Professions Code, which were included in prior year editions, were removed and can be found online at www.leginfo.legislature.ca.gov.





CSLB Hot Topics (continued)

Nearly 300 Legal Actions Resulting from Fall Enforcement Efforts

CSLB's Enforcement Division conducted 8 stings and 797 sweeps from October through December. The operations were conducted in 24 counties and resulted in 298 legal actions, including three arrests, related to unlicensed contracting and other violations of state law.

Below, you will find the latest press releases issued by CSLB for your reference:

- [Joint Operation Uncovers Alleged Unlicensed Contractors in Monterey County Sting](#)
- [Alleged Unlicensed Contractor Arrested During Clovis Sting](#)
- [CSLB Cites Eight Unlicensed Contractors in Oakdale Sting](#)
- [Joint Operations Target Unlicensed Contractors in Fresno and El Dorado Counties](#)
- [Two Alleged Unlicensed Contractors Arrested in Targeted Bay Area Sting Operation](#)

CONTRACTORS STATE LICENSE BOARD

REPORT UNLICENSED ACTIVITY

NORTHERN SWIFT
(916) 255-2924
swiftnorth@cslb.ca.gov

CENTRAL SWIFT
(559) 490-0580
swiftcentral@cslb.ca.gov

SOUTHERN SWIFT
(562) 345-7600
swiftsouth@cslb.ca.gov

To view all CSLB's press releases, visit www.cslb.ca.gov, click on the "Media" tab, and choose "News Releases."

NEW MULTIPLE OFFENDER UNIT FOCUSES ON SOLAR COMPLAINTS

CSLB recently established a Multiple Offender Unit to address a dramatic increase in consumer-filed solar complaints. From 2018-19 to 2022-23, CSLB has seen a 176 percent increase in solar complaints.

While most solar contractors conduct their business in a professional and legal manner, this unit is focused on early complaint disclosure pursuant to [Business and Professions Code 7124.6](#) and filing accusations to

revoke licenses of contractors committing egregious or repeated violations of Contractors State License Law.

CSLB Hot Topics (continued)

CSLB Reinforces Payment Restrictions for Contractors: Rules Also Apply to Solar Projects



The Contractors State License Board emphasizes the importance of following payment regulations for contractors involved in residential solar projects. Business and Professions Code (BPC) sections 7159 and 7159.5 establish essential provisions for home improvement contracts, including solar energy systems.

Key requirements include limiting down payments to a maximum of 10% or \$1,000, whichever is less, and ensuring subsequent payments reflect the value of work and materials provided. The contract should prominently display the heading "Down Payment" with space for the actual amount and a 12-point bold statement:

“THE DOWN PAYMENT MAY NOT EXCEED \$1,000 OR 10 PERCENT OF THE CONTRACT PRICE, WHICHEVER IS LESS.”

For contracts with payment schedules, each progress payment must be clearly described, indicating the work, materials, or services completed for that phase. The “Schedule of Progress Payments” heading should be included, along with the statement in bold: “The schedule must describe each phase, including the type, amount of work, and proposed progress payment. **IT IS AGAINST THE LAW TO COLLECT PAYMENT FOR UNCOMPLETED WORK OR UNDELIVERED MATERIALS. HOWEVER, A DOWN PAYMENT MAY BE REQUIRED.**”

Non-compliance may lead to disciplinary action by the CSLB and inclusion on the Public Utilities Commission Watch List. Violations of BPC section 7159.5 are punishable as misdemeanors. Contractors must strictly follow these guidelines for a transparent and fair payment process in home improvement projects.



UPCOMING OUTREACH EVENTS

February 15, 2024

Senior Scam StopperSM

Assemblymember Chris Holden,
Claremont

February 28, 2024

Senior Scam StopperSM

Assemblymember
Christopher M. Ward, Virtual

March 23-24, 2024

Consumer Scam StopperSM

Solano County Home and
Garden Show, Dixon

For more information on upcoming outreach events, please email outreach@cslb.ca.gov.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND WORKSHOPS

BOARD & COMMITTEE MEETINGS

CSLB Licensing Committee Meeting (Virtual)

February 15 | 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
(or until conclusion of business)

CSLB Quarterly Board Meeting (Sacramento, CA)

April 17-18 | Time: TBA

LICENSING WORKSHOPS (VIRTUAL)

Febrero 16 | 10:00 – 12:00

Workshop Para Que Obtenga Licencia Para Construir

March 1 | 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Get Licensed to Build Workshop

Marzo 15 | 10:00 – 12:00

Workshop Para Que Obtenga Licencia Para Construir

Abril 5 | 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Get Licensed to Build Workshop

Abril 19 | 10:00 – 12:00

Workshop Para Que Obtenga Licencia Para Construir

Workshops take place every first Friday of the month in English, and every third Friday of the month in Spanish. To register, visit www.cslb.ca.gov and click the banner at the top of the page.

Las talleres tienen lugar el primer viernes de cada mes en inglés y el tercer viernes de cada mes en español. Visita www.cslb.ca.gov y haz clic en la bandera en la parte superior de la página para registrarte.





Videos

CSLB Recent Videos

Visit our YouTube page at www.youtube.com/ContractorsBoard to watch all CSLB videos, including the most recent videos listed below.

CLICK HERE



Here is a list of CSLB's most recent videos:

NASCLA Videos

- Solar Power for the Home 
- Protect Your Construction Investment 

CSLB Video List

- Construction Inclusion Week 2023
- CSLB Quick Tips: Hiring a Roofing Contractor
- October 30, 2023 CSLB Board Meeting
- Get Licensed to Build Workshop
- Board Member Orientation
- November 15, 2023 CSLB Board Meeting
- Workshop para que obtenga licencia para construir
- November 29, 2023 Enforcement and Public Affairs Committee Meetings
- Dcember 13, 2023 CSLB Board Meeting
- Consejos rápidos de la CSLB: contratación sin licencia en zonas de desastre

All CSLB videos are available to view on CSLB's website (visit www.cslb.ca.gov, click on the "Media" tab, and choose "CSLB Videos") and CSLB's YouTube page (visit www.youtube.com/ContractorsBoard).



Contractors State License Board's Leadership

Board officer terms run from July 1 of one year through June 30 of the following year.



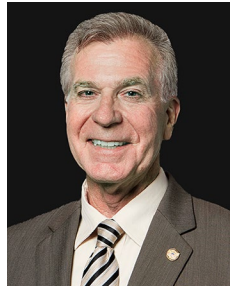
DIANA LOVE
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"B" Contractor Member



JACOB LOPEZ
Senate Appointee
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STEVEN PANELLI
Senate Appointee
Public Member



JAMES RUANE
Governor Appointee
"C" Specialty Contractor Member



MARY TEICHERT
Governor Appointee
"A" General Engineering
Contractor Member



DAVID R. FOGT
Registrar of Contractors



Contact CSLB

HEADQUARTERS OFFICE CONTACT INFORMATION

Location:

9821 Business Park Drive
Sacramento, CA 95827

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 26000
Sacramento, CA 95826

**24-Hour Licensing and
Consumer Information:**

[\(800\) 321-CSLB \(2752\)](tel:8003213252)

Public inquiries:

cslbinfo@cslb.ca.gov

Licensing inquiries:

licensing@cslb.ca.gov

CSLB Public Affairs Office

Report Unlicensed Activity:

Statewide Investigative Fraud Team

Hours of Operation:

Monday through Friday
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Pacific Time
(closed holidays)

Additional Contact Information

ADDITIONAL REMINDERS

- [Progress Payment Restrictions](#)
- [Report Unlicensed Activity](#)
- [Revoked License List](#)

