



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.

Classifications for the Installation, Maintenance, or Service of Heat Pump Water Heaters (HPWH) and HVAC System Heat Pumps

Heat Pump Water Heaters

The CSLB classifications currently licensed for installation/repair of heat pump water heaters are [C-20 – Warm-Air Heating, Ventilating and Air-Conditioning \(HVAC\)](#) or [C-36 – Plumbing](#). The C-20 classification includes “water heating heat pumps.” The C-36 classification includes “any type of equipment to heat water.”

HVAC System Heat Pumps

The CSLB classification currently licensed for an HVAC system heat pump is [C-20 – Warm-Air Heating, Ventilating and Air-Conditioning](#). The C-20 classification includes “warm-air heating systems,” “warm-air appliances” and “air-conditioning systems” and associated mechanisms and controls.

Notes About Other Trades

The [B – General Building](#) contractor may take a prime contract for a heat pump water heater or HVAC system heat pump; however, the B – General Building must subcontract the work to a [C-20 – Warm-Air Heating, Ventilating and Air-Conditioning](#) or [C-36 – Plumbing](#) contractor, unless the prime contract includes two or more unrelated trades other than framing or carpentry.

The [C-10 Electrical](#) contractor is licensed to perform an electrical panel upgrade should one be necessary to install the work above (or any other work). A C-10 contractor may not contract for a heat pump water heater or HVAC system heat pump.

Please email classifications@cslb.ca.gov with any questions.

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