

January 11, 2021

CSLB #21-01

Expedited Review of CSLB Contractor License Applications for Refugees, Asylum Seekers, and Holders of Special Immigrant Visas Under New Law

The Contractors State License Board (CSLB) wants to make license applicants aware of a new law that offers an expedited review of license applications for some individuals. Under the law, which took effect January 1, 2021, **sole owner entity applicants** are eligible for this benefit if they meet one of the following criteria:

- You have a special immigrant visa and were granted a status pursuant to section 1244 of Public Law 110181, Public Law 109-163, or section 602(b) of title VI of division F of Public Law 111-8, relating to Iraqi and Afghan translators/interpreters or those who worked for or on behalf of the United States government; or
- You were granted asylum by the Secretary of Homeland Security or the United States Attorney General pursuant to section 1158 of title 8 of the United States Code; or
- You were admitted to the United States as a refugee pursuant to section 1157 of title 8 of the United States Code.

If you are a sole owner entity applicant that falls into one of the categories above, **you must attach evidence of your status**. Acceptable evidence includes:

- Form I-94, Arrival/Departure Record, with an admission class code such as “RE” (Refugee) or “AY” (Asylee) or other information designating the person a refugee or asylee.
- Special immigrant visa that includes “SI” or “SQ”.
- Permanent Resident Card (Form I-551), commonly known as a “Green Card,” with a category designation indicating that the person was admitted as a refugee or asylee.
- An order from a court of competent jurisdiction or other documentary evidence that provides reasonable assurance that the applicant qualifies for expedited licensure.

Failure to provide documentation may result in a delay in expediting the application review.

Please note that this does not mean a CSLB license must be issued, but simply that the process will be expedited.

Applicants who have questions or require further assistance, may contact CSLB at Licensing@cslb.ca.gov or email refugee@dca.ca.gov. If you need assistance in a language other than English, language assistance services are available at no cost. Call (833) 498-2006.

Applicants should also be aware CSLB is still processing applications during the COVID-19 pandemic. For updates on the impact of COVID-19 on CSLB services, visit cslb.ca.gov.

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