



INFORMATION SHEET

NO. E-03

DATE : November 15, 2023

CATAGORY : General

TITLE : License Requirements for Electrical Permit Issuance and Installations

PURPOSE : The purpose of this Information Sheet is to provide contractor license requirements for electrical permit issuance and installations.

REFERENCES : San Francisco Electrical Code, Current Edition
California Code of Regulations
California Business and Professions Code

DISCUSSION :

Electrical Permit Issuance

Under San Francisco Electrical Code (SFEC) Section 89.120, permits for electrical work may be issued to duly licensed contractors who have registered with the Department of Building Inspection Central Permit Bureau by having their contractor's license verified by the Department.

Contractor licenses are issued by the State of California Contractors State License Board (CSLB) with specialty classifications for the performance of construction work requiring special skill and when the principal contracting business involves the use of specialized building trades or crafts.

The following specialty contractor licenses issued by the CSLB are necessary for the safe installation of electrical and communications work in San Francisco.

C-10 Electrical: An electrical contractor places, installs, erects or connects any electrical wires, fixtures, appliances, apparatus, raceways, conduits, solar photovoltaic cells or any part thereof, which generate, transmit, transform or utilize electrical energy in any form or for any purpose. (832.10 CCR)

Examples of electrical work performed by electrical contractors include the layout, placement, installation, alteration, removal, maintenance, modification, manipulation, processing, handling,

testing, erection, or connection of any electrical material, devices, wires, conductors, cables, fixtures, fittings, hardware, appliances, apparatus, busway, equipment, raceways, conduits, panels, arrays, supports or fasteners, or any combination which serve to generate, store, transmit, transform, utilize, or control electrical energy for light, heat, power, or other purposes including all work subject to the provisions of the SFEC.

Electrical contractors also install Fire Alarm Systems, Life Safety Systems, Lighting Control Systems, Low Voltage Light Fixture Installations, Low Voltage Electrical Control Systems, Control Systems, Industrial Systems such as process controls, robotics, and manufacturing, Building Automation Control Systems, Electrical (Non Pneumatic) HVAC Control Systems, or Streetlight and Traffic Signal Systems.

C-7 Low Voltage Systems: A communication and low voltage systems contractor installs, services and maintains all types of communication and low voltage systems which are energy limited and do not exceed 91 volts. These systems include, but are not limited to, telephone systems, sound systems, cable television systems, closed-circuit video systems, satellite dish antennas, instrumentation and temperature controls, and low voltage landscape lighting. Low voltage fire alarm systems are specifically not included in this section. (832.07 CCR)

Examples of work performed by communication and low voltage systems contractors include the installation, maintenance, service and testing of all apparatus and interconnecting cables, including fiber optics and/or ethereal aid associated with systems utilizing the transmission and/or transference of voice, audio, video, data, interactive services, and internet for systems such as CCTV monitoring and surveillance, background-foreground music, intercom and telephone interconnect, inventory control systems, microwave transmission, multi-media, multiplex, nurse call systems, radio page, school intercom and sound, sound masking, sound reinforcement, teleconference and satellite television systems, security systems, access control systems, burglar alarm systems and data systems.

Communications work does not mean or include Fire Alarm Systems, Life Safety Systems, Lighting Control Systems, Low Voltage Light Fixture Installations, Low Voltage Control Systems, or Building Automation Control Systems.

C-46 Solar Contractor: A solar contractor installs, modifies, maintains, and repairs thermal and photovoltaic solar energy systems. A licensee classified in this section shall not undertake or perform building or construction trades, crafts, or skills, except when required to install a thermal or photovoltaic solar energy system. (832.46 CCR)

Examples of work performed by solar contractors include the installation, configuration, support, testing, maintenance and repair of solar panels and ground mount collectors in (a) solar photovoltaic systems and (b) hot water and pool thermal heating systems.

Exceptions:

Class B General Building Contractor: Permits for electrical work may be issued to a Class B General Building Contractor when the contractor has entered into either 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. (California Business and Professions Code Section 7057)

Homeowner: Permits for electrical work in or about a single-family dwelling may be issued to the homeowner, provided the work will be performed by the homeowner. If the electrical work performed under the homeowner’s permit does not comply with the requirements of the SFEC and if corrections are not made as required by the Department of Building Inspection, then the deficiencies shall be corrected by a State licensed electrical contractor under a separate permit. (SFEC Section 89.120(E))

Electrical Installation Requirements

Under SFEC Section 89.122, proposed electrical installations delineated on a permit application shall be performed only by the permittee or bona fide employee of the permittee in accordance with the California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 8, Chapter 2, Part IV.



11/16/23

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Date

Department of Building Inspection

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