

Solar Contractor Licensing in Florida



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Solar Contractor Licensing

- There are two Solar Contractor categories:
 - Certified Solar Contractor (CV)
 - Residential Solar Water Heating Specialty Contractor (CW)
 - Both categories are regulated by the Florida Construction Industries Licensing Board



Solar Contractor Licensing

- The CV license:
 - Scope of work covers residential and commercial solar water heating, solar pool heating and photovoltaic systems.
 - Is exempt from subcontracting certain roofing, plumbing and electrical work on residential installations.
 - May be required to subcontract roofing, plumbing and electrical work on commercial installations if required by the building department.



Solar Contractor Licensing

- The CW license:
 - Scope of work is limited to solar water heating and solar pool heating systems on residences only
 - Not authorized to install solar water heating or pool heating systems on commercial buildings
 - Not authorized to install PV systems
 - May be required to subcontract electrical, plumbing and roofing work if so required by the building department
 - The license is no longer available, but those with it can continue to operate



Solar Contractor Licensing

- Other license categories authorized to install solar energy systems:
 - Plumbing Contractors
 - Can install residential and commercial solar water and pool heating systems
 - As a result of a recent CLIB Declaratory Statement, will be required to subcontract roofing work.
 - May be required to subcontract electrical work if required by the building department
 - Cannot call themselves “Solar Contractors”



Solar Contractor Licensing

- Other license categories authorized to install solar energy systems:
 - Pool and Spa Contractors
 - Can install residential and commercial “packaged” pool heating systems
 - An Attorney General Opinion defined solar pool heaters as packaged pool heaters
 - May be required to subcontract roofing, electrical and plumbing tasks
 - Cannot call themselves “Solar Contractors”



Solar Contractor Licensing

- Other license categories authorized to install solar energy systems:
 - Electrical Contractors
 - Can install residential and commercial PV systems
 - Regulated by the Electrical Contractors Licensing Board
 - May be required to subcontract roofing tasks if required by the building department
 - Cannot call themselves “Solar Contractors”



Solar Contractor Licensing

- Local Certificate of Competency (RX)
 - Contractor license issued by a county and registered with the Construction Industry Licensing Board
 - Was available for solar water and pool heating only, not photovoltaics (local solar exams are no longer available)
 - Must subcontract roofing and electrical work if required by the building department
 - May only operate within the county issuing the license unless reciprocity granted



Solar Contractor Licensing

- Can a General, Building or Residential Contractor Install Solar?
 - A contractor shall subcontract all ***electrical***, mechanical, ***plumbing***, ***roofing***, sheet metal, ***swimming pool***, and air-conditioning work, unless such contractor holds a state certificate or registration in the respective trade category. (Sec. 489.113(3), FS)
 - Exceptions to this rule for general, building and residential contractors are provided, but do not include solar



Solar Contractor Licensing

- Methods of Licensure
 - **Registration:** The applicant has taken and passed a local competency examination and can practice only within that locale.
 - **Certification:** The applicant has taken and passed an examination and can practice throughout Florida.



Solar Contractor Licensing

- Requirements for Certification
 - Pass the state certification exams
 - Business and Finance Exam
 - General Trade Knowledge Exam
 - 25% solar water heating, 25% solar pool heating and 50% photovoltaics
 - Computer based through Pearson VUE
 - Test sites are throughout the world

<http://www.myfloridalicense.com/dbpr/servop/testing/exam.html>



Solar Contractor Licensing

- Requirements for Certification:
 - Meet the education and experience requirements
 - Bachelor's degree in construction field + 1 year experience
 - 3 years of college credit + 1 year experience as foreman
 - 2 years of college credit + 1 year experience as workman + 1 year experience as foreman
 - 4 years experience as workman or foreman (1 year of which must be as foreman)



Solar Contractor Licensing

- Requirements for Certification:
 - Experience must be in the field of the license category
 - An applicant for the solar contractor license must have experience verified by a state certified contractor in the following categories-
 - General, Building, Residential, Solar, Pool/Spa (Commercial or Residential)
 - If you don't have the experience, don't take the exam



Solar Contractor Licensing

- Requirements for Certification:
 - Apply for the license
 - <http://www.myfloridalicense.com/dbpr/pro/cilb/apply/cv-new.html>
 - Includes experience history, basis for qualification, verification of experience affidavits, personal information, license history, financial statement, and certification of insurance and workers compensation coverage.



Solar Contractor Licensing

- Qualified Business License
 - Required if contractor is operating as a business organization (partnership, corporation, or other legal entity, including fictitious name)
 - Not required if operating as a sole proprietor.



Solar Contractor Licensing

- Continuing Education Requirements:
 - 14 hours of CLIB approved courses must be completed every two years prior to license renewal.
 - Applies to certified and registered contractors.
 - 1 hour must deal with workplace safety.
 - 1 hour must deal with workers compensation
 - 1 hour must deal with business practices
 - 1 hour must deal with laws and rule
 - 1 hour must deal with the Florida Building Code

