

5 Steps to Obtaining Your California Electrical Contractor License

Step 1. Sign up for the exam.

Here is a link to the application: <https://www.dir.ca.gov/das/elecercert/EleCertApps3.asp>. Once completed, you may click on the submit button at the bottom of the application for automatic submission to the California Department of Industrial Relations.

If you would prefer to complete the application by hand, do so in blue or red ink. Mail the application to:

California Department of Industrial Relations
Division of Apprenticeship Standards
455 Golden Gate Avenue, 8th floor
San Francisco, CA 94102
415-703-4920
415-703-5477 (fax)

Once you apply for the exam and are approved by the DAS your application will be forwarded to our testing vendor, Experior Assessments. Experior Assessments will then send you a "Candidate Information Bulletin". Included in the bulletin will be important information regarding the exam. You will then call the 800 number listed in the bulletin to schedule your date, time and location of your exam. Please note: A test date is not automatically assigned to you.

A fee of \$75 per application and a fee of \$100 for to sit for an examination is required and must accompany the application. A check or money order MUST accompany the application, payable to: DIR-Electrician Certification Fund.

Candidates may test at any of Experior's eight California testing centers, which are located in San Diego, San Francisco, Fresno, Fremont, Rancho Cordova, Van Nuys, Cerritos, and Colton. All questions and requests for information about exam administration should be directed to:

Experior
1260 Energy Lane
St. Paul, MN 55108
Tel: 800-805-9123
TDD Users: 800-790-3926

In order to be certified, an applicant must have the required experience as set forth herein, and pass a certification examination under Section 291.3. An applicant must provide proof of experience, which may be done by showing:

(1) Successful completion of an apprenticeship program approved by the California Apprenticeship Council, the federal Bureau of Apprenticeship Training, or a state apprenticeship council authorized by the federal Bureau of Apprenticeship Training to approve apprenticeship programs, in the classification for which certification is sought; or

(2) On-the-job experience, as follows: To qualify for General Electrician certification you must complete 8000 hours of work for an electrical contractor installing, constructing or maintaining electrical systems covered by the National Electrical Code.

There is no reciprocity between states. However, where an applicant holds a license as an electrician in another state and it is determined by the Chief of the DAS that the requirements for experience to hold a license in that state are comparable to California's experience requirements to sit for the exam, the Chief may deem the applicant to have the required experience.

Step 2. Purchase the required books for your exam.

To find out what documents and books the State of California requires for this exam, refer to the list of documents and books on your state's exam page of our website. You must purchase these documents and books in preparation for the exam.

Step 3. Follow the rules.

This is a closed-book examination. No reference materials may be used during the examination. All materials brought to the examination site must be left in an unmonitored area at your own risk. Some questions require arithmetic computation. Applicants may bring a hand/pocket calculator (either battery operated or solar powered) that is non-printing and not alpha-programmable.

Step 4. Start studying!

To fully prepare for your exam it is best to thoroughly study the required documents and books, as well as any recommended studying materials. The amount of preparation time needed will be different for each individual. Be sure to allow yourself enough time to fully prepare for the exam.

Step 5. Good luck on the exam!

There are 100 multiple-choice questions on the General Electrician test and you have 4 hours to complete the test. The test is administered on a computer. Little to no experience is needed to operate the computer. A short practice lesson is given prior to the test. It is best to arrive at the examination site at least 15 minutes prior to the exam's start time. You must present one valid form of identification that is in the same name as the name used to register for the exam, has a current photo, and your signature.

Some questions require mathematical computation. Examination questions are written to provide only one BEST answer and are NOT written as trick questions. All correct answers have equal value and there are no score reductions for wrong answers. Therefore, all examination questions should be answered. Good luck!

The Electrical (C-10) Examination is divided into five major sections. These sections are:

1. System Evaluation and Design (24%)
 - Existing system evaluation
 - Plan and specification interpretation
 - Electrical calculations
 - Code requirements
 - Material selection
2. Rough Wiring (25%)
 - System Layout
 - Clearance and accessibility requirements
 - Raceway and panel installation

- Wire and equipment labeling
- Grounding and bonding
- 3. Finish Wiring and Trim (20%)
 - Finish device placement and installation
 - Trims and sealants
 - System energizing and testing
- 4. Troubleshooting and Repair (13%)
 - Common electrical problems
 - Location, repair, and replacement of inoperable electrical wires/components
 - Selection and use of electrical testing equipment
- 5. Safety (18%)
 - Lock out/tag out procedures
 - Personal protective equipment (PPE)
 - Tools/equipment