

Neon and Electric Signs are used in numerous applications by commercial and home-based businesses to advertise the sale of products and/or services offered. But in order to be safe and effective, they must be properly installed.

The Department of Consumer Protection is responsible for the licensing and regulation of all occupational tradespeople who work in Connecticut. Neon and Electric Sign work falls under the State's legal definition of Electrical Work; therefore, Neon and Electric Sign installers need electrical training and licensure.

What's Involved in Neon and or Electrical Sign Work?

Neon transformers and power supplies, including those intended to be connected to a Class 2 source of supply, that provide the voltage and ballasting for neon and cold-cathode tubing (electric-discharge tubing) consisting of electrodes and gas, such as neon, mercury, helium, argon and similar gases, enclosed in glass for use in signs and outline lighting.

Electrical Signs, referred to as signs, using incandescent lamps, fluorescent lamps, HD lamps, neon tubing and other combinations for use in, that includes and is not limited to, awning signs, channel-letter signs, directional signs, ordinary box signs, recessed signs, trailer-mounted signs, and other similar signs.

All the items indicated must be installed in accordance with appropriate Connecticut Building Code, National Electrical Code (NEC), NFPA 70, the UL standards and the manufacturer's specifications.

These neon and electrical sign systems must be installed by a licensed electrical contractor and local permits must be taken out before installation.

Licensing Requirements for Neon and Electric Sign Installers

State law requires all electricians and electrical contractors to be licensed with the Department of Consumer Protection. It is a violation of State law for a person to install or offer to install a Neon and Electric Sign system unless he or she has first obtained a license, as provided in Section 20-333 of the Connecticut General Statutes, or possesses a card of registration from the Labor Department.

Minimum required licensure for people who perform neon and electric sign system work:

C-7 Limited Electrical Sign Contractor

SCOPE OF WORK: The holder of this license may perform only work limited to installing, servicing, maintaining and testing electric signs where such work commences at a dedicated outlet receptacle or connection directly adjacent to such sign. The requirements to qualify for this license examination shall be two (2) years as a properly licensed journeyman or equivalent experience and training.

C-8 Limited Electrical Sign Journeyman

SCOPE OF WORK: The holder of this license may perform only work limited to installing, servicing, maintaining and testing electric signs where such work commences at a dedicated outlet receptacle or connection directly adjacent to such sign and only while in the employ of a contractor licensed for such work. The requirements to qualify for this license examination shall be the completion of a registered apprenticeship program or equivalent experience and training.

The E-1 unlimited electrical contractor and the E-2 unlimited journeyman can perform all electrical work listed in the limited electrical license categories as related to their respective unlimited license held.

A neon and electrical sign license limits the holder to the work defined and does not allow anyone to perform the unlimited electrical work.

Neither the owner of a single family dwelling, nor the controlling partner of a business that performs neon and electrical sign work need to hold either of the licenses indicated above. However, all of the neon and electrical sign work and services set forth in Section 20-330 of the Connecticut General Statutes must be performed only by persons licensed for such work, as described above.

A home improvement registration does not qualify anyone to install neon and electrical sign work.

For the purposes of a neon and electrical sign work, a home improvement registration only allows that contractor to subcontract the actual neon and electrical sign work to a properly licensed electrical contractor.

Penalties

Any person found in violation of Connecticut General Statute Section 20-330 may be fined up to two hundred dollars (\$200) for each violation, and face civil penalties of \$1,000 for a first violation, \$1,500 for a second violation, and \$3,000 for the third and every subsequent violation. Additionally, under Section 20-341a, working without a license, apprenticeship registration or certificate, may lead to arrest for a Class B misdemeanor.

Important Note to Licensees

Your occupational license number is important verification that you are, in fact, properly licensed for the jobs you are taking. You must display your contractor's license and/or the contractor of record's license number in all advertising, including your website, on all company stationery and in print that is at least one inch high and legible on all work vehicles.

Installing Electric & Neon Signs in Connecticut



For license applications and statutes, visit www.ct.gov/dcp and select Licensing and Registration Forms from the center menu.

For information on licensing examinations visit the website www.psiexams.com.

Tips for Consumers, Homeowners and Building Owners

If you have questions, need to verify a contractor's license, or check on complaints against a contractor, contact the Department of Consumer Protection at 860-713-6110 or visit our website at www.ct.gov/dcp.

Electricians must be licensed by the Department of Consumer Protection in order to perform electrical work. The Department licenses individuals, but not the electrical company.

There are limited and unlimited licenses in the category. In general, licenses with odd numbers are contractors, such as: E-1 unlimited electrical contractor and C-7 limited electrical sign contractor. Licenses with even numbers are journeypeople/employees, such as: E-2 unlimited electrical journeyman and C-8 limited electrical sign journeyman.

Only contractors can obtain permits and sign contracts. Journeypeople and apprentices cannot work directly for consumers, unless employed by, or employing a licensed contractor of record.

Building Permits: Contractors must obtain all the required building permits from the local building department before any work can begin. This will ensure that any work performed will be done to code and that any problems found by the building official will be corrected before the work is completed. However, the homeowner and or the building owner are ultimately responsible for ensuring that the necessary building permits are obtained. Always call your local building department for advice and guidance before any work is begun.

Insurance: Always check to make sure the contractor has proper insurance. Contractors should have liability insurance for themselves and their employees as well as worker's compensation if they have employees.

Guarantees and Warranties: Workmanship warranties are usually good only if they are in writing, and even a written warranty is only as good as the contractor standing behind it. Before making final payment on your project, always make sure that the contractor has provided you with any and all written manufacturer warranties on materials used in your project, and keep these documents in a safe place.

Important Contact Information for Contractors and Installers

- Questions: 860-713-6110
- For relevant applications and statutes, visit www.ct.gov/dcp
- For examination information, visit www.psiexams.com

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and Professional Unit
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STATE OF CONNECTICUT
Department of Consumer Protection

Dannel P. Malloy, Governor

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