



November 2014

**North Carolina
Landscape Contractors' Licensing Board
...Guiding you through licensure**

THE NEW NORTH CAROLINA LANDSCAPE CONTRACTOR LICENSE.

On August 1, 2014, the NC General Assembly voted to create a license for landscape contractors and change the NC Landscape Contractors' Registration Board to the NC Landscape Contractors' Licensing Board.

This new law:

- **Provides better consumer protection.** The new Licensing Board will have greater authority to help consumers that have legitimate complaints with work performed by Licensed Landscape Contractors.
- **Eliminates conflict with the General Contractor requirements.** This legislation allows Licensed Landscape Contractors to install landscape projects greater than \$30,000 within the definition of landscape contracting without being licensed general contractors.
- **Elevates the landscape profession to build business.** Potential customers are more likely to do business with a licensed professional. A Licensed Landscape Contractor will be seen as a professional and responsible business that adheres to high standards. Continuing education requirements of seven hours annually will keep you current on the latest best management practices, environmental issues, water efficiency practices, landscape construction techniques, and more... all to help build and grow your business.

[Click here to learn more.](#)



HOW TO OBTAIN YOUR LICENSE.

The law provides that any person who meets the following criteria by December 31, 2014 may obtain a landscape contractors' license under the grandfather section of this law;

- Current Registered Landscape Contractor
- Licensed Irrigation Contractor
- Certified Turf Professional
- Individual who has three years of documented landscape contracting experience by December 31, 2014.

For those who qualify under the grandfather provision of the statute, simply submit your application with the application and license fee along with proof of a surety bond or irrevocable letter of credit issued by an insured institution in the amount of \$10,000.

Please Note: You **DO NOT** have to apply for your license or have your surety bond by the end of this year. December 31, 2014 is simply the date used to validate eligibility to be grandfathered in under the law.

If you are a current Registered Landscape Contractor, Licensed Irrigation Contractor, or Certified Turf Professional:

[Click Here for Landscape License Application \(GF001\)](#)

If you are an individual who has three years of documented landscape contracting experience by December 31, 2014:

[Click Here for Landscape License Application \(GF002\) - for 3-Year Experienced Co. Only](#)

SURETY BOND FOR INDIVIDUALS AND COMPANIES:

[Click Here for Surety Bond Form \(SB01\)](#)

(Upon legal opinion from the NC Attorney General's office, the surety bond needs to be specific to the NC Landscape Contractors' Licensing Board ruling out the possibility of other types of surety bonds such as an Irrigation Surety Bond.)

The grandfather period for everyone ends as of August 1, 2015 under this law - apply early to avoid any delays.

So what should you do now?

If possible, go ahead and submit your application (GF001 or GF002) and payment along with your surety bond (Form SB01) or irrevocable letter of credit early to avoid any delays. August 1, 2015

will be here before you know it.

Additional information may be found at www.nclclb.com

The statute does provide a number of exemptions relative to the license. However, NCLCLB encourages all landscape professionals who qualify to apply for a license and take advantage of the grandfathering provision.

EXEMPTIONS

- Any federal, State, or local governmental agency performing landscaping on public property.
- The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT). However, for landscape installations or establishment periods for any project that exceeds the current contract amount requiring performance and payment bonds according to State law, NCDOT shall require a licensed landscape contractor to perform the work. NCDOT, at its discretion, may require a licensed landscape contractor for landscape projects of any cost.
- Any property owner performing landscape work on his or her own property.
- Any person or business owning or operating a golf course.
- **Any landscaping work where the price of all contracts for labor, material, and other items for a given job site during any consecutive 12-month period is less than thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000). A local governmental unit shall not enact a local ordinance or regulation requiring licensure for landscaping work performed pursuant to this subdivision.**
- A general contractor licensed under Article 1 of Chapter 87 of the General Statutes who possesses a classification under G.S. 87-10(b) as a building contractor, a residential contractor, or a public utilities contractor.
- Any person or business licensed as an electrical contractor under Article 4 of Chapter 87 of the General Statutes who is designing, installing, or maintaining any electric work, wiring, devices, appliances, or equipment.
- Any person or business licensed as a plumbing contractor under Article 2 of Chapter 87 of the General Statutes who is installing pipes, fixtures, apparatus, or appurtenances to supply water thereto or convey sewage or other waste therefrom, including the installation, repair, or maintenance of water mains, water taps, services lines, water meters, or backflow prevention assemblies supplying water for irrigation systems or repairs to an irrigation system.
- A professional engineer licensed pursuant to Chapter 89C of the General Statutes.
- A professional landscape architect licensed under Chapter 89A of the General Statutes.
- An individual or a business engaged in any of the following activities while performing that activity:
 - Clearing and grading plots and areas of land.
 - Erosion control.
 - Arboriculture, including consultations on pruning and removal of trees.
 - The installation of sod, seed, or plugs by sod producers certified by the Plant Industry Division of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.
 - Landscape construction performed by utilities contractors for the purpose of grading and erosion control.
 - Lawn mowing, turf edging, and debris removal services.
 - Turf management or lawn care services only, including fertilization, aeration, weed control, or other turf management or lawn care practices other than mowing or edging.
 - Design, installation, and maintenance of on-site wastewater disposal or reuse systems within the on-site wastewater permit specifications.
- Any person performing landscaping work on a farm for use in agriculture production, farming, or ranching.

For more information on exemptions you may access the statute by clicking [HERE](#)

NC Landscape Contractors' Licensing
Board
919.266.8070

www.nclclb.com

**Grandfathering Period
Ends August 1, 2015.**

Apply Today!