

CHAPTER 31**BOARD OF EXAMINERS OF ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS****Authority**

N.J.S.A. 45:5A-6.

Source and Effective Date

R.2002 d.164, effective May 2, 2002.
See: 33 N.J.R. 3404(a), 34 N.J.R. 1932(b).

Chapter Expiration Date

Chapter 31, Board of Examiners of Electrical Contractors, expires on May 2, 2007.

Chapter Historical Note

Chapter 31, Board of Examiners of Electrical Contractors, was adopted and became effective prior to September 1, 1969.

Subchapter 2, Forms, containing a section on a uniform penalty letter was repealed by R.1981 d.372, effective October 8, 1981. See: 13 N.J.R. 442(b), 13 N.J.R. 707(d).

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 66(1978), Chapter 31, Board of Examiners of Electrical Contractors, was readopted as R.1987 d.44, effective December 12, 1986. See: 18 N.J.R. 2113(d), 19 N.J.R. 137(a).

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 66(1978), Chapter 31, Board of Examiners of Electrical Contractors, was readopted as R.1991 d.596, effective November 20, 1991. See: 23 N.J.R. 2917(a), 23 N.J.R. 3762(a).

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 66(1978), Chapter 31, Board of Examiners of Electrical Contractors, was readopted as R.1996 d.559, effective November 6, 1996. See: 28 N.J.R. 4163(a), 28 N.J.R. 5077(b).

Chapter 31, Board of Examiners of Electrical Contractors, was readopted as R.2002 d.164, effective May 2, 2002. See: Source and Effective Date. See, also, section annotations.

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SUBCHAPTER 1. GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS**13:31-1.1 Board meetings; quorum**

(a) Regular Board meetings shall be held in accordance with a schedule that is published yearly and filed with the Secretary of State.

(b) Special meetings may be held at the request of a Board member or called by the Chairman with publication of appropriate notice pursuant to the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act.

(c) A majority of the voting members of the Board shall constitute a quorum thereof and no action of the Board shall be taken except on the affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the entire Board.

(d) In the absence of the chairman, members shall select one of the members attending the meeting to serve as chairman for that meeting.

Amended by R.1987 d.44, effective January 5, 1987.
See: 18 N.J.R. 2113(d), 19 N.J.R. 137(a).

Old text deleted and new text substituted.

13:31-1.2 Definitions

The following words and terms, when used in this chapter, shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

“Act” means the Electrical Contractor Licensing Act of 1962, P.L. 1962, c.162, N.J.S.A. 45:5A-1 et seq.

“Apprentice” means a person who is enrolled in a four-year apprenticeship program approved by both a Federal agency and a Federally certified state agency.

“Board” means the Board of Examiners of Electrical Contractors established pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:5A-3.

“Business permit holder” means an electrical contractor who has obtained a business permit pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:5A-9.

“Licensee” means a person who has satisfied the requirements of N.J.A.C. 13:31-2.1 and 2.2 and has been issued a license as an electrical contractor by the Board pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:5A-9.

“Minor repair work” shall include, without limitation, the replacement of lamps and fuses operating at less than 150 volts to ground with like or similar lamps or fuses.

“Qualified journeyman electrician” means:

1. A person who has a current license to practice electrical contracting issued by the Board;

2. A person who has acquired 8,000 hours of practical hands-on experience working with tools in the installation, alteration or repair of wiring for electric light, heat or power and who has had a minimum of 576 classroom hours of instruction in the installation, alteration or repair of wiring for electric light, heat or power. “Practical hands-on experience,” as used in this definition, does not include time spent supervising, engaging in the practice of engineering, estimating or performing other managerial tasks; or

3. A person who can demonstrate that he or she has gathered the required experience through alternative means.

“Qualifying licensee” means a licensee who has satisfied the requirements of N.J.A.C. 13:31-2.1 and 2.2 and whose license qualifies a business permit holder to engage in the business of electrical contracting in the State of New Jersey.

“Regular employee” as used in N.J.S.A. 45:5A-18(l) means an individual who receives a regular salary for the performance of functions which include those associated with the installation, repair and maintenance of electrical work for the State, county, municipality, or school district which occupies the premises on which such work is done.

Amended by R.1987 d.44, effective January 5, 1987.

See: 18 N.J.R. 2113(d), 19 N.J.R. 137(a).

Deleted text “, existing wall swatches . . . existing incandescent fixtures.” and added “operating at less . . .”.

Amended by R.1991 d.596, effective December 16, 1991.

See: 23 N.J.R. 2917(a), 23 N.J.R. 3762(a).

Corrected error.

Amended by R.1992 d.66, effective February 3, 1992.

See: 23 N.J.R. 979(a), 24 N.J.R. 471(b).

Section revised.

Amended by R.1998 d.543, effective November 16, 1998.

See: 30 N.J.R. 2351(a), 30 N.J.R. 4057(a).

In (b), substituted “Qualified” for “The term qualified” at the beginning of the introductory paragraph and added 3.

Amended by R.1999 d.244, effective August 2, 1999.

See: 30 N.J.R. 4112(a), 31 N.J.R. 2222(b).

Added (c).

Recodified from N.J.A.C. 13:31-1.4 by R.2002 d.164, effective June 3, 2002.

See: 33 N.J.R. 3404(a), 34 N.J.R. 1932(b).

Former N.J.A.C. 13:31-1.2, Qualification of applicants, recodified to N.J.A.C. 13:31-2.1.

Repeal and New Rule, R.2004 d.190, effective May 17, 2004.

See: 35 N.J.R. 3438(a), 36 N.J.R. 2533(a).

Section was “Definitions”.

13:31-1.3 Bonds

An action may be maintained on the bond required by N.J.S.A. 45:5A-19 by any person injured, aggrieved or damaged through the failure of the obligor to perform the duties prescribed for electrical contractors under the provisions of N.J.S.A. 45:5A-1, et seq. or any rule of the Board.

Recodified from N.J.A.C. 13:31-1.5 by R.2002 d.164, effective June 3, 2002.

See: 33 N.J.R. 3404(a), 34 N.J.R. 1932(b).

Former N.J.A.C. 13:31-1.3, Examinations, recodified to N.J.A.C. 13:31-2.2.

Case Notes

Ordinance regulating building contractors invalidated as too vague and imprecise; eligibility for financial benefits of bond. *New Jersey Builders Ass'n v. Mayor and Tp. Council, Tp. of East Brunswick*, 60 N.J. 222, 287 A.2d 725 (1972).

13:31-1.4 Compliance with laws

Electrical contractors and business permit holders shall comply with all general and special Federal, State and municipal laws, ordinances and regulations pertaining to the business of electrical contracting and those employed or engaged therein. Violations of any such Federal, State and municipal laws, ordinances and regulations may be deemed occupational misconduct within the meaning of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e) and may subject a licensee to disciplinary action as set forth at N.J.S.A. 45:1-21 et seq.

Recodified from N.J.A.C. 13:31-1.6 and amended by R.2002 d.164, effective June 3, 2002.

See: 33 N.J.R. 3404(a), 34 N.J.R. 1932(b).

Rewrote section. Former N.J.A.C. 13:31-1.4, Definitions, recodified to N.J.A.C. 13:31-1.2.

13:31-1.5 Identification of licensees, permittees and qualified journeyman electricians; vehicles; stationery; advertising

(a) All commercial vehicles utilized in the practice of licensed electrical contracting shall be visibly marked on both sides with the following information:

1. The name of the licensed electrical contractor in lettering at least three inches in height;

2. The words “Electrical Contractor license number” or “Electrical Contractor Lic. #” followed by the license number of the qualifying licensee and the words “Electrical Contractor business permit number” or “Electrical Contractor Bus. Permit #” followed by the business permit number of the business permit holder in lettering at least three inches in height; and

3. The name of the owner or lessee of the vehicle and the municipality from which the licensee practices or where the licensee has a principal office in lettering at least three inches in height.

i. Where available space for lettering is limited, either by design of the vehicle or by the presence of other legally specified identification markings, making strict compliance with (a)1, 2 or 3 above impractical, the size of the lettering shall be as close to three inches high as possible within the limited space, provided the name is clearly visible and readily identifiable.

(b) All business correspondence and stationery shall display the following information:

1. The name of the licensed electrical contractor;

2. The words "Electrical Contractor license number" or "Electrical Contractor Lic. #" followed by the license

number of the qualifying licensee and the words "Electrical Contractor business permit number" or "Electrical Contractor Bus. Permit #" followed by the business permit number of the business permit holder; and

3. The business address, including the street name and number, of the qualifying licensee.

(c) All advertising shall include the following information:

1. The name of the licensed electrical contractor;

2. The words "Electrical Contractor license number" or "Electrical Contractor Lic. #" followed by the license number of the qualifying licensee and the words "Electrical Contractor business permit number" or "Electrical Contractor Bus. Permit #" followed by the business permit number of the business permit holder; and

(b) The term "persons," as used in (a) above, is defined to mean individuals, corporations, partnerships or other business entities.

New Rule, R.1987 d.242, effective June 15, 1987.

See: 19 N.J.R. 49(a), 19 N.J.R. 1099(a).

Public Notice: Receipt of petition for rulemaking and action on petition.

See: 28 N.J.R. 2087(b).

Recodified from N.J.A.C. 13:31-1.15 by R.2002 d.164, effective June 3, 2002.

See: 33 N.J.R. 3404(a), 34 N.J.R. 1932(b).

13:31-3.6 Identification card required

(a) At the time of triennial renewal of the license and/or business permit, the Board shall furnish a wallet size identification card to every licensee. The card shall be used exclusively by the licensee in the conduct of his or her practice. A licensee who willfully or negligently allows an unlicensed or an unauthorized person to use his or her identification card shall be deemed to have engaged in

occupational misconduct and shall be subject to such penalties and sanctions as shall be imposed by the Board pursuant to authority granted by N.J.S.A. 45:5A-1 et seq. and 45:1-14 et seq. The licensee shall be required to present the identification card upon request to the appropriate duly licensed inspection agency upon all applications for electrical permits.

(b) Use of an identification card by any person other than the licensee to whom it is issued or his duly authorized agent acting on the licensee's behalf shall be deemed to be the use or employment of dishonesty, fraud, deception, misrepresentation or false pretense. Such conduct shall be unlawful and may be grounds for the suspension or revocation of the license of the unauthorized user if he or she is already licensed by the Board. With respect to an unlicensed user, such conduct shall be grounds for the refusal to issue a State license at any point in the future pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 45:1-14 et seq.

New Rule, R.1987 d.244, effective June 15, 1987.

See: 19 N.J.R. 352(a), 19 N.J.R. 1100(a).

Amended by R.1994 d.594, effective December 5, 1994.

See: 26 N.J.R. 2742(a), 26 N.J.R. 4780(a).

Recodified from N.J.A.C. 13:31-1.16 and amended by R.2002 d.164, effective June 3, 2002.

See: 33 N.J.R. 3404(a), 34 N.J.R. 1932(b).

Neutralized gender references throughout; in (b), inserted reference to N.J.S.A. 45:1-14 et seq.

13:31-3.7 Unconscionable pricing

(a) A licensee of the State Board of Examiners of Electrical Contractors shall not charge an excessive fee for services. A fee is excessive when, after a review of the facts, a licensee of ordinary prudence and familiarity with local market rates would recognize that the price is so high as to be manifestly unconscionable or overreaching under the circumstances. The Board shall consider the following factors in determining whether a fee is excessive:

1. The time and effort required;
2. The novelty or difficulty of the job;
3. The skill required to perform the job properly;
4. Any special conditions placed upon the performance of the job by the person or entity for which the work is being performed;
5. The experience, reputation and ability of the licensee to perform the services;
6. The cost of materials; and
7. The price customarily charged in the locality for similar services.

(b) It shall constitute occupational misconduct within the meaning of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e) to charge an excessive price for services.

New Rule, R.1998 d.543, effective November 16, 1998.

See: 30 N.J.R. 2351(a), 30 N.J.R. 4057(a).

Recodified from N.J.A.C. 13:31-1.19 by R.2002 d.164, effective June 3, 2002.

See: 33 N.J.R. 3404(a), 34 N.J.R. 1932(b).

SUBCHAPTER 4. LICENSURE EXEMPTIONS

13:31-4.1 Limited telecommunications wiring exemption

(a) Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:5A-18, the Board may grant an exemption from the license and business permit requirements of N.J.S.A. 45:5A-9(a) to a business engaged in telecommunications wiring.

(b) For purposes of this subsection, "telecommunications wiring" means wiring within a premises, either inside or outside a building for voice and/or data transmission at voltage(s) compatible with the system being installed and connected to an FCC recognized communication network at

the point of connection provided by the public utility providing communication services to the customer. It shall also include the interconnection of data wiring between computers and/or terminals.

(c) An applicant for a telecommunications wiring exemption shall provide the following to the Board:

1. The full name and address of the applicant together with the nature of the business entity (for example, corporation, partnership or individual proprietorship) and the names and addresses of the owners, partners and/or officers of the entity;

2. A certification that the applicant is familiar with and is in full compliance with Part 68 of the Federal Communications Commission regulations (47 C.F.R. section 68.1 et seq.) concerning installation of telecommunications wiring and any other applicable Federal regulations;

3. A certification that the applicant is familiar with and will comply with applicable National Electrical Code requirements, including, but not limited to, Article 800 (communication circuits) and the regulations of the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs and that the applicant will be responsible for obtaining any required local permits and inspections for all work;

4. A certification that the applicant shall not perform the following work unless or until an electrical contractor's business permit is obtained from the Board:

- i. Wiring defined by the National Electrical Code as service conductors (the conductors from the service point to the service disconnecting means), feeder (all circuit conductors between the service equipment, the source of a separately derived system, or other power supply source and the final branch-circuit overcurrent device), and branch circuit (the circuit conductors between the final overcurrent device protecting the circuit and the outlets(s)). Wiring between power supplies integral with telecommunication equipment and the telecommunication equipment is not intended to be prohibited.

- ii. Telecommunications wiring from telecommunication equipment to power operated controlled equipment; or

- iii. Installation of work in hazardous/classified areas as defined by Article 500 of the National Electrical Code. Classified areas are those in which hazardous liquids, vapors, gases, dusts and fiber are normally present (Division 1 locations) or may be present due to maintenance or equipment malfunction (Division 2 locations); and

5. A certification that the business shall not subcontract telecommunications wiring work to a person or business entity not having a business permit or a telecommunications wiring exemption issued by the Board.

(d) The application shall be accompanied by a processing fee as set forth in N.J.A.C. 13:31-1.6.

(e) The Board may require a personal interview with the applicant.

(f) If the applicant meets Board requirements for exemption set forth in this subsection, the Board shall issue a letter and an identification card designating the business as exempt.

(g) The exempt entity shall notify the Board in writing of any change of address within 10 days of the address change.

(h) The exempt entity shall notify the Board in writing of any change in name, ownership or form of ownership within 30 days of such change.

(i) After an opportunity to be heard pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act, N.J.S.A. 52:14B-1 et seq., a telecommunications wiring exemption may be revoked on a showing that the exempt entity has engaged in the unlicensed practice of electrical contracting involving non-exempt electrical work; or that the exempt entity has a history of failure to pass local inspections or to obtain required permits; or for any reason which may serve as a basis to suspend, revoke or deny a license to engage in electrical contracting as more particularly set forth in N.J.S.A. 45:1-21 et seq.

(j) Nothing in this section shall preclude a licensed electrical contractor from performing telecommunications wiring.

New Rule, R.1993 d.93, effective February 16, 1993.

See: 24 N.J.R. 339(a), 25 N.J.R. 705(a).

Recodified from N.J.A.C. 13:31-1.17 and amended by R.2002 d.164, effective June 3, 2002.

See: 33 N.J.R. 3404(a), 34 N.J.R. 1932(b).

Rewrote (c)4i; in (d), revised N.J.A.C. reference.

13:31-4.2 Limited well drillers or pump installers exemption

(a) Well drillers or pump installers licensed pursuant to N.J.S.A. 58:4A-4.1 et seq., are exempt from the license and business permit requirements of N.J.S.A. 45:5A-9(a) for work involving the installation, servicing, or maintenance of well or water pumps.

1. Such work includes any exterior wiring from the well or water pump to the outside of the building and any interior wiring from the exterior wall terminating at the load side terminals of the pump controller, pressure switch or disconnecting means for the pump which must be no more than 10 feet from the point where the exterior wiring enters the building.

2. Nothing in this section shall be deemed to exempt such work from permits and inspections required by the State Uniform Construction Code Act, P.L. 1975, c.217 (N.J.S.A. 52:27D-119 et seq.) or rules adopted pursuant thereto.

New Rule, R.1998 d.543, effective November 16, 1998.

See: 30 N.J.R. 2351(a), 30 N.J.R. 4057(a).

Recodified from N.J.A.C. 13:31-1.18 by R.2002 d.164, effective June 3, 2002.

See: 33 N.J.R. 3404(a), 34 N.J.R. 1932(b).