



License requirements for elevator mechanics and contractors

Licensed mechanics and contractors required for most elevator work

Mechanics who work on elevators and contractors who provide elevator installation, repair and maintenance services must be licensed by the State of Washington. In most cases, only *licensed elevator mechanics* are allowed to work on elevators and other conveyances such as escalators and specialized lifts for people and materials. Only *licensed elevator contractors* are able to pursue contracts to provide such services.

These rules took effect July 1, 2004 and carry out laws passed by the Washington State Legislature. They help to ensure the safety of people who use elevators and other conveyances, and protect employees of building owners and managers – the people most often hurt or killed by elevators when they work on an elevator without having adequate training or experience.

Responsibilities for building owners and facilities managers

If you are a building owner or facilities manager, you will need to:

- Check whether the specific work to be done on your elevator or other conveyance requires a licensed elevator mechanic, and;
- Determine if the people who work on your elevator or other conveyance are licensed to do so. Just use the “Look up a contractor” function on the L&I website at: www.Contractors.Lni.wa.gov. Then, click on “Hiring a Contractor,” follow the instructions, and enter the name of the elevator mechanic or elevator contractor.

Work that is exempt from elevator licensing requirements

- Work that does not require access to the pit, hoistway or top of the car.

- Under specific circumstances, maintenance work on conveyances in industrial, manufacturing, food and energy processing plants.
- Maintenance on private residential conveyances performed by an owner or by someone voluntarily assisting an owner.
- Incidental work, such as waterproofing a pit. However, a licensed elevator mechanic must position the elevator, tag out and lock out the elevator and notify the Department of Labor & Industries (L&I) before such work can proceed.

For more details about work that does not require a licensed elevator mechanic, please go to www.Elevators.Lni.wa.gov and select “Licensing Elevator Professionals.”

Note: Work performed by employees of a public agency on a public facility is exempt from elevator *contractor* licensing requirements, but public agency elevator *mechanics* must be licensed.

Two types of licenses are available

- **Elevator mechanic licenses** are issued in nine different categories, from a general license that certifies a mechanic for any kind of work on any type of conveyance, to specific or temporary licenses that limit the type of work a mechanic can perform to a specific conveyance or particular location. For details on elevator mechanic license categories, please go to www.Elevators.Lni.wa.gov and select “Licensing Elevator Professionals.”
- **An elevator contractor license** allows you to employ licensed elevator mechanics and pursue public and private contracts, but does not allow you to personally work on an elevator. You can, of course, obtain both an elevator contractor’s license and an elevator mechanic’s license if you qualify and successfully pass the tests. **You must also be a registered contractor in Washington State to be an elevator contractor.**

When do you need to take a test?

Elevator Contractor License

No test required if you have five or more years of experience in conveyance work, as verified by previous elevator contracting activities.

Test required if you cannot meet these criteria.

You must also be a registered contractor in Washington state.

Elevator Mechanic License

No test required if:

- You have a certificate from a nationally recognized industry program.

- OR -

- You have completed a Washington State administered apprenticeship program.

Test required if you don't meet one of the above requirements. Minimum experience requirements also have been established to determine eligibility for taking the test.

Information on experience requirements for different elevator mechanic categories is on the license application form, which is available at www.Elevators.Lni.wa.gov. Please select "Licensing Elevator Professionals."

How to apply for a license or get more information

- **On the Web:** You can find a copy of the regulations and license application forms by selecting the "Licensing Elevator Professionals" heading at www.Elevators.Lni.wa.gov. You may also pay license fees online at this location.
- **By phone:** Please call 360-902-6131.
- **Law/regulation references:** RCW 70.87.240, WAC 296.96 at <http://slc.leg.wa.gov/>.



 **On the Web:** Visit the L&I website at:
www.Lni.wa.gov

Other formats for persons with disabilities are available on request. Call 1-800-647-0982. TDD users, call 360-902-5797. L&I is an equal opportunity employer.