



**MEMORANDUM**



**TO:** Florida Building Code Administrators  
**FROM:** Electrical Contractors' Licensing Board  
**SUBJECT:** Licensure and Exceptions for Low-Voltage Work  
**DATE:** November 18, 2004

Jeb Bush  
Governor

Diane Carr  
Secretary

Division of  
Professions and Regulation

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It has come to the Board's attention that some building departments are issuing permits to unlicensed, non-exempt contractors for low-voltage work, or allowing low-voltage contracting/installation without a permit or applicable exemption. As a reminder, Chapter 489, Part II, Florida Statutes (F.S.), requires appropriate licensure to perform electrical work, regardless of voltage level, unless the electrical work is otherwise exempted.

As you are aware, section 489.505(12), F.S., defines "electrical contractor" as a person who conducts business in the electrical trade field and has the experience, knowledge, and skill to "install, repair, alter, add to, or design, in compliance with law, electrical wiring, fixtures, appliances, apparatus, raceways, conduit, or any part thereof, which generates, transmits, transforms, or utilizes electrical energy in any form. . ." The term "contractor" also includes any person, firm, or corporation that undertakes, offers to undertake, purports to have the capacity to undertake, or submits a bid to engage in the business of electrical contracting.

Based on this definition and its statutory authority, the Board requires licensure tailored specifically to low-voltage contracting. Rule 61G6-7.001(4), Florida Administrative Code, authorizes a "Limited Energy Systems Specialty" license for electrical work, not otherwise exempted, which does not exceed 77 volts.

As it relates to the statutory exemptions, it is important to note that there is not a specific exemption for electrical work involving lower voltage levels in section 489.503, F.S. There are, however, several exemptions which may apply to low-voltage work, including:

- Section 489.503, F.S., relates to the sale or installation of finished products not fabricated into, or becoming a part of, the structure. Thus, persons who provide and set up freestanding home theatre or stereo component systems are exempt from licensure for this type of electrical work.

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- There is also an exemption for the installation, repair, alteration, addition, or design of electrical wiring, fixtures, appliances, thermostats, apparatus, raceways, and conduit, or any part thereof, when those items are for the purpose of transmitting data, voice communications, or commands as part of a cable television, community antenna television, or radio distribution system. The scope of this exemption is limited to electrical circuits and equipment governed by the applicable provisions of Articles 725 (Classes 2 and 3 circuits only), 770, 800, 810, and 820 of the National Electrical Code, current edition, or 47 C.F.R. part 68.

The Board therefore advises you that building departments should not permit any person or business to engage in low-voltage contracting unless they are exempted from licensure or have one of the following licenses:

- (A) Limited Energy Systems Specialty (ES 069 or ET 069)
- (B) Certified Electrical Contractor (EC)
- (C) Registered Electrical Contractor (ER)
- (D) Certified Alarm Systems Contractor I (EF)
- (E) Certified Alarm Systems Contractor II (EG)
- (F) Registered Alarm System Contractor I (EY)
- (G) Registered Alarm System Contractor II (EZ)

We ask that your department only issue permits to exempted or appropriately licensed electrical contractors. You may verify the licensure of any individual at [www.MyFloridaLicense.com](http://www.MyFloridaLicense.com). Click on "Search for a License, Permit or Registration."

If you have any questions regarding licensure, please do not hesitate to contact the Electrical Contractors' Licensing Board Office.