



WYOMING LEGISLATIVE SERVICE OFFICE

Research Memo

12 RM 016

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Re: Low Voltage Electrical Licensing

QUESTION

1. What are the low voltage electrical licensing requirements in other states?

ANSWER

2. Table 1, below, depicts the low voltage electrical licensing requirements in other states as of 2009. When applicable, the table also depicts states that require licensing for fire alarm systems.

Table 1. Low Voltage Electrical Requirements by State.

State	Low Voltage Licensing
Alabama	In populations of 30,000 or more, licenses are required for Burglar Alarm Systems, Access Control, and Closed Circuit Television Systems.
Alaska	A license is required for an electrical administrator license in the controls and control wiring category as defined by installing low voltage controls of 48 volts or less.
Arizona	Specialty licenses are required for acoustical systems, low voltage communication systems, fire protection systems and electrical.
Arkansas	A license is required for installation and maintenance of low voltage systems, including security alarm system installation/monitoring. This is called an electrical sub-specialty low voltage license.
California	A statewide license is required for installation and maintenance of systems that do not exceed 91 volts. This license is classified as a low voltage systems contractors license. Specialty licenses are also required for electrical contractors (including fire alarm installation), fire protection contractors and lock and security equipment contractors.
Colorado	No statewide license is required for design, installation and maintenance.
Connecticut	A statewide license is required for several classifications of low voltage installation and maintenance work including work in ADT, low voltage signal work, audio and sound systems (voltage of any system not to exceed 25 volts), telephone interconnect systems (to voltage of any system is not to exceed 48 volts). A license is also required for automatic fire sprinkler system layout technicians.
Delaware	No specific statewide license required for design, installation and maintenance for low voltage systems. A general contractors license is required. Some local authorities also have jurisdiction regarding the need to have an electrical license. Vendors who sell and install security systems are required to be licensed.

Source: LSO Research summary of information provided by the National Systems Contractors Association (NSCA).

Table 1. Low Voltage Electrical Requirements by State, Cont'd.

State	Low Voltage Licensing
Florida	Installation and maintenance work requires you to have a limited energy systems specialty license. A specialty license is also required for fire and burglar alarms.
Georgia	A statewide license is required for the design, installation and maintenance of alarm systems, general systems or telecommunication systems.
Hawaii	A statewide license is required for a specialty electrician installing, repairing, altering and maintaining electronic equipment, sound public address systems, communication systems, master or community radio and television receiving antenna systems, burglar and fire alarm systems, low voltage remote control, and low voltage communication signal systems.
Idaho	A statewide license is required for certain types of limited electrical systems, including alarm system installation.
Illinois	No statewide license for low voltage work. Local/municipal level only. A statewide license is required specifically for alarm system installers.
Indiana	No statewide license for low voltage work. Local/municipal level only.
Iowa	Statewide licensure required for work in the Fire Protection Systems, Alarm Systems, and Medical Alarm Systems.
Kansas	No statewide license for low voltage work. Local/municipal level only.
Kentucky	No statewide license is required for low voltage electricians. There are certain licenses that are required to perform any electrical work in Kentucky. However, installing or repairing low voltage telecommunications systems are exempt from licensure. There is also separate licensure for the fire protection alarm systems.
Louisiana	No statewide license is required for low voltage electricians. State law says that no person may engage in alarm contracting without holding a valid license issued by the fire marshal, including fire detection and alarm systems.
Maine	A license is required for certain low voltage types of work including fire alarms, low energy electronics and low voltage landscape lighting.
Maryland	No specific statewide license is required for low voltage electricians. The installation of security systems is covered under a license by the state. The state's electrician guidelines may also play a role in who is authorized to work within the alarm system. The actual performance licenses to perform electrical work are issued by each of the local jurisdictions.
Massachusetts	In addition to being licensed as an electrical contractor or electrician, you may also be required to have a state systems contractor or systems technician license. Fire alarm, burglar and telephone installation is also licensed.
Michigan	No statewide license is required for low voltage electricians. The installation of security systems is covered under a license by the state.
Minnesota	A statewide license is required to perform work on low voltage/limited energy systems.
Mississippi	Local/municipal level only. A Statewide Alarm System license is authorized.
Missouri	No specific statewide license is required for design, installation and maintenance for low voltage systems.
Montana	Statewide license required for selling, servicing, or installing fire alarm systems, special agent fire suppression systems, or fire extinguishing systems. Security Alarm Installer, and Electronic Security Company.
Nebraska	A Fire Alarm Installers license is required for planning, layout and installation of fire alarm systems.
Nevada	A statewide license is needed to do low voltage work. There are also specialty licenses for fire detection and fire alarms.

Source: LSO Research summary of information provided by the National Systems Contractors Association (NSCA).

Table 1. Low Voltage Electrical Requirements by State, Cont'd.

State	Low Voltage Licensing
New Hampshire	No specific statewide license is required for design, installation and maintenance for low voltage systems.
New Jersey	No statewide license is required for design, installation and maintenance for low voltage systems. A Fire Alarm, Burglar Alarm and Locksmith Advisory Committee has been established and is developing rules, regulations and standards to govern licensing and practice of fire and burglar alarm installers and locksmiths.
New Mexico	A low voltage special systems license is required to perform certain work under 50 volts. There are also specialty licenses for telephone communication systems, sound, intercommunication and electrical alarm systems.
New York	No specific statewide license is required for design, installation and maintenance for low voltage systems. There is a specialty license for security or fire alarm system installers. A statewide law requires the licensing of persons working in the business of installing, servicing or maintaining fire or alarm systems.
North Carolina	Limited voltage licenses are required at the state level.
North Dakota	No specific statewide license is required for design, installation and maintenance for low voltage systems.
Ohio	No specific statewide license is required for design, installation and maintenance for low voltage systems. An Electrical Contractor license is not needed for work at 50 volts or less.
Oklahoma	A statewide license is required for anyone who sells, installs, alters or repairs alarm systems (including burglar/fire alarm system, locksmiths, access control, CCTV, and Nurse Call). An electrical contractor or electrician who is licensed by the state is not required to have an additional alarm license.
Oregon	A statewide license is required to perform work on low voltage limited energy systems.
Pennsylvania	A statewide license is not required to perform work on low voltage limited energy systems.
Rhode Island	A statewide license is required for certain classifications of low voltage systems including fire alarm contractors and installers, telecommunication system contractors, technicians and limited installers.
South Carolina	A statewide license is required for certain types of low voltage systems including burglar and fire alarms.
South Dakota	A statewide license is not required to specifically install low voltage systems. While all people engaging in electrical work have to be licensed by the state, there is no specific specialty licensing set aside for low voltage or alarm work.
Tennessee	A statewide license is required for certain types of low voltage systems. Fire detection systems, Signal and Burglar Alarm Systems, and Security Systems with conduit and wiring above 70 volts require and electrical exam.
Texas	A statewide license is required for Fire and Alarm Systems.
Utah	A statewide license is required for the Alarm Business or Company.
Vermont	A statewide license is authorized to specifically install certain classifications of low voltage systems including commercial fire alarms and one and two family dwellings household fire detection and alarm systems.
Virginia	A statewide license is required for certain types of low voltage systems.
Washington	A statewide license, considered as "Class B basic electrical work" defined as basic electrical work that requires minimal electrical circuit modifications and has limited exposure hazards (class II, class III or power limited, low voltage systems not exceeding 100 volts).

Source: LSO Research summary of information provided by the National Systems Contractors Association (NSCA).

Table 1. Low Voltage Electrical Requirements by State, Cont'd.

State	Low Voltage Licensing
West Virginia	A statewide license exists for various classifications of electrical specialty licenses including fiber optic and low voltage.
Wisconsin	A statewide license does not exist specifically for low voltage.
Wyoming	A statewide license exists for various classifications of electrical specialty licenses. There is a license for limited/low voltage technicians, limited/low voltage contractors and limited/low voltage apprentice technicians. These licenses cover low voltage, communications, television, alarms, sound and controls with exceptions provided in W.S. 35-9-123(a)(vii).

Source: LSO Research summary of information provided by the National Systems Contractors Association (NSCA).

If you need anything further, please contact LSO Research at 777-7881.