

Florida

How to Obtain a Solar Contractor License

Florida does have licensing requirements for all solar contractors. The state certification (licensure) for solar contractors is required by anyone who installs, alters, repairs, maintains, relocates or replaces any type of solar thermal or PV systems. Florida Statute requires a qualifier to qualify the contractor. This can be the owner or anyone else employed by the contractor. The other individuals employed by the contractor are not required to be licensed.

Solar exams are only given three times a year in February, June and October. The dates and locations of the examinations are available online at <http://www.myflorida.com/dbpr/servop/testing/exam.html>.

Florida Statute requires that individuals must sign up to take the examination 30 days prior to the examination date. It is highly recommend that individuals contact PTI as soon as possible to reserve their seat. **Please register early. Do not wait until the deadline to apply! Sites have been filling up and once all test sites are full, candidates will be moved to the next examination date.** Completed applications and accompanying fees must be received by PTI 30 days prior to the examination date to be considered. The Department of Business & Professional Regulation (DBPR) tests **ALL** construction categories, and this is the reason it is important to reserve a seat as early as possible.

The first step toward licensure is to take an examination on the trade portion (solar installation). You can go to the Professional Testing, Inc. (PTI) website at <http://www.proftesting.com/> for information on this portion of the examination. PTI develops, administers and maintains licensure and certification examination programs.

The second step toward licensure is to take an examination on Business and Finance. To schedule the computer based Business and Finance examination, you must wait 20 days after submitting your application with PTI before calling (888) 204-6230.

[Use this link to view the vendor's website to locate a Pearson VUE Test Center near you, as well as to check that site's availability.](#)

The Business and Finance Examination will be administered via computer. The Department of Business and Professional Regulation has retained the services of Pearson VUE, to schedule, administer, score and report the results for the computer based tests. Pearson VUE is a leading provider of assessment services to regulatory agencies and national associations and offers licensing and credentialing support services to associations, state agencies, and private industry.

Your examination will be administered on an electronic testing system. The testing system eliminates the use of paper, pencil and answer sheets. Candidates input their responses by entering the answer of their choice (A, B, C or D). Before you begin the examination, you will have an opportunity to go through a tutorial on the computer. The computer is very simple to operate; it should only take you a few minutes to learn to use it.

The examination fee for the Business and Financial Management Examination is \$135.00 payable to Professional Testing Inc. (PTI) and \$80.00 payable directly to the vendor, Pearson Vue, by the candidate at the time the exam is scheduled.

Several of the contractor prep schools can probably help you. One is Contractors Institute at (877) 542-3673 or check out their website at <http://www.contractorsinstitute.com/>.

Obtain materials related to the examination such as the [Candidate Information Brochure](#), [Reference Lists](#), [Examination Content Information](#). You may request forms and informational booklets and brochures to be mailed by calling the Department of Business and Professional

Regulation Customer Contact Center at (850) 487-1395 during normal business operating hours.

You have two years after the first attempt to pass all parts of the examination. Your two year examination period begins with your first scheduled examination date. If you fail to appear for your scheduled examination, you will be

Find a Solar Contractor or Distributor
Near You

Web: www.flaseia.org

Phone: 407-339-2010 or 800-426-5899



The Florida Solar Energy Industries Association (FlaSEIA), founded in 1977, is a nonprofit association of companies with an interest in the promotion and advancement of solar energy resources in Florida.

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considered a 'No Show' and your exam status will be a 'Fail'. A candidate may only attempt to pass the examination six times within a two-year period.

After an unsuccessful attempt, the candidate is required to complete a retake application with PTI, pay the examination development fee of \$135.00 to PTI and pay the examination administration fee of \$80.00 to Pearson Vue when rescheduling. There is a 21-day waiting period between successive attempts.

Once you have passed all parts of the examination, you can obtain and complete a Construction Industry Licensing Board (CILB) application for license. You must apply within for licensure with the CILB three years after you have passed the examination. Be sure you meet all the requirements for a license. You will not be granted a license if you do not meet all the qualifications, even if you pass the examination. License application forms and instructions are available online at http://myflorida.com/dbpr/pro/cilb/cilb_index.shtml. For questions relating to a license, you must contact the Department of Business and Professional Regulation Customer Contact Center at (850) 487-1395 or e-mail to Call.Center@dbpr.state.fl.us.

The following link <http://www.myflorida.com/dbpr/pro/cilb/forms.html> will take you to the Construction Industry Licensing Board (CILB) website where you can find additional information including a list of schools and bookstores. There is also a section on exam information that you may find easier to follow and understand than the Florida Statutes.

The following are sections of Florida Law that pertain to the definition of a solar contractor and the experience/education requirements for an individual to be eligible for licensure.

489.105 Definitions

(3)(o) "Solar contractor" means a contractor whose services consist of the installation, alteration, repair, maintenance, relocation, or replacement of solar panels for potable solar water heating systems, swimming pool solar heating systems, and photovoltaic systems and any appurtenances, apparatus, or equipment used in connection therewith, whether public, private, or otherwise, regardless of use. A contractor, certified or registered pursuant to the provisions of this chapter, is not required to become a certified or registered solar contractor or to contract with a solar contractor in order to provide any services enumerated in this paragraph that are within the scope of the services such contractors may render under this part.

489.111 Licensure by examination.—

- (1) Any person who desires to be certified shall apply to the department in writing.
- (2) A person shall be eligible for licensure by examination if the person:
 - (a) Is 18 years of age;
 - (b) Is of good moral character; and
 - (c) Meets eligibility requirements according to one of the following criteria:
 1. Has received a baccalaureate degree from an accredited 4-year college in the appropriate field of engineering, architecture, or building construction and has 1 year of proven experience in the category in which the person seeks to qualify. For the purpose of this part, a minimum of 2,000 person-hours shall be used in determining full-time equivalency.
 2. Has a total of at least 4 years of active experience as a worker who has learned the trade by serving an apprenticeship as a skilled worker who is able to command the rate of a mechanic in the particular trade or as a foreman who is in charge of a group of workers and usually is responsible to a superintendent or a contractor or his or her equivalent, provided, however, that at least 1 year of active experience shall be as a foreman.
 3. Has a combination of not less than 1 year of experience as a foreman and not less than 3 years of credits for any accredited college-level courses; has a combination of not less than 1 year of experience as a skilled worker, 1 year of experience as a foreman, and not less than 2 years of credits for any accredited college-level courses; or has a combination of not less than 2 years of experience as a skilled worker, 1 year of experience as a foreman, and not less than 1 year of credits for any accredited college-level courses. All junior college or community college-level courses shall be considered accredited college-level courses.