

Wisconsin licensing of commercial buildings elevator contractors and mechanics begins July 1 - Credentials required on January 1, 2009

Beginning July 1, 2008, individuals can apply for various Wisconsin elevator contractor and mechanic licenses / registrations from the Safety and Buildings Division of the state Department of Commerce. The new credentials will be valid for either two or four years from date of issuance, depending on the category.

Effective January 1, 2009, state-issued credentials will be required to erect, construct, alter, replace, maintain, repair, remove or dismantle conveyances covered by Wisconsin's Comm 18, Elevator Code: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/rsb/code/comm/comm018.pdf>.

“**Conveyances**” as defined for the new credentials include elevators, escalators, moving walks, dumb waiters, type B material lifts, stairway chairs, and vertical and inclined platform lifts in commercial and multifamily buildings. Conveyances do not include an elevator, dumbwaiter, platform lift, stairway chair lift and other similar devices serving an individual residential dwelling unit, and do not include a personnel hoist or a material hoist.

From now until Jan. 1, 2009, an emergency rule from 2007 grants licenses to current elevator contractors and installers who meet certain criteria. (Licenses do not need to be applied for under the emergency rule; no license cards are issued under the rule. If someone is now asked to prove being a contractor or installer, proof can be shown to the requestor according to the criteria in Comm 5.37 and 5.38.)

Applications for the new S&B credentials are available online for elevator contractors, elevator mechanics, elevator mechanics-restricted, elevator apprentices, elevator apprentices-restricted, elevator helpers, lift mechanics, lift apprentices, and lift helpers: <http://commerce.wi.gov/SB/SBFormCredAppList.html>

How does someone qualify for the elevator credentials?

The requirements for the elevator / lift credentials vary. The requirements may include an exam, proof of years and hours of experience, involvement in an apprenticeship program, etc. The details related to each credential are on the application forms and in the updated Comm 5, Licenses, Certifications and Registrations Code (specifically 5.9905 to 5.999).

Safety and Building Division credential application forms: <http://commerce.wi.gov/SB/SBFormCredAppList.html>.

What types of work do the new credentials cover?

Elevator Contractor license: To engage or offer to engage in the business of constructing, installing, altering, servicing, replacing, or maintaining all conveyances.

Elevator Mechanic license: To erect, construct, alter, replace, maintain, repair, remove, or dismantle all conveyances.

Lift Mechanic license: To erect, construct, alter, replace, maintain, repair, remove or dismantle conveyances limited to LULA (limited use, limited application)

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The Internet copy of Comm 5 is at:
<http://www.legis.state.wi.us/rsb/code/comm/comm005.pdf>.

Until July 1, 2010, someone can provide proof of experience to qualify them for the credentials without having to take an exam. After that time, applicants will have to take an exam and provide proof of experience.

Are there continuing education requirements for the new elevator credentials?

Yes, for three categories. The renewal of the two-year elevator mechanic, elevator mechanic-restricted, and lift mechanic license are contingent upon the licensee obtaining at least 12 hours of continuing education.

Does the July 1, 2008, code change affects Elevator Inspectors?

Yes. Effective July 1, 2008, an applicant for a Wisconsin elevator inspector license will have to submit evidence of certification as an American Society of Mechanical Engineers Qualification of Elevator Inspector (QEI-1). The alternative Wisconsin elevator inspector exam option will no longer be available. The QEI-1 requirement will also apply to people who renew their elevator inspector license after that date.

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elevators, stairway chair lifts, and vertical and inclined platform lifts.

The definition of conveyances noted on the first page is particularly important to understanding lift work.

Elevator Mechanic - Restricted license: To repair and maintain all conveyances, components, and subsystems (except the replacement of hoist ropes and governor ropes).

Elevator Apprentice registration: To erect, construct, alter, replace, maintain, repair, remove or dismantle all conveyances under the **general*** supervision of a licensed elevator mechanic or a licensed lift mechanic.

Elevator Apprentice - Restricted registration: To repair and maintain all conveyances, and to replace components and subsystems of any conveyance except the replacement of hoist ropes and governor ropes) under the **general*** supervision of a licensed elevator mechanic or a licensed lift mechanic.

Elevator Helper license: To erect, construct, alter, replace, maintain, repair, remove or dismantle all conveyances under the **direct*** supervision of a licensed elevator mechanic.

Lift Apprentice registration: To erect, construct, alter, replace, maintain, repair, remove or dismantle conveyances limited to LULA (limited use, limited application) elevators, stairway chair lifts, and vertical and inclined platform lifts under the **general*** supervision of a licensed lift mechanic.

Lift Helper registration: To erect, construct, alter, replace, maintain, repair, remove or dismantle conveyances limited to LULA (limited use, limited application) elevators, stairway chair lifts, and vertical and inclined platform lifts under the **direct*** supervision of a licensed lift mechanic.

*Direct supervision” means to assume the responsibility of an activity of others and its results by providing oversight and guidance at the site where the activity is being conducted.

*General supervision” means to assume the responsibility of an activity of others and its results without being present at the site where the activity is being conducted.