



Fast Facts

The Contractors State License Board, which operates under the umbrella of the California Department of Consumer Affairs, licenses and regulates California's 300,000 contractors, and is regarded as one of the leading consumer protection agencies in the United States.

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CheckTheLicenseFirst.com

HOW TO CONTRACT FOR WELL DRILLING IN CALIFORNIA

California [drought conditions](#) have contributed to a shortage of available [C-57 Well Drilling](#) and [C-61 Limited Specialty/D-21 Machinery and Pumps](#) contractors.

Government agencies are encouraging out-of-state drillers to consider working in California to help reduce public health and safety issues caused by drinking water shortages.

In response, **CSLB is expediting C-57 and C-61/D-21 Machinery and Pumps license applications**; however, California state contracting laws still must be followed, and water well drilling contractors still must: 1) adhere to [Department of Water Resources](#) (DWR) well standards and file well completion reports; and 2) meet applicable [Air Resources Board](#) standards and guidelines.

To legally contract in California, individuals and companies must be licensed by CSLB:

C-57 Well Drilling

California Code of Regulations

Title 16, Division 8, Article 3. Classifications, 832.57

A well drilling contractor installs and repairs water wells and pumps by boring, drilling, excavating, casing, cementing and cleaning to provide a supply of uncontaminated water.

Authority cited: Sections 7008 and 7059, Reference: Sections 7058 and 7059 (Business and Professions Code)

C-61/D-21 - Machinery and Pumps Contractor

California Code of Regulations

Title 16, Division 8, Article 3. Classifications, 832.61/D-21

A machinery and pumps contractor installs, removes, modifies or repairs:

- (a)** Pumps, conveyors, cranes, dock levelers, various hoisting and material handling equipment, and meters;
- (b)** Dumb waiters, handicap lifting and assistance equipment, automated speed rail trolley systems for garment hanging; or
- (c)** Automatic car washing racks and auto body paint finishing booth equipment.

NOTE: Construction of buildings and/or roof structures for this equipment is not included.

- **Currently licensed contractors who work on water well projects or water well machinery can only subcontract to California-licensed C-57 and/or C-61/D-21 contractors.**
- **C-61/D-21 contractors can only work on pump maintenance and/or replacement, not the actual water well drilling.**

Water well drillers and machinery/pump contractors who want to work in California must follow these steps to apply for a license:

- ✓ Submit an "[Application for Original License](#)" to CSLB.
- ✓ Document four (4) years of journey-level experience in the classification within the 10 years immediately preceding the application submission.

- ✓ Take and pass the trade and law examinations (CSLB has a reciprocity agreement with Nevada; some examinations may be waived for individuals who are licensed contractors in Nevada.).

How to apply for reciprocity: <http://cslb.ca.gov/Applicants/Reciprocity/>

- ✓ Undergo a criminal background check.
- ✓ Submit a contractor bond of \$12,500.
- ✓ Provide proof of a workers' compensation insurance policy for employees.

(Bond and insurance requirements may differ for various types of business entities and qualifying individuals.)

Pertinent California contractor licensing fees:

- Original application: \$300
- Initial license fee (2 years): \$180
- Adding a classification: \$ 75

CSLB established an email address, waterwellinfo@cslb.ca.gov, specifically to respond to well drilling and/or machinery and pump inquiries.

Check CSLB's online resources or toll-free automated line for additional information.