

VIRGINIA BOARD FOR CONTRACTORS LICENSE CLASSIFICATIONS & SPECIALTIES

18 VAC 50-22-20. Definitions of license classifications.

The following words and terms, when used in this chapter unless a different meaning is provided or is plainly required by the context shall have the following meanings:

"Commercial building contractors" (Abbr: CBC) means those individuals whose contracts include construction, remodeling, repair, improvement, removal, or demolition on real property owned, controlled, or leased by another person of commercial, industrial, institutional, governmental, and accessory use buildings or structures. The CBC classification does not provide for electrical, plumbing, HVAC, or gas fitting services and does not allow construction, repair, or improvement, of dwellings and townhouses as defined in the USBC.

If the CBC contractor performs specialty services, other than those listed in this definition, all required specialty designations shall be obtained. The CBC contractor may act as a prime contractor and contract with subcontractors to perform work not permitted by the CBC license. The commercial building classification includes but is not limited to the functions carried out by the following specialties for contracts of commercial, institutional, governmental, and accessory use buildings or structures, including multi-family housing:

Billboard/sign contracting
Commercial improvement contracting
Concrete contracting
Farm improvement contracting
Industrialized building contracting
Landscape service contracting

Marine facility contracting
Masonry contracting
Painting and wallcovering contracting
Recreational facility contracting
Roofing contracting
Swimming pool contracting

"Electrical contractors" (Abbr: ELE) means those individuals whose contracts include the construction, repair, maintenance, alteration, or removal of electrical systems. This classification provides for all work covered by the electrical provisions of the USBC including electronic/communication service contracting (ESC) and fire alarm systems contracting (FAS) specialties. A firm holding an ELE license is responsible for meeting all applicable individual license and certification regulations.

"Highway/heavy contractors" (Abbr: H/H) means those individuals whose contracts include construction, repair, improvement, or demolition of the following:

Bridges	Rail roads
Dams	Roads
Drainage systems	Runways
Foundations	Streets
Parking lots	Structural signs and lights
Public transit systems	Tanks

The functions carried out by these contractors include but are not limited to the following:

Building demolition	Nonwater well drilling
Clearing	Paving
Concrete work	Pile driving
Excavating	Road marking
Grading	Steel Erection

These contractors also install, maintain, or dismantle the following:

1. Power systems for the generation and primary and secondary distribution of electric current ahead of the customer's meter;
2. Pumping stations and treatment plants;
3. Telephone, telegraph or signal systems for public utilities; and
4. Water, gas, and sewer connections to residential, commercial, and industrial sites, subject to local ordinances.

This classification may also install backflow prevention devices incidental to work in this classification when the installer has received formal vocational training approved by the board that included instruction in the installation of backflow prevention devices.

"HVAC contractors" (Abbr: HVA) means those individuals whose work includes the installation, alteration, repair, or maintenance of heating systems, ventilating systems, cooling systems, steam and hot water heaters, heating systems, boilers, process piping, and mechanical refrigeration systems, including tanks incidental to the system. This classification does not provide for fire suppression installations, sprinkler system installations, or gas piping. A firm holding a HVAC license is responsible for meeting all applicable individual license and certification regulations. This classification may install backflow prevention devices incidental to work in this classification.

"Plumbing contractors" (Abbr: PLB) means those individuals whose contracts include the installation, maintenance, extension, or alteration, or removal of all piping, fixtures, appliances, and appurtenances in connection with any of the following:

Backflow prevention devices	Public/private water supply systems within or adjacent to any building, structure or conveyance
Boilers	Sanitary or storm drainage facilities
Hot water baseboard heating systems	Steam heating systems
Hot water heaters	Storage tanks incidental to the installation of related systems
Hydronic systems	Venting systems related to plumbing
Process piping	

These contractors also install, maintain, extend or alter the following:

Liquid waste systems
Sewerage systems

Storm water systems
Water supply systems

This classification does not provide for (i) gas piping or (ii) the function of fire sprinkler contracting except for sprinklers that are tied into the domestic water supply. A firm holding a PLB license is responsible for meeting all applicable individual license and certification regulations. The classification may install sprinkler systems permitted to be designed in accordance with the plumbing provisions of the USBC when the installer has received formal vocational training approved by the board that included instruction of installation of sprinkler systems.

"Residential building contractors" (Abbr: RBC) means those individuals whose contracts include construction, remodeling, repair, improvement, removal, or demolition on real property owned, controlled, or leased by another person of dwellings and townhouses, as defined in the USBC, including accessory buildings or structures on such property. The RBC classification does not provide for electrical, plumbing, HVAC, or gas fitting services and does not allow construction, repair, or improvement, to commercial, industrial, institutional, or governmental use structures outside of dwellings and townhouses as defined in the USBC.

The residential building classification includes but is not limited to the functions carried out by the following specialties for contracts of dwellings and townhouses, as defined by the USBC, and related accessory use buildings or structures:

Concrete contracting
Home improvement contracting
Industrialized building contracting
Landscape service contracting

Masonry contracting
Painting and wallcovering contracting
Roofing contracting
Swimming pool contracting

"Specialty contractors" means those individuals whose contracts are for specialty services that do not generally fall within the scope of any other classification within this chapter.

Historical Notes:

Derived from VR220-01-2:1 §1.2, eff. March 31, 1995; amended, Virginia Register Volume 17, Issue 21, eff. September 1, 2001; Virginia Register Volume 22, Issue 8, eff. February 1, 2006; Volume 29, Issue 3, eff. December 1, 2012; Volume 32, Issue 3, eff. January 1, 2016.

18 VAC 50-22-30. Definitions of specialty services.

The following words and terms, when used in this chapter unless a different meaning is provided or is plainly required by the context shall have the following meanings:

“Accessibility services contracting” (ASC) means the service that provides for all work in connection with the constructing, installing, altering, servicing, repairing, testing, or maintenance of wheelchair lifts, incline chairlifts, dumbwaiters with a capacity limit of 300 pounds, and private residence elevators in accordance with the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code (13 VAC 5-63). The EEC specialty may also perform this work. This specialty does not include work on limited use-limited application (LULA) elevators.

“Accessibility services contracting – LULA” (Abbr: ASL) means the service that provides for all work in connection with the constructing, installing, altering, servicing, repairing, testing, or maintenance of wheelchair lifts, incline chairlifts, dumbwaiters with a capacity limit of 300 pounds, private residence elevators, and limited use-limited application (LULA) elevators in accordance with the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code (13 VAC 5-63). The EEC specialty may also perform this work.

"Alternative energy system contracting" (Abbr: AES) means that service that provides for the installation, repair or improvement, from the customer's meter, of alternative energy generation systems, supplemental energy systems and associated equipment annexed to real property. This service does not include the installation of emergency generators powered by fossil fuels. No other classification or specialty service provides this function. This specialty does not provide for electrical, plumbing, gas fitting, or HVAC functions.

"Alternative sewage disposal system contracting" (Abbr: ADS) means the service that provides for the installation, repair, improvement, or removal of a treatment works that is not a conventional onsite sewage system and does not result in a point source discharge. No other classification or specialty service provides this function.

"Asbestos contracting" (Abbr: ASB) means the service that provides for the installation, removal, or encapsulation of asbestos containing materials annexed to real property. No other classification or specialty service provides for this function.

"Asphalt paving and sealcoating contracting" (Abbr: PAV) means that service that provides for the installation of asphalt paving or sealcoating, or both, on subdivision streets and adjacent intersections, driveways, parking lots, tennis courts, running tracks, and play areas, using materials and accessories common to the industry. This includes height adjustment of existing sewer manholes, storm drains, water valves, sewer cleanouts and drain grates, and all necessary excavation and grading. The H/H classification also provides for this function.

"Billboard/sign contracting" (Abbr: BSC) means the service that provides for the installation, repair, improvement, or dismantling of any billboard or structural sign permanently annexed to real property. H/H and CBC are the classifications that can perform this work except that a contractor in this specialty may connect or disconnect signs to existing electrical circuits. No trade related plumbing, electrical, or HVAC work is included in this function.

"Blast/explosive contracting" (Abbr: BEC) means the service that provides for the use of explosive charges for the repair, improvement, alteration, or demolition of any real property or any structure annexed to real property.

"Commercial improvement contracting" (Abbr: CIC) means the service that provides for repair or improvement to structures not defined as dwellings and townhouses in the USBC. The CBC classification also provides for this function. The CIC classification does not provide for the construction of new buildings, accessory buildings, electrical, plumbing, HVAC or gas work.

"Concrete contracting" (Abbr: CEM) means the service that provides for all work in connection with the processing, proportioning, batching, mixing, conveying and placing of concrete composed of materials common to the concrete industry. This includes finishing, coloring, curing, repairing, testing, sawing, grinding, grouting, placing of film barriers, sealing and waterproofing. Construction and assembling of forms, molds, slipforms, pans, centering, and the use of rebar is also included. The CBC, RBC, and H/H classifications also provide for this function.

"Conventional sewage disposal systems contracting" (Abbr: CDS) means the service that provides for the installation, repair, improvement, or removal of a treatment works consisting of one or more septic tanks with gravity, pumped, or siphoned conveyance to a gravity distributed subsurface drainfield. The ADS specialty may also perform this work.

"Drug lab remediation contracting" (Abbr: DLR) means the service that provides for the cleanup, treatment, containment, or removal of hazardous substances at or in a property formerly used to manufacture methamphetamine or other drugs and may include demolition or disposal of structures or other property. No other classification or specialty provides for this function.

"Drywall contracting" (Abbr: DRY) means the service that provides for the installation, taping, and finishing of drywall, panels and assemblies of gypsum wallboard, sheathing, and cementitious board and the installation of studs made of sheet metal for the framing of ceilings and nonstructural partitioning. The RBC and CBC classifications and the HIC and CIC specialties also provide for this function.

"Electronic/communication service contracting" (Abbr: ESC) means the service that provides for the installation, repair, improvement, or removal of electronic or communications systems annexed to real property including telephone wiring, computer cabling, sound systems, data links, data and network installation, television and cable TV wiring, antenna wiring, and fiber optics installation, all of which operate at 50 volts or less. A firm holding an ESC license is responsible for meeting all applicable tradesman licensure standards. The ELE classification also provides for this function.

"Elevator/escalator contracting" (Abbr: EEC) means the service that provides for the installation, repair,

improvement or removal of elevators or escalators permanently annexed to real property. A firm holding an EEC license is responsible for meeting all applicable individual license and certification regulations. No other classification or specialty service provides for this function.

"Environmental monitoring well contracting" (Abbr: EMW) means the service that provides for the construction of a well to monitor hazardous substances in the ground.

"Environmental specialties contracting" (Abbr: ENV) means the service that provides for installation, repair, removal, or improvement of pollution control and remediation devices. No other specialty provides for this function. This specialty does not provide for electrical, plumbing, gas fitting, or HVAC functions.

"Equipment/machinery contracting" (Abbr: EMC) means the service that provides for the installation or removal of equipment or machinery including conveyors or heavy machinery. Boilers exempted by the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code (13VAC5-63) but regulated by the Department of Labor and Industry are also included in this specialty. This specialty does not provide for any electrical, plumbing, process piping or HVAC functions.

"Farm improvement contracting" (Abbr: FIC) means the service that provides for the installation, repair or improvement of a nonresidential farm building or structure, or nonresidential farm accessory-use structure, or additions thereto. The CBC classification also provides for this function. The FIC specialty does not provide for any electrical, plumbing, HVAC, or gas fitting functions.

"Finish carpentry contracting" (Abbr: FIN) means the service that provides for the installation, repair, and finishing of cabinets, sash casing, door casing, wooden flooring baseboards, countertops, and other millwork. Finish carpentry does not include the installation of ceramic tile, marble, and artificial or cultured stone. The RBC and CBC classifications and the HIC and CIC specialties also provide for this function.

"Fire alarm systems contracting" (Abbr: FAS) means the service that provides for the installation, repair, or improvement of fire alarm systems that operate at 50 volts or less. The ELE classification also provides for this function. A firm with an FAS license is responsible for meeting all applicable tradesman licensure standards.

"Fire sprinkler contracting" (Abbr: SPR) means the service that provides for the installation, repair, alteration, addition, testing, maintenance, inspection, improvement, or removal of sprinkler systems using water as a means of fire suppression when annexed to real property. This specialty does not provide for the installation, repair, or maintenance of other types of fire suppression systems. The PLB classification allows for the installation of systems permitted to be designed in accordance with the plumbing provisions of the USBC. This specialty may engage in the installation of backflow prevention devices in the fire sprinkler supply main and incidental to the sprinkler system installation when the installer has received formal vocational training approved by the board that included instruction in the installation of backflow prevention devices.

"Fire suppression contracting" (Abbr: FSP) means the service that provides for the installation, repair, improvement, or removal of fire suppression systems including halon and other gas systems, dry chemical systems, and carbon dioxide systems annexed to real property. No other classification provides for this function. The FSP specialty does not provide for the installation, repair, or maintenance of water sprinkler systems.

“Flooring and floor covering contracting” (Abbr: FLR) means the service that provides for the installation, repair, improvement, or removal of materials that are common in the flooring industry. This includes wood and wood composite flooring, tack strips or other products used to secure carpet, vinyl and linoleum, ceramic, marble, stone, and all other types of tile, and includes the installation or replacement of subflooring, leveling products, or other materials necessary to facilitate the installation of the flooring or floor covering. This does not include the installation, repair, or removal of floor joists or other structural components of the flooring system. The RBC and CBC classifications and the HIC and CIC specialties also provide for this function.

“Framing subcontractor” (Abbr: FRM) means the service which, while serving in the role of a subcontractor to a licensed prime contractor, provides for the construction, removal, repair, or improvement to any framing or rough carpentry necessary for the construction of framed structures, including the installation and repair of individual components of framing systems. The RBC and CBC classifications also provide for this function.

“Gas fitting contracting” (Abbr: GFC) means the service that provides for the installation, repair, improvement, or removal of gas piping and appliances annexed to real property. A firm holding a GFC license is responsible for meeting all applicable individual (tradesman) licensure regulations.

“Glass and glazing contracting” (Abbr: GLZ) means the service that provides for the installation, assembly, repair, improvement, or removal of all makes and kinds of glass, glass work, mirrored glass, and glass substitute for glazing; executes the fabrication and glazing of frames, panels, sashes and doors, or installs these items in any structure. The specialty includes the installation of standard methods of weatherproofing, caulking, glazing, sealants, and adhesives. The RBC and CBC classifications and the HIC and CIC specialties also provide for this function.

“Home improvement contracting” (Abbr: HIC) means the service that provides for repairs or improvements to dwellings and townhouses as defined in the USBC or structures annexed to those dwellings or townhouses as defined in the USBC. The RBC classification also provides for this function. The HIC specialty does not provide for electrical, plumbing, HVAC, or gas fitting functions. It does not include new construction functions beyond the existing building structure other than decks, patios, driveways, and utility out buildings that do not require a permit per the USBC.

“Industrialized building contracting” (Abbr: IBC) means the service that provides for the installation or removal of an industrialized building as defined in the Virginia Industrialized Building Safety Regulations (13 VAC 5-91). This classification covers foundation work in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code (13 VAC 5-63) and allows the licensee to complete internal tie-ins of plumbing, gas, electrical, and HVAC systems. It does not allow for installing additional plumbing, gas, electrical, or HVAC work such as installing the service meter, or installing the outside compressor for the HVAC system. The CBC and RBC classifications also provide for this function.

“Insulation and weather stripping contracting” (Abbr: INS) means the service that provides for the installation, repair, improvement, or removal of materials classified as insulating media used for the sole purpose of temperature control or sound control of residential and commercial buildings. It does not include the insulation of mechanical equipment and ancillary lines and piping. The RBC and CBC classifications and the HIC and CIC specialties also provide for this function.

"Landscape irrigation contracting" (Abbr: ISC) means the service that provides for the installation, repair, improvement, or removal of irrigation sprinkler systems or outdoor sprinkler systems. The PLB and H/H classifications also provide for this function. This specialty may install backflow prevention devices incidental to work in this specialty when the installer has received formal vocational training approved by the board that included instruction in the installation of backflow prevention devices.

"Landscape service contracting" (Abbr: LSC) means the service that provides for the alteration or improvement of a land area not related to any other classification or service activity by means of excavation, clearing, grading, construction of retaining walls for landscaping purposes, or placement of landscaping timbers. This specialty may remove stumps and roots below grade. The CBC, RBC, and H/H classifications also provide for this function.

"Lead abatement contracting" (Abbr: LAC) means the service that provides for the removal or encapsulation of lead-containing materials annexed to real property. No other classification or specialty service provides for this function, except that the PLB and HVA classifications may provide this service incidental to work in those classifications.

"Liquefied petroleum gas contracting" (Abbr: LPG) means the service that includes the installation, maintenance, extension, alteration, or removal of all piping, fixtures, appliances, and appurtenances used in transporting, storing or utilizing liquefied petroleum gas. This excludes hot water heaters, boilers, and central heating systems that require an HVA or PLB license. The GFC specialty also provides for this function. A firm holding an LPG license is responsible for meeting all applicable individual license and certification regulations.

"Manufactured home contracting" (Abbr: MHC) means the service that provides for the installation or removal of a manufactured home as defined in the Virginia Manufactured Home Safety Regulations (13 VAC 5-95). This classification does not cover foundation work; however, it does allow installation of piers covered under HUD regulations. It does allow a licensee to do internal tie-ins of plumbing, gas, electrical, or HVAC equipment. It does not allow for installing additional plumbing, gas, electrical, or HVAC work such as installing the service meter, or installing the outside compressor for the HVAC system. No other specialty provides for this function.

"Marine facility contracting" (Abbr: MCC) means the service that provides for the construction, repair, improvement, or removal of any structure the purpose of which is to provide access to, impede, or alter a body of surface water. The CBC and H/H classifications also provide for this function. The MCC specialty does not provide for the construction of accessory structures or electrical, HVAC or plumbing functions.

"Masonry contracting" (Abbr: BRK) means the service that includes the installation of brick, concrete block, stone, marble, slate or other units and products common to the masonry industry, including mortarless type masonry products. This includes installation of grout, caulking, tuck pointing, sand blasting, mortar washing, parging, and cleaning and welding of reinforcement steel related to masonry construction. The CBC and RBC classifications and the HIC and CIC specialties also provide for this function.

"Miscellaneous contracting" (Abbr: MSC) means the service that may fall under another classification or specialty service but is more limited than the functions provided by the other classification or specialty. This specialty is limited to a single activity and will be restricted to that specialty only. This specialty may not be used for work that would fall under the ELE, HVA, PLB, GFC, LPG, NGF, EEC, WWP, ASC, LAC, or ASB classification

or specialty. Contractors applying for the MSC specialty will have their applications reviewed by the Board for Contractors.

"Natural gas fitting provider contracting" (Abbr: NGF) means the service that provides for the incidental repair, testing, or removal of natural gas piping or fitting annexed to real property. This does not include new installation of gas piping for hot water heaters, boilers, central heating systems, or other natural gas equipment that requires an HVA or PLB license. The GFC specialty also provides for this function. A firm holding an NGF license is responsible for meeting all applicable individual license and certification regulations.

"Painting and wallcovering contracting" (Abbr: PTC) means the service that provides for the application of materials common to the painting and decorating industry for protective or decorative purposes, the installation of surface coverings such as vinyls, wall papers, and cloth fabrics. This includes surface preparation, caulking, sanding and cleaning preparatory to painting or coverings and includes both interior and exterior surfaces. The CBC and RBC classifications and the HIC and CIC specialties also provide for this function.

"Radon mitigation contracting" (Abbr: RMC) means the service that provides for additions, repairs or improvements to buildings or structures, for the purpose of mitigating or preventing the effects of radon gas. No electrical, plumbing, gas-fitting, or HVAC functions are provided by this specialty.

"Recreational facility contracting" (Abbr: RFC) means the service that provides for the construction, repair, or improvement of any recreational facility, excluding paving and the construction of buildings, plumbing, electrical, and HVAC functions. The CBC classification also provides for this function.

"Refrigeration contracting" (Abbr: REF) means the service that provides for installation, repair, or removal of any refrigeration equipment (excluding HVAC equipment). No electrical, plumbing, gas fitting, or HVAC functions are provided by this specialty. This specialty is intended for those contractors who repair or install coolers, refrigerated casework, ice-making machines, drinking fountains, cold room equipment, and similar hermetic refrigeration equipment. The HVAC classification also provides for this function.

"Roofing contracting" (Abbr: ROC) means the service that provides for the installation, repair, removal or improvement of materials common to the industry that form a watertight, weather resistant surface for roofs and decks. This includes roofing system components when installed in conjunction with a roofing project, application of dampproofing or waterproofing, and installation of roof insulation panels and other roof insulation systems above roof deck. The CBC and RBC classifications and the HIC and CIC specialties also provide for this function.

"Steel erection contracting" (Abbr: STL) means the service that provides for the fabrication and erection of structural steel shapes and plates, regardless of shape or size, to be used as structural members, or tanks, including any related riveting, welding, and rigging. This specialty includes the fabrication, placement and tying of steel reinforcing bars, rods, and post-tensioning to reinforce concrete buildings and structures. The RBC, CBC, and H/H classifications also provide for this function.

"Swimming pool construction contracting" (Abbr: POL) means the service that provides for the construction, repair, improvement or removal of in-ground swimming pools. The CBC and RBC classifications and the RFC specialty also provide for this function. No trade related plumbing, electrical, backflow or HVAC work is included in this specialty

“Tile, marble, ceramic, and terrazzo contracting” (Abbr: TMC) means the service that provides for the preparation, fabrication, construction, and installation of artificial marble, burned clay tile, ceramic, terrazzo, encaustic, faience, quarry, semi-vitreous, cementitious board, and other tile, excluding hollow or structural partition tile. The RBC and CBC classifications and the HIC and CIC specialties also provide for this function.

“Underground utility and excavating contracting” (Abbr: UUC) means the service that provides for the construction, repair, improvement, or removal of main sanitary sewer collection systems, main water distribution systems, storm sewer collection systems, and the continuation of utility lines from the main systems to a point of termination up to and including the meter location for the individual occupancy, sewer collection systems at property line, or residential or single-occupancy commercial properties, or on multi-occupancy properties at manhole or wye lateral extend to an invert elevation as engineered to accommodate future building sewers, water distribution systems, or storm sewer collection systems at storm sewer structures. This specialty may install empty underground conduits in rights-of-way, easements, platted rights-of-way in new site development, and sleeves for parking lot crossings if each conduit system does not include installation of any conductor wiring or connection to an energized electrical system. The H/H classification also provides for this function.

"Vessel construction contracting" (Abbr: VCC) means the service that provides for the construction, repair, improvement, or removal of nonresidential vessels, tanks, or piping that hold or convey fluids other than sanitary, storm, waste, or potable water supplies. The H/H classification also provides for this function.

"Water well/pump contracting" (Abbr: WWP) means the service that provides for the installation of a water well system, including geothermal wells, which includes construction of a water well to reach groundwater, as defined in § 62.1-255 of the Code of Virginia, and the installation of the well pump and tank, including pipe and wire, up to and including the point of connection to the plumbing and electrical systems. No other classification or specialty service provides for construction of water wells. This regulation shall not exclude PLB, ELE or HVAC from installation of pumps and tanks.

Note: Specialty contractors engaging in construction which involves the following activities or items or similar activities or items may fall under the CIC, HIC and FIC specialty services, or they may fall under the CBC or RBC classifications.

Appliances	Fiberglass	Rubber Linings
Awnings	Fireplaces	Sandblasting
Blinds	Fireproofing	Scaffolding
Bulkheads	Fixtures	Screens
Carpeting	Grouting	Shutters
Ceilings	Guttering	Siding
Chimneys	Interior Decorating	Skylights
Chutes	Lubrication	Storage Bins and Lockers
Curtains	Metal Work	Stucco
Curtain Walls	Millwrighting	Vaults
Decks	Mirrors	Wall Panels
Doors	Miscellaneous Iron	Waterproofing
Epoxy	Ornamental Iron	Waterproofing

Exterior Decoration
Facings
Fences

Partitions
Protective Coatings
Railings

Windows

Historical Notes:

Derived from VR220-01-2:1 §1.3, eff. March 31, 1995; amended, Virginia Register Volume 17, Issue 21, eff. September 1, 2001; Virginia Register Volume 22, Issue 8, eff. February 1, 2006; Volume 30, Issue 6, eff. January 1, 2014; Volume 32, Issue 3, eff. January 1, 2016; Volume 32, Issue 11, eff. March 1, 2016; Volume 35, Issue 21, eff. August 1, 2019; Volume 38, Issue 11, eff. March 1, 2022.