

**URGENT INFORMATION!** *North Carolina General Contractors Licensing Board Implements Continuing Education for License Renewals*

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N.C. General Statute 87-10.2 (a) – Continuing Education (hereafter “CE”)

*(a) As a condition of license renewal, at least one qualifier or qualifying party of a licensee holding building contractor, residential contractor, or unclassified contractor license classification shall complete, on an annual basis eight hours of continuing education approved in accordance with this section. Where an entity holding a building contractor, residential contractor, or unclassified contractor license classification has multiple qualifiers or qualifying parties, at least one qualifier or qualifying party of the licensee shall complete this requirement for the license to remain valid.*

To view the *FULL* N.C. General Statute 87-10.2, please visit

<https://casetext.com/statute/general-statutes-of-north-carolina/chapter-87-contractors/article-1-general-contractors/section-87-102-continuing-education>

**Licensees holding a Building, Residential or Unclassified classification will be required to have their qualifier(s) who successfully passed the Building or Residential examinations to meet the CE requirements of 8 hours of CE.**

The requirement is in effect for the renewal of 2021 licenses. The NCGCLB anticipates that courses will begin in May 2020. Here’s what you need to know about the CE courses:

There will be a 2-hour mandatory course that will be produced by the NCGCLB and will contain information pertaining to changes in the laws and rules applicable to general contracting and other content as determined by the NCGCLB. *The NCGCLB will provide training and approved instructors to teach the 2-hour course.*

The remaining 6-hours will be elective courses will be produced by outside providers, submitted to and approved by the NCGCLB.

*What is your timeframe?*

The CE year begins January 1 and ends on November 30 of each year. ***Classes will not be offered during the month of December.***

After November 30 for qualifiers who have not completed the required CE will be offered a 90-day grace period where an unexpired license shall remain active to allow the qualifier to satisfy the requirement for that license year. On March 1<sup>st</sup>, a license whose qualifier has not completed the CE requirement, will *become invalid* and the contractor *will be unable* to take on projects that requires a license.

In year one, courses ***will only*** be conducted with a live or previously recorded instructor but ***must be*** attended physically by the qualifier.

In year two, the law requires the NCGCLB to implement an online component to ensure that qualifiers have the option to satisfy all CE online.

*The NCGCLB is currently engaged in the formal process of adopting rules that will set forth the approval process for Providers, Instructors and course curriculums.*

The organization who will provide CE classes is known as the “Provider”. The “Provider” will identify the Instructors who will teach classes offered by that “Provider”. The “Provider” will have to submit to the NCGCLB the course curriculums that the “Provider” wishes to offer. The NCGCLB will review and approve each “Provider”, Instructor and course curriculum.

“Providers” will only be authorized to provide courses that they submit to the NCGCLB for approval. The “Provider” may allow any *approved* instructor to teach any of the courses that the “Provider” has received approval for.

“Instructors” who wish to be approved by the NCGCLB to teach the 2-hour mandatory class will be required to complete a training course offered by the NCGCLB. The training classes for the 2021 License renewal will be conducted in the Spring of 2020 and at other times, as needed, in various locations in North Carolina. The mandatory course training classes for 2022 and beyond will be primarily held in the month of December 2021 and again, as needed, through the year.

All NCGCLB approvals for “Providers”, “Instructors” and course curriculums shall expire on November 30 of each year. “Providers”, “Instructors” and course curriculums can be renewed in a formal process that will be defined by rules propagated by the NCGCLB.

#### *Being an Inactive License Status:*

A licensee may request that the NCGCLB place a license in an inactive status. A license in an inactive status *does not* require a qualifier to complete the CE requirement but the license renewal form and fees must be submitted for the license to remain inactive. While in an inactive status the license *will not allow* the licensee to conduct business as a licensed contractor.

When a license is in an inactive status for 1-2 years, a qualifier shall complete 8-hours of CE including the 2-hour mandatory course for that year in order to re-activate the license. If a license is in an inactive status for *more than 2-years* a qualifier shall complete 16-hours of CE including the 2-hour mandatory course for that year in order to re-activate the license.

When a license is in an inactive status for 4-years, it will archive as will the qualifier’s examination credential if not serving as qualifier on another active license.

**Please note from the N.C. General Statute 87-13, an individual who falsely claims they are licensed by the NCGCLB for any business activity regulated by the NCGCLB is engaged in the unlicensed practice of general contracting. General Statute 87-13 now states with added language highlighted:**

*“Any person, firm, or corporation not being duly authorized who shall contract for or bid upon the construction of any of the projects or works enumerated in G.S. 87-1, without having first complied with the provisions hereof, or who shall attempt to practice general contracting in the State, except as provided for in this Article, and any person, firm, or corporation presenting or attempting to file as his own the licensed certificate of another or who shall give false or forged evidence of any kind to the Board or to any member thereof in maintaining a certificate of license or who falsely shall impersonate another or who shall use an expired or revoked certificate of license, or who falsely claims or suggests in connection with any business activities regulated by the Board that a person, firm, or corporation is licensed under this Chapter, and any architect or engineer who recommends to any project owner the award of a contract to anyone not properly licensed under this Article, shall be deemed guilty of a Class 2 misdemeanor. And the Board may, in its discretion, use its funds to defray the expense, legal or otherwise, in the prosecution of any violations of this Article. No architect or engineer shall be guilty of a violation of this section if his recommendation to award a contract is made in reliance upon current written information received by him from the appropriate Contractor Licensing Board of this State which information erroneously indicates that the contractor being recommended for contract award is properly licensed.”*