

CHAPTER 502  
ELECTRICIAN AND ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR LICENSING PROGRAM—LICENSING  
REQUIREMENTS, PROCEDURES, AND FEES

**661—502.1(103) License categories and licenses required.**

**502.1(1)** The following license categories are established:

- a. Electrical contractor.
- b. Residential electrical contractor.
- c. Master electrician, class A.
- d. Master electrician, class B.
- e. Residential master electrician.
- f. Journeyman electrician, class A.
- g. Journeyman electrician, class B.
- h. Residential electrician.
- i. Apprentice electrician.
- j. Special electrician.
- k. Unclassified person.
- l. Inactive master electrician.

**502.1(2)** A person who holds any class of license issued by the board, other than a class B license, a residential electrical contractor license, a residential master electrician license, or a residential electrician license, may perform the work authorized by that license anywhere within the state of Iowa. A person who holds a special electrician license may perform the work which is authorized by that license endorsement. A person who holds a class B license may perform the work authorized by that license except in a political subdivision which, by local ordinance, has, pursuant to Iowa Code section 103.29, subsection 4, restricted or barred such work by a person who holds a class B license. A person who holds a residential electrical contractor license, a residential master electrician license, or a residential electrician license may perform the work authorized by that license anywhere within the state of Iowa except within a political subdivision which has, by local ordinance, restricted the use of such a license.

**502.1(3)** A person who does not have a current valid license shall not perform work as an electrician or as an unclassified person. A person shall not perform work which requires licensing and which is not specifically authorized under the license issued.

EXCEPTION 1: A person who holds a current valid license issued by a political subdivision may perform work as an electrician or unclassified person within the corporate limits of the political subdivision which issued the license.

EXCEPTION 2: A person may work for up to 100 continuous days as an unclassified person prior to obtaining a license. Any documented time during which a person has worked as an unclassified person prior to January 1, 2008, or any time during which a person has worked as a licensed unclassified person shall be credited to any applicable experience requirement. Any time during which a person works as an unclassified person without a license on or after January 1, 2008, shall not be counted toward any such experience requirement, except that a person may receive credit for time worked as an unclassified person on or after January 1, 2008, without a license if the person has applied for a license.

EXCEPTION 3: Electrical installations in buildings, including residences or facilities which are being constructed as part of a course of instruction by an accredited educational institution, may be performed by a person who is not licensed. Such installations are subject to the requirements for permits and inspections pursuant to 661—Chapter 552.

**502.1(4)** An apprentice electrician or an unclassified person, while performing electrical work, shall be directly supervised at all times by a master electrician or a journeyman electrician or, while performing residential electrical work only, by a residential master electrician, a residential electrician, or a special residential electrician. A master electrician, a journeyman electrician, a residential master electrician, a residential electrician, or a special residential electrician shall at no time directly supervise more than three apprentice electricians and unclassified persons at once. For purposes of this subrule, “unclassified

person” includes a person who is working as an unclassified person and holds either an “unclassified person” license or another license issued by the board.

**502.1(5)** A journeyman electrician or a residential electrician shall work under the general direction of a master electrician or, while performing residential electrical work only, under the general direction of a residential master electrician. A special residential electrician may perform residential work without supervision or direction.

[**ARC 8396B**, IAB 12/16/09, effective 2/1/10; **ARC 9234B**, IAB 11/17/10, effective 1/1/11; **ARC 9811B**, IAB 10/19/11, effective 12/1/11]

**661—502.2(103) License requirements.**

**502.2(1)** An electrical contractor license may be issued to a person who submits to the board the required application with the applicable fee, who holds or employs a person who holds an active master electrician license, who is registered as a contractor with the labor services division of Iowa workforce development, and who is not disqualified pursuant to rule 661—502.4(103). An electrical contractor license issued to a person who holds a class B master electrician license is subject to the same restriction of use as is the class B master electrician license.

**502.2(2)** A residential electrical contractor license may be issued to a person who is licensed as a class A master electrician, a class B master electrician, or a residential master electrician and who is registered with the state of Iowa as a contractor pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 91C.

**502.2(3)** A class A master electrician license may be issued to a person who submits to the board a completed application with the applicable fee, who is not disqualified from holding a license pursuant to rule 661—502.4(103), and who meets one of the following requirements:

*a.* Has completed one year of experience as a licensed journeyman electrician, and has passed a supervised written examination for master electrician approved by the board with a score of 75 or higher; or

*b.* As of December 31, 2007, held a current valid license as a master electrician issued by a political subdivision in Iowa, the issuance of which required passing a supervised written examination approved by the board, and one year of experience as a journeyman electrician; or

*c.* Holds a current class B master electrician license and has passed a supervised written examination for master electrician approved by the board with a score of 75 or higher.

**502.2(4)** A class B master electrician license may be issued to a person who submits to the board a completed application with the applicable fee; who is not disqualified from holding a license pursuant to rule 661—502.4(103); who presents credible evidence of having worked for a total of 16,000 hours of cumulative experience as a master electrician, of which at least 8,000 hours shall have been worked since January 1, 1998; and whose experience as a master electrician began on or before January 1, 1998.

**502.2(5)** A residential master electrician license may be issued to a person who submits to the board a completed application with the applicable fee, who is not disqualified from holding a license pursuant to rule 661—502.4(103), and who meets one of the following requirements:

*a.* Holds a current residential electrician or journeyman electrician license, has 2,000 hours of verified experience as a residential electrician or a journeyman electrician, and has passed a residential master electrician examination approved by the board; or

*b.* Holds a current special electrician license with a residential endorsement, has 4,000 hours of verified experience, and has passed a residential master electrician examination approved by the board.

**502.2(6)** A class A journeyman electrician license may be issued to a person who submits to the board a completed application with the applicable fee, who is not disqualified from holding a license pursuant to rule 661—502.4(103), and who meets one of the following requirements:

*a.* Has successfully completed a registered apprenticeship program, has passed a supervised written examination for journeyman electrician approved by the board with a score of 75 or higher, and has completed four years of experience as an apprentice electrician.

*b.* Holds a current class B journeyman electrician license and has passed a supervised written examination for journeyman electrician approved by the board with a score of 75 or higher.

*c.* Holds a current electrician license in another state, has passed a supervised written examination for journeyman electrician approved by the board with a score of 75 or higher, and has satisfied the sponsorship requirements for testing for a journeyman class A license by providing evidence of all of the following:

(1) Current licensure as a journeyman or master electrician from another state which required passing a test sponsored by that state.

(2) Completion of 18 hours of continuing education units approved by the board.

(3) Completion of 1,000 hours of work in Iowa as an unclassified person.

*d.* Holds a current license issued by the board, excluding a special electrician license other than special residential electrician license; has passed a supervised written examination for journeyman electrician approved by the board with a score of 75 or higher; has completed 54 hours of continuing education approved by the board; and has completed 16,000 hours of electrical work while licensed by the board, except as a special electrician other than a special residential electrician, as verified by a master electrician licensed by the board. The 16,000 hours must include at least the following minimum number of hours of work on commercial or industrial installations in the categories indicated: 500 hours of preliminary work, 2,000 hours of rough-in work, 2,000 hours of finish work, 2,000 hours of lighting and service work, 500 hours of troubleshooting, and 500 hours of motor control work. At least 4,000 hours of the 16,000 hours must have been completed by the applicant within the five years immediately preceding the submission date of the application.

EXCEPTION: On or before December 31, 2019, a maximum of 10,000 of the required 16,000 hours of verified work experience may have been completed between January 1, 2000, and December 31, 2007, without licensure from the board or from any political subdivision.

*e.* Holds a current license issued by the board as a residential electrician or residential master electrician, has passed a supervised written examination for journeyman electrician approved by the board with a score of 75 or higher, and has completed 4,000 hours of work on commercial or industrial electrical installations while licensed by the board, as verified by a master electrician licensed by the board. The 4,000 hours must include at least the following minimum numbers of hours in the categories indicated: 100 hours of preliminary work, 500 hours of rough-in work, 500 hours of finish work, 500 hours of lighting and service work, 100 hours of troubleshooting, and 100 hours of motor control work.

*f.* Holds a current license issued by the board, has satisfactorily completed an approved postsecondary electrical education program, has passed a supervised written examination for journeyman electrician approved by the board with a score of 75 or higher, and, subsequent to beginning the postsecondary electrical education program, has completed at least 6,000 hours of electrical work while licensed by the board, as verified by a master electrician licensed by the board.

**502.2(7)** A class B journeyman electrician license may be issued to a person who submits to the board a completed application with the applicable fee; who is not disqualified from holding a license pursuant to rule 661—502.4(103); who presents credible evidence of having worked for a total of 16,000 hours of cumulative experience as a journeyman electrician or master electrician, of which at least 8,000 hours shall have been worked since January 1, 1998; and whose experience as a journeyman electrician or master electrician began on or before January 1, 1998.

**502.2(8)** A residential electrician license may be issued to a person who submits to the board a completed application with the applicable fee, who is not disqualified from holding a license pursuant to rule 661—502.4(103), and who meets one of the following requirements:

*a.* Holds a current residential special electrician license and has held that license for a minimum of one year and has passed a residential electrician examination approved by the board; or

*b.* Has completed 6,000 hours of experience as an apprentice electrician and has passed a residential electrician examination approved by the board. An applicant may take the examination required by this paragraph after completing 5,000 hours of experience as an apprentice electrician, although the license will not be issued until the applicant has completed 6,000 hours of such experience; or

*c.* Has completed 4,000 hours of experience working under the direct supervision of a residential master electrician, a residential electrician, a master electrician, or a journeyman electrician; has

successfully completed a minimum of one academic year of an electrical trade school approved by the board; and has passed a residential electrician examination approved by the board; or

*d.* Has completed 8,000 hours of verified experience as a licensed unclassified person including at least 2,000 hours of verified work experience in residential wiring and has passed a residential electrician examination approved by the board; or

*e.* Has successfully completed a registered residential electrician apprenticeship program and passed a supervised written residential electrician examination approved by the board with a score of 75 or higher.

**502.2(9)** A special electrician license may be issued to a person who submits to the board a completed application with the applicable fee, who is not disqualified from holding a license pursuant to rule 661—502.4(103), and who meets the qualifications for any endorsement entered on the license. Each special electrician license shall carry one or more endorsements as specified in paragraphs “*a*” through “*d*.”

*a.* Endorsement 1, “Irrigation System Wiring,” shall be included on a special electrician license if the licensee requests it and has passed a supervised examination approved by the board or has completed two years, or 4,000 hours, of documented experience in the wiring of irrigation systems.

*b.* Endorsement 2, “Disconnecting and Reconnecting Existing Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Systems,” shall be included on a special electrician license if the licensee requests it and has passed a supervised examination approved by the board or has completed two years of documented experience in the disconnecting and reconnecting of existing air conditioning and refrigeration systems.

NOTE: An individual who holds any of the following licenses issued by the plumbing and mechanical systems board established pursuant to Iowa Code section 105.3 is not required to hold a license issued by the electrical examining board in order to perform disconnection and reconnection of existing air conditioning and refrigeration systems:

1. Master HVAC.
2. Journeyman HVAC.
3. Master refrigeration.
4. Journeyman refrigeration.

*c.* Endorsement 3, “Sign Installation,” shall be included on a special electrician license if the licensee requests that it be included. This endorsement does not authorize a licensee to connect power to a sign that has a voltage greater than 220V and an ampere rating greater than 20 amps. Initial installation or upgrading of the branch circuits supplying power to the sign shall be completed by a licensed master electrician or by a licensed journeyman electrician under the supervision of a master electrician.

*d.* Endorsement 4, “Residential Electrician,” shall be included on a special electrician license if the licensee requests it and has passed a supervised written examination approved by the board or has completed four years of documented experience performing residential electrical work. A political subdivision may, by enactment of an ordinance filed with the board prior to its effective date, require that a special electrician performing work authorized by this endorsement be supervised by a master electrician. Special electrician licenses with “residential electrician” endorsements shall not be issued after December 31, 2010. Renewals of special electrician licenses with “residential electrician” endorsements shall not be issued after December 31, 2013.

**502.2(10)** An apprentice electrician license may be issued to a person who submits a completed application to the board with the applicable fee, who is not disqualified pursuant to rule 661—502.4(103), and who is participating in a registered apprenticeship program. A person may hold an apprentice electrician license for no more than six years from the original date on which an apprentice electrician license is granted, except that a person may apply to the board for an exception to this limitation based upon a documented hardship. “Documented hardship” includes, but is not limited to, an interruption in service as an apprentice electrician for active military duty or for an extended illness.

**502.2(11)** A license as an unclassified person may be issued to a person who submits a completed application to the board with the applicable fee, who is not disqualified pursuant to rule 661—502.4(103), and who is employed by a licensed electrical contractor. Any person who holds a current license issued

by the board, including a special residential electrician license, but excluding other special electrician licenses, may work as an unclassified person without holding an unclassified person license.

**502.2(12)** In lieu of renewal of the active master electrician license, an inactive master electrician license may be issued to a holder of a master electrician license whose license is due for renewal and who requests placement in inactive status. A holder of an inactive license shall maintain all requirements which would apply for an active master electrician license, except for payment of the fee required for an active license, during the term of the inactive license. If the license holder fails to meet any such requirement during the term of the inactive license, the license holder shall not be entitled to reinstatement of an active license. If the license holder continues to meet all such requirements while holding an inactive license, the license holder may obtain an active master electrician license by surrendering the inactive master electrician license, filing an application for reinstatement, and paying the applicable license fee. The holder of an inactive license who seeks reinstatement of an active license shall not receive any refund of the fee paid for the inactive license. A person who holds an inactive license may not perform work which requires the person to be a holder of that license but may perform work authorized by any active license issued by the board which the person holds.

**502.2(13)** Retaking an examination. If passage of an examination is a requirement for issuance of a license:

*a.* An applicant who has taken the examination for a license twice and has failed the examination twice shall wait six months before taking the examination again and shall complete 12 hours of continuing education approved by the board on subjects related to the standards specified in 661—Chapter 504. After satisfying the requirements of this paragraph, the applicant may take the examination two additional times, or a maximum of four times.

*b.* An applicant who has satisfied the conditions of paragraph “*a*” and who has taken the examination two additional times, or a total of four times, and has failed the examination four times shall wait an additional six months and shall complete an additional 12 hours of continuing education approved by the board on subjects related to the standards specified in 661—Chapter 504 before taking the examination again. After satisfying the requirements of this paragraph, the applicant may take the examination two additional times, or a maximum of six times.

*c.* An applicant who has satisfied the conditions of paragraph “*b*” and who has taken the examination two additional times, or a total of six times, and has failed the examination six times shall not be permitted to take the examination an additional time unless approved to do so by the board. An applicant who wishes to take an examination after failing it six times shall wait six months and then may petition the board to allow the applicant to take the examination an additional time. The applicant may be required to appear personally before the board when the board is considering the petition.

**502.2(14)** Reciprocal licensing. A journeyman class A license may be issued, without examination, to a person who holds a license from another state provided that:

*a.* The board has entered into an agreement with the other state providing for reciprocal issuance of licenses and that the agreement recognizes the equivalency of the examination required for the license issued by the other state and the examination required for the Iowa license to be issued; and

*b.* The applicant has successfully completed a supervised written examination approved by the other state with a score of 75 or higher in order to obtain the license from the other state; and

*c.* The applicant holds an applicable license from the other state at the time the application for an Iowa license is filed and has held the applicable license from the other state continuously for one year at the time the application for an Iowa license is filed; and

*d.* The applicant has submitted:

(1) A completed application for the Iowa license;

(2) A copy of the applicable license from the other state, clearly showing the license number and any other identifying information;

(3) The applicable fee;

(4) The sworn affidavit required under subparagraph 502.2(14)“*e*”(2), if applicable; and

(5) Any other information required by the board; and

*e.* The applicant has either:

- (1) Completed an approved apprenticeship program; or
- (2) Completed 16,000 hours of electrical work as an electrician licensed by the other state, as documented by submission of a sworn affidavit signed by the applicant.

[ARC 8396B, IAB 12/16/09, effective 2/1/10; ARC 9234B, IAB 11/17/10, effective 1/1/11; ARC 9626B, IAB 7/27/11, effective 9/1/11; ARC 9811B, IAB 10/19/11, effective 12/1/11; ARC 0120C, IAB 5/16/12, effective 7/1/12]

**661—502.3(103) License terms and fees.** The following table sets out the length of term of each license and the fee for the license.

License Type	Term	Fee
Electrical Contractor	3 years	\$375
Residential Electrical Contractor	3 years	\$375
Master Electrician, Class A	3 years	\$375
Master Electrician, Class B	3 years	\$375
Residential Master Electrician	3 years	\$375
Journeyman Electrician, Class A	3 years	\$75
Journeyman Electrician, Class B	3 years	\$75
Residential Electrician	3 years	\$75
Special Electrician	3 years	\$75
Apprentice Electrician	1 year	\$20
Unclassified Person	1 year	\$20
Inactive Master Electrician	3 years	\$75

**502.3(1)** Fees are payable in advance with the application, by check or warrant to the Department of Public Safety. The memo area of the check should read “Electrician License Fees.”

**502.3(2)** Notice of renewal shall be provided to each licensee no less than 30 days prior to the expiration of the current license.

**502.3(3)** If a license is issued for less than the period of time specified in the table above, the fee shall be prorated according to the number of months for which the license is issued.

**502.3(4)** A licensee who is on active military deployment for 91 or more consecutive calendar days during the term of a license may have the license period tolled as follows. “Tolled” means that the expiration date of the license shall be delayed for the period of time during which the license term is tolled.

*a.* A licensee who is on active military deployment for 91 or more consecutive calendar days during a licensing period may have the license terms tolled for one year.

*b.* A licensee who is on active military deployment for 366 or more consecutive calendar days during a licensing period may have the license terms tolled for two years.

*c.* A licensee who is on active military deployment for 91 or more consecutive calendar days but fewer than 366 consecutive calendar days may petition the board to have the license tolled for two years upon a showing of a special hardship which would not be alleviated by tolling the license term for only one year.

*d.* A licensee who requests that the term of a license be tolled pursuant to this subrule shall provide a copy of military orders showing the beginning and ending dates of the deployment or deployments which are the basis for the request.

**502.3(5)** A licensee may obtain a replacement license for a license that has been lost. To order a replacement license, the licensee shall notify the board office in writing that the license has been lost and shall provide any information required by the board office, which may include, but is not limited to, the license number, the name of the licensee, and a description of the circumstances of the loss, if known. The fee for issuance of a replacement license shall be \$15.

EXCEPTION: If a licensee who is located in an area covered by a disaster emergency proclamation issued by the governor pursuant to Iowa Code section 29C.6 which is currently in force or has been

in force within the previous 90 days certifies to the board that the license was lost as a direct result of conditions which relate to the issuance of the disaster emergency proclamation, the fee for replacement of the license shall be waived.

[ARC 8396B, IAB 12/16/09, effective 2/1/10; ARC 9234B, IAB 11/17/10, effective 1/1/11]

**661—502.4(103) Disqualifications for licensure.** An application for a license shall be denied if any of the following apply:

**502.4(1)** The applicant fails to meet the requirements for the license for which the applicant has applied or the applicant fails to provide adequate documentation of any requirement.

**502.4(2)** The applicant has previously had a license revoked or suspended by the board, and the circumstances which formed the basis of the revocation or suspension have not been corrected. If a license was revoked or suspended and conditions were imposed for the restoration of the license, licensure shall be denied unless those conditions have been met.

**502.4(3)** The applicant has been denied, for cause, a license to work, or a license as an electrician has been revoked, for cause, in any other state or political subdivision and the applicant has not subsequently received a license from the state or political subdivision which denied or revoked the license. An applicant who has been denied a license pursuant to this provision may apply to the board for a license and, upon a showing of evidence satisfactory to the board that the condition or conditions which led to the denial or revocation no longer apply, the board may grant the license to the applicant.

**502.4(4)** The applicant falsifies or fails to provide any information requested in connection with the application or falsifies any other information provided to the board in support of the application.

**502.4(5)** The applicant may be denied a license if the applicant has previously been convicted of a criminal offense involving, but not limited to, fraud, misrepresentation, arson or theft, or if the applicant is currently delinquent in paying employment taxes to the state of Iowa or the United States. If the denial is based upon conviction of a criminal offense, the board shall examine the specific circumstances of the offense and may grant the license if, in the judgment of the board, sufficient time has passed since the conviction and there is no further evidence of criminal conduct on the part of the applicant.

**502.4(6)** The applicant has unpaid fees due to the board which are 120 days or more past due. The license for which the applicant applied may be issued after the fees are paid if the applicant is not otherwise disqualified from obtaining the license.

[ARC 8396B, IAB 12/16/09, effective 2/1/10; ARC 0120C, IAB 5/16/12, effective 7/1/12]

**661—502.5(103) License application.** Any person seeking a license from the board shall submit a completed application to the board accompanied by the applicable fee payable by check, money order, or warrant to the Iowa Department of Public Safety. The memo area of the check should read “Electrician Licensing Fees.” The application shall be submitted on the form prescribed by the board, which may be obtained from the board office.

[ARC 8396B, IAB 12/16/09, effective 2/1/10]

**661—502.6(103) Restriction of use of class B licenses by political subdivisions.** A political subdivision may disallow or restrict the use of a class B license to perform electrical work within the geographic limits of that subdivision through adoption of a local ordinance. A copy of any such ordinance shall be filed with the board office prior to the effective date of the ordinance. If a class B license holder held a license issued or recognized by a political subdivision on December 31, 2007, that political subdivision may not restrict the license holder from performing work which would have been permitted under the terms of the license issued or recognized by the political subdivision.

EXCEPTION 1: An ordinance restricting or disallowing electrical work by holders of class B licenses shall not apply to work which is not subject to the issuance of permits by the political subdivision.

EXCEPTION 2: An ordinance restricting or disallowing electrical work by holders of class B licenses which was passed prior to January 1, 2008, shall be filed with the board as soon as practicable and, in any case, no later than April 1, 2008.

[ARC 8396B, IAB 12/16/09, effective 2/1/10]

**661—502.7(103) Financial responsibility.** Any holder of an electrical contractor license or any holder of an electrician license who is not employed by a licensed electrical contractor and who contracts to provide electrical work which requires a license issued pursuant to 661—Chapters 500 through 503 shall, at all times, maintain insurance coverage as provided in this rule.

**502.7(1)** The licensee shall maintain general and complete operations liability insurance in the amount of at least \$1 million for all work performed which requires licensing pursuant to 661—Chapters 500 through 503.

*a.* The carrier of any insurance coverage maintained by the licensee to meet this requirement shall notify the board 30 days prior to the effective date of cancellation or reduction of the coverage.

*b.* The licensee shall cease operation immediately if the insurance coverage required by this rule is no longer in force and other insurance coverage meeting the requirements of this rule is not in force. A licensee shall not initiate any electrical work which cannot reasonably be expected to be completed prior to the effective date of the cancellation of the insurance coverage required by this rule and of which the licensee has received notice, unless new insurance coverage meeting the requirements of this rule has been obtained and will be in force upon cancellation of the prior coverage.

**502.7(2)** Reserved.

[ARC 8396B, IAB 12/16/09, effective 2/1/10]

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