

ELECTRICAL CERTIFICATION

CANDIDATE INFORMATION

BULLETIN



Division of Labor
Standards Enforcement

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The California Department of Industrial Relations (DIR) Electrician Certification Unit (ECU) has contracted with CPS HR Consulting (CPS HR) to support and administer certifications for General Electrician, Residential Electrician, Fire/Life Safety Technician, Non-Residential Lighting Technician, and Voice Data Video Technician examinations. Information in this candidate information bulletin is important for you to know and is relevant to every step of the examination process. It is your responsibility to read, know and understand this bulletin. You will be held accountable for the information contained within.

Examination eligibility is determined at the sole discretion of the State of California - Department of Industrial Relations (DIR) - Division of Labor and Standards Enforcement (DLSE) Electrician Certification Unit (ECU). For any inquires related to examination eligibility, please contact DIR ECU via email (ECUInfo@dir.ca.gov) or phone (510-286-3900).

GUIDELINES FOR CERTIFICATION

How to Obtain a Certification

1. Before you can take the examination, you must apply and be approved by DLSE. Applications may be obtained from DLSE or online at www.dir.ca.gov/dlse/ecu/ElectricalTrade.html.

The completed application, any other required supporting documentation, and the application fee should be sent to DLSE at the address below.

Division of Labor Standards Enforcement
Attn: Electrician Certification Unit
P.O. Box 420603
San Francisco, CA 94142-0603

2. Once DLSE has approved you for testing, you will receive an eligibility notice. We recommend adding PearsonVUEConfirmation@e.pearson.com to your email contacts, or enabling the 'allow sender' functionality, to prevent emails from being sent to your spam or junk folders.
3. Denied candidates are notified by DLSE of the elements they need to complete in order to be approved.

EXAMINATION SCHEDULING PROCEDURES

Once you have been approved by DLSE, you are responsible for contacting Pearson to schedule an appointment to take the examination. You may either schedule via the Internet at <https://www.pearsonvue.com/us/en/ecu.html> or schedule over the telephone at (866) 302-9666.

- Your examination(s) must be taken within one year from the date of your eligibility notice. If you do not take your examination(s) during this timeframe, you will need to resubmit a new application and pay the required application and testing fees again.
- If you do not pass the exam, you must wait 60 days from the day you took the exam before sending in your application for re-test. You must also send in another exam fee. A re-test application form is available online at: www.dir.ca.gov/dlse/ecu/ElectricalTrade.html.

NOTE: EXAM PAYMENTS ARE NEITHER REFUNDABLE NOR TRANSFERABLE.

Reschedule an Examination Appointment

If you wish to reschedule your exam, you must do so more than 48 hours prior to your scheduled appointment (exam) from within your online Pearson account or by contacting Pearson customer service (<https://home.pearsonvue.com/Test-takers/Customer-service.aspx>; 866-302-9666).

You will be unable to reschedule an exam within 48 hours of your appointment (exam).

Example:

- Your appointment (exam) is scheduled for July 3 at 2:30 pm.
- Any changes must be completed before July 1 at 2:30 pm.

Missed Appointment

If you miss your appointment (exam), you will not be allowed to reschedule. Additionally, your registration will be voided, you will not be able to take the examination as scheduled, and you will forfeit your examination fee if you arrive after your scheduled examination start time or if you fail to complete the security check-in process (e.g., do not present proper identification when you arrive for the examination; see

<https://www.pearsonvue.com/content/dam/VUE/vue/global/documents/global-id-policy/Pearson-VUE-ID-Policies-1S-English.pdf>).

Emergency Examination Site Closures

If an emergency forces a test-site to close while examinations are scheduled (e.g., weather, power outage), Pearson will email you a Cancellation of Pearson Examination Appointment Notice email. Upon receipt of this email, you may reschedule yourself for a new examination appointment without delay. If the unplanned site closure limits your ability to take your examination within your allotted timeframe (eligibility window), then please contact DIR ECU via email (ECUInfo@dir.ca.gov) or phone (510-286-3900) to resolve your situation.

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS

All examination centers where the ECU Program's exams are administered are equipped to provide access in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990. If you require a reasonable testing accommodation and you did not request one during the application process, please contact CPS HR Consulting (855-298-4917; ECUExams@cpshr.us) immediately.

NOTE: Please note that all reasonable accommodation requests MUST be made and approved prior to scheduling an exam appointment.

REPORTING TO THE EXAMINATION SITE

On the day of the examination, you should arrive at least 30 minutes before your appointment. This extra time is for signing in and familiarizing you with the examination process. *If you arrive late, you may not be admitted to the examination site and you will forfeit your examination fee.*

Required Identification at Exam Site

Upon arrival, you will be required to present two forms of identification in order to take your written examination.

You are required to present two forms of original (photocopies are not accepted), valid (not expired) identification. One must be government-issued, bearing your first name, last name, photo, and signature. The other form of identification must show your first name, last name, and signature; or your first name, last name, and a recent, recognizable photo. The first and last names used for registration must exactly match the first and last names on the identification documents presented on the day of the exam.

Acceptable forms of identification that meet these standards include the following:

- State Issued Driver's License
- State Issued Identification Card
- Current U.S. Government Issued Passport
- U.S. Government Issued Military Identification Card
- U.S. Permanent Resident card with a photo ("Green Card")

If you arrive at the test center without IDs that meet the above requirements, you will not be permitted to test. Your registration will be voided, you will forfeit your examination fee, and you will have to reapply with DLSE.

At the test site, you must complete the Candidate Information Collection and Candidate Attestation documentation processes.

Security Procedures

All test questions are the copyrighted property of the DLSE. It is forbidden under federal copyright law to copy, reproduce, record, distribute or display these test questions by any means, in whole or in part, without the DLSE's written permission. Doing so may subject you to severe civil and criminal penalties, including up to five years in prison and/or a \$250,000 fine for criminal violations.

By registering for the exam, you agree to comply with all testing regulations required by DLSE and/or DLSE's authorized contractors administering the Licensing Exam(s). Furthermore, you agree without limitation that you will help maintain exam security by not: cheating; providing or accepting improper assistance; using unauthorized materials that are in any way related to the licensing requirements; allowing other persons to use any of your licensing/certification exam answers or personal registration information; disclosing, publishing, reproducing, or transmitting any confidential information, in any form, to any third party (including those who have also taken the test); requesting any other individual to disclose any test or any part thereof to you; bringing in or taking out any materials from the examination area without permission; nor any other unauthorized behavior that violates exam security. Failure to comply may result in fines; civil action; denial, suspension, or revocation of license; indefinite ban from seeking a license; or any other action that DLSE view as appropriate.

To ensure that all candidates are tested under equal and favorable conditions, the regulations and procedures outlined below will be observed. Failure to follow these procedures may result in disqualification from licensure.

CPS HR reserves the right to audiotape and videotape any written examination session.

Please note that the following security procedures will apply during the examination:

- No smoking, eating, or drinking is allowed in the examination center.
- You are not permitted to bring any visitors to the test facility (e.g., children are not allowed in the examination area).
- Copying or communicating examination content is a violation of security

regulations and may result in the cancellation of your examination results and/or legal action taken under copyright laws.

Personal Items

Do not bring any unnecessary personal items to your examination appointment. Car keys (if you drove) and your two forms of identification are all that you will need to have with you. These items will need to be stored in a locker in the testing center during your examination.

The following items are not permitted in the testing center:

- notes, books, calculators, pens and pencils (you will have access to an online calculator)
- electronic equipment or any recording device (e.g., cameras, tape recorders, cellular telephones, PDAs, pagers, smart watches, or AI glasses).
- hats, scarves, gloves, umbrellas, other non-essential garments, other personal items (e.g., wallets, purses, briefcases, backpacks)

Breaks

Once you have been seated and the examination begins, breaks are not permitted. You may leave the examination center only to use the restroom, and only after obtaining permission from the proctor. In this case, you must also sign out/in on the roster and you will not receive extra time to complete the examination.

Misconduct or Disruptive Behavior

Candidates who engage in any kind of misconduct, disruptive, or offensive behavior may be dismissed from the examination. Such behavior includes giving or receiving help, sharing supplies, taking part in an act of impersonation, removing test materials or notes from the testing room, using rude or offensive language and behavior that delays or interrupts testing. Any candidate seen giving or receiving assistance, found with unauthorized materials, or who violates any security regulations will be asked to surrender all examination materials and to leave the examination center. All such instances will be reported to DLSE and you may be denied licensure.

Weapons

Weapons are not allowed at the testing center.

Taking the Examination by Computer

You do not need any computer experience or typing skills to take the examination by computer. If you would like to view a demonstration of the system before your scheduled test time, please visit: <https://wsr.pearsonvue.com/demo/>.

EXAMINATION REVIEW

CPS HR Consulting, in cooperation with DLSE, will be consistently evaluating the examinations being administered to ensure that the examinations accurately measure competency in the required knowledge areas. While taking the examination, examinees will have the opportunity to provide comments on any questions by using the comments button.

These comments will be analyzed by CPS HR examination development staff. CPS HR does not respond to individuals regarding these comments, but be assured that all substantive comments are reviewed.

SCORE REPORTING

In order to pass the examination, you must achieve a minimum score of 70%. You will receive your score report immediately following the completion of the examination at the testing center. You can also print copies of your score report from your online account.

CERTIFICATION CARD

If you pass, your score report identifies you as certified until such time as you receive your permanent certification card. Your certification card will be mailed to you within two weeks after you take the exam to the address you have provided to DLSE or CPS HR. If you have an address change in the future, please go to the DLSE website (<https://www.dir.ca.gov/dlse/ecu/ElectricalTrade.html>) and fill out the address change form (https://dir.ca.gov/dlse/ecu/ecp_replcard-addr.pdf).

Note: CPS HR is responsible for mailing out the certification card. Please do not contact DLSE with questions about when you will receive your card.

CERTIFICATE RENEWAL INFORMATION

You will need to renew your certificate every 3 years. You must complete 32 hours of continuing education prior to the renewal, from an approved educational provider in California. Your personal information, including addresses and phone numbers, must

be updated with DLSE.

CONTENT OUTLINES AND REFERENCES

California General Electrician

General Electrician is one who performs work for an electrical contractor installing, constructing or maintaining any electrical system that is covered by the National Electrical Code.

# of Questions	Time Allowed
100	4 hours and 30 minutes

CONTENT OUTLINE

Subject Area	% Per Area
Safety	6
Determination of Electrical System Requirements	22
Installation	66
Maintenance and Repair	6

Please Note: the examination may also contain questions based on trade knowledge or general industry practices.

REFERENCES

The following references are provided in the testing center and will be available during your examination. You may not bring or use your own reference materials.

- *NFPA 70 - National Electrical Code, 2023 Edition*. National Fire Protection Association, 1 Batterymarch Park, P.O. Box 9101, Quincy, MA 02269. <http://www.nfpa.org/>
- *NFPA 70E - Standard for Electrical Safety in the Workplace, 2024 Edition*. National Fire Protection Association, 1 Batterymarch Park, P.O. Box 9101, Quincy, MA 02269. <http://www.nfpa.org/>
- *CAL/OSHA - Pocket Guide for the Construction Industry*, updated 2022. State of California Department of Industrial Relations, Cal/OSHA Consultation Service Research and Education. <http://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/puborder.asp>

The following references have been used to create exam questions but are NOT provided in the testing center during the examination.

- *Delmar's Standard Textbook of Electricity*, 5th Edition. 2011 Delmar Learning, P.O. Box 6904 Florence, KY, 41022. <http://www.cengage.com/us/>
- *Illustrated Guide to the National Electrical Code*, 5th Edition. 2017 Delmar Learning, P.O. Box 6904 Florence, KY, 41022. <http://www.cengage.com/us/>
- *Printreading Based on the 2014 National Electrical Code (NEC)*, 2017 Edition. American Technical Publishers (ATP), 1155 West 175th Street Homewood, IL, 60430. <http://www.atplearning.com/>
- *Understanding NEC Requirements for Limited Energy and Communications Systems* (Based on the 2017 NEC). Mike Holt Enterprises, Inc., 3604 Parkway Blvd. Suite 3 Leesburg, FL, 34748. <http://www.mikeholt.com/>
- *Ugly's Electrical References*, George V. Hart, 2014, Jones and Bartlett. www.uglysbooks.com

California Residential Electrician

A Residential Electrician is one who performs work for an electrical contractor installing, constructing or maintaining any electrical system that is covered by the National Electrical Code in single family homes and multi-family units, including hotels and motels, where the primary occupancy of the building is considered residential and the maximum voltage received from a utility company is 3 phase, 4 wire, 120/208 or 120/240 volts. A Residential Electrician performs work installing the required panel boards and feeders for commercial tenant space in a multi-family/multi-use occupancies falling under subsection (b)(1) above, where less than 50 percent of the first-floor level is used for commercial tenant space, but not performing any tenant improvement for these spaces.

# of Questions	Time Allowed
80	3 hours and 30 minutes

CONTENT OUTLINE

Subject Area	% Per Area
Safety	5
Determination of Electrical System Requirements	23
Installation	66
Maintenance and Repair	6

Please Note: the examination may also contain questions based on trade knowledge or general industry practices.

REFERENCES

The following references are provided in the testing center and will be available during your examination. You may not bring or use your own reference materials.

- *NFPA 70 – National Electrical Code, 2023 Edition*. National Fire Protection Association, 1 Batterymarch Park, P.O. Box 9101, Quincy, MA 02269. <http://www.nfpa.org/>
- *NFPA 70E – Standard for Electrical Safety in the Workplace, 2024 Edition*. National Fire Protection Association, 1 Batterymarch Park, P.O. Box 9101, Quincy, MA 02269. <http://www.nfpa.org/>
- *CAL/OSHA – Pocket Guide for the Construction Industry*, updated 2022. State of California Department of Industrial Relations, Cal/OSHA Consultation Service Research and Education. <http://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/puborder.asp>

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- *Illustrated Guide to the National Electrical Code*, 5th Edition. 2017 Delmar Learning, P.O. Box 6904 Florence, KY, 41022. <http://www.cengage.com/us/>
- *Printreading Based on the 2014 National Electrical Code (NEC)*, 2017 Edition. American Technical Publishers (ATP), 1155 West 175th Street Homewood, IL, 60430. <http://www.atplearning.com/>
- *Ugly's Electrical References*, George V. Hart, 2014, Jones and Bartlett. www.uglysbooks.com

California Fire/Life Safety Technician

A Fire/Life Safety Technician is one who performs work for an electrical contractor involving the installation, construction or maintenance of systems as covered in the National Electrical Code (Article 760) and the National Fire Alarm Code.

# of Questions	Time Allowed
50	2 hours and 15 minutes

CONTENT OUTLINE

Subject Area	% Per Area
Safety	10
Preparation	24
Installation	12
Termination	8
Testing and Troubleshooting	12
Fire Alarm Systems	34

Please Note: the examination may also contain questions based on trade knowledge or general industry practices.

REFERENCES

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- *NFPA 70 – National Electrical Code, 2023 Edition*. National Fire Protection Association, 1 Batterymarch Park, P.O. Box 9101, Quincy, MA 02269. <http://www.nfpa.org/>
- *NFPA 70E – Standard for Electrical Safety in the Workplace, 2024 Edition*. National Fire Protection Association, 1 Batterymarch Park, P.O. Box 9101, Quincy, MA 02269. <http://www.nfpa.org/>
- *NFPA 72 – National Fire Alarm Code, 2025 Edition*, National Fire Protection Association, 1 Batterymarch Park, P.O. Box 9101, Quincy, MA 02269. <http://www.nfpa.org/>
- *CAL/OSHA – Pocket Guide for the Construction Industry*, updated 2022. State of California Department of Industrial Relations, Cal/OSHA Consultation Service Research and Education. <http://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/puborder.asp>

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- *Illustrated Guide to the National Electrical Code*, 5th Edition. 2017 Delmar Learning, P.O. Box 6904 Florence, KY, 41022. <http://www.cengage.com/us/>
- *Understanding NEC Requirements for Limited Energy and Communications Systems* (Based on the 2017 NEC). Mike Holt Enterprises, Inc., 3604 Parkway Blvd. Suite 3 Leesburg, FL, 34748. <http://www.mikeholt.com/>
- *Ugly's Electrical References*, George V. Hart, 2014, Jones and Bartlett. www.uglysbooks.com
- *NFPA 170 - Standard for Fire Safety Symbols*, 2018 Edition, National Fire Protection Association, 1 Batterymarch Park, P.O. Box 9101, Quincy, MA 02269. <http://www.nfpa.org/>

California Voice Data Video Technician

A Voice Data Video Technician is one who performs work for an electrical contractor installing, constructing or maintaining any system that falls within the scope of the National Electrical Code, Articles 725, 770, (non-composite cables only), 800 (non-hybrid cables only), 810 and 820.

# of Questions	Time Allowed
50	2 hours and 15 minutes

CONTENT OUTLINE

Subject Area	% Per Area
Safety	8
Preparation	22
Installation	22
Termination	14
Testing and Troubleshooting	12
Telecommunications	8
Security and Access Control Systems	4
Sound Systems	4
Audiovisual Systems	6

Please Note: the examination may also contain questions based on trade knowledge or general industry practices.

REFERENCES

The following references are provided in the testing center and will be available during your examination. You may not bring or use your own reference materials.

- *NFPA 70 - National Electrical Code, 2023 Edition*. National Fire Protection Association, 1 Batterymarch Park, P.O. Box 9101, Quincy, MA 02269. <http://www.nfpa.org/>
- *NFPA 70E - Standard for Electrical Safety in the Workplace, 2024 Edition*. National Fire Protection Association, 1 Batterymarch Park, P.O. Box 9101, Quincy, MA 02269. <http://www.nfpa.org/>
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- *Illustrated Guide to the National Electrical Code*, 5th Edition. 2017 Delmar Learning, P.O. Box 6904 Florence, KY, 41022. <http://www.cengage.com/us/>
- *Understanding NEC Requirements for Limited Energy and Communications Systems* (Based on the 2017 NEC). Mike Holt Enterprises, Inc., 3604 Parkway Blvd. Suite 3 Leesburg, FL, 34748. <http://www.mikeholt.com/>
- *BICSI's Information Technology Systems Installation Methods Manual*, 6th Edition. BICSI, 8610 Hidden River Parkway, Tampa, FL 33637. <https://www.bicsi.org/Default.aspx>
- *Ugly's Electrical References*, George V. Hart, 2014, Jones and Bartlett. www.uglysbooks.com

California Non-Residential Lighting Technician

A Non-Residential Lighting Technician is one who performs work for an electrical contractor repairing, servicing and maintaining existing non-residential lighting fixtures and installing retrofit upgrade fixtures. Such work does not include the installation of branch circuits or the alteration of existing branch circuits except a technician may reconnect to existing power within 3 feet.

# of Questions	Time Allowed
50	2 hours and 15 minutes

CONTENT OUTLINE

Subject Area	% Per Area
Safety	16
Fundamentals	12
Troubleshooting, Replacement, Retrofit	50
Lighting Control	22

Please Note: the examination may also contain questions based on trade knowledge or general industry practices.

REFERENCES

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- *NFPA 70E - Standard for Electrical Safety in the Workplace, 2024 Edition*. National Fire Protection Association, 1 Batterymarch Park, P.O. Box 9101, Quincy, MA 02269. <http://www.nfpa.org/>
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- *Illustrated Guide to the National Electrical Code*, 5th Edition. 2017 Delmar Learning, P.O. Box 6904 Florence, KY, 41022. <http://www.cengage.com/us/>
- *Lighten Up!, A Training Textbook for Apprentice Lighting Technicians*, 4th Edition. InterNational Association of Lighting Management Companies (NALMCO),

1255 SW Prairie Trail Parkway, Ankeny, IA 50023. <http://www.nalmco.org/>

- *Illuminations, A Training Textbook for Senior Lighting Technicians*, 4th Edition. InterNational Association of Lighting Management Companies (NALMCO), 1255 SW Prairie Trail Parkway, Ankeny, IA 50023. <http://www.nalmco.org/>
- *Ugly's Electrical References*, George V. Hart, 2014, Jones and Bartlett. www.uglysbooks.com