
This is a summary for Electrical Sign Contractors in the State of Texas. The following are from notes taken at the Electricians Task Force meetings and from the TDLR web site.

These are the items that we think have the most impact on the Electrical Sign Industry and ignorance of the law is no excuse as some have found out the hard way. I hope this summary can be posted for others so they can avoid any problems with the TDLR and Consumers. By: Stanford Titlow

SOME HOT TOPICS OF THE TDLR FOR THE ELECTRICAL SIGN INDUSTRY DOING BUSINESS IN TEXAS:

1) PROPOSALS, INVOICES, and WRITTEN CONTRACTS (From the contractor to the Consumer) must have the following information, printed in legible text:

Contractors Name, Address, Phone Number, and License number along with the following phrase-

"Regulated by the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation, P.O. Box 12157, Austin, Texas 78711 - Telephone: (512) 463-6599 Toll-Free (in Texas): 800-803-9202
Online-<http://www.license.state.tx.us/Complaints>"
(Ref: 1305).

2) Name and Contractor numbers must be displayed on each vehicle owned by the contractor, 2"+ height, contrasting color, and permanently affixed in conspicuous places. Magnetic signs are not permanently affixed. (Ref: 1305-166)

3) TDLR accepts the National Electric Code 2005 as a whole. All electric signs must be "Listed" as per Art 600.3 unless the local Authority Having Jurisdiction adopts their own inspection entity that supersedes any part of the code. "Listing" is done by an inspection agency that tests products for code compliance and safe operation.

The City of Houston as well as some other municipalities in Texas have their own inspection program and listing is not required at this time. Be sure to check the local codes before installing any electrical sign. All un-incorporated areas and many municipalities in Texas require a "Listing" label on an electric sign, even though they may have their own inspection division. (Ref: NEC 2005)

4) Only a company that has a valid TDLR Electrical or Electrical Sign Contractors License Number can perform or **offer** to perform electrical work. (Ref: 1305-151)

5) A Licensed Contractor or Licensed Employee may not allow a Non-Licensed Contractor or Employee to use their license number.

6) The Master Electrician or the Master Sign Electrician of record is responsible for all electrical work being performed under his license, including the work performed by sub-contractors.

7) On-Site Supervision is required in Texas for electric signs and wiring. In Texas, an Apprentice may perform wiring but it must be done so under the supervision of a Master/Master Sign Electrician or journeyman/Journeyman Sign Electrician. In Houston and some other municipalities, only a Journeyman/Journeyman Sign Electrician or Master/Master Sign Electrician can perform wiring.

8) With a State Contractor Number, a municipality cannot enforce examinations if a person holds a State License. They can however charge fees to become licensed. (Ref: 1305.201b)

For more information on the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation, visit <http://www.license.state.tx.us/>

The Electricians Task Force is growing daily and Contractors need to know that there are more eyes watching the industry. Anyone can make a complaint on a Contractor and that complaint will be investigated by the State of Texas.

To stay current with TDLR, subscribe to the updates here:
<http://www.license.state.tx.us/newsletters/TDLRnotificationLists.asp>