

# HOW TO OBTAIN A C-33 LICENSE CONT.:

## Examinations:

- Applicants for the C33 license must take and pass two exams. The Law and Business exam and the C33 Trade exam.

## Fees:

- Pay the required application and examination fees as specified by the CSLB.
- License Maintenance.
- Renew the C-33 license every two years to maintain active status.

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# ADVANCE YOUR CAREER WITH A C-33 LICENSE!

## Contact Information:

- CONTRACTORS STATE LICENSE BOARD (CSLB):
  - WEBSITE: [WWW.CSLB.CA.GOV](http://WWW.CSLB.CA.GOV)
  - PHONE: (800) 321-2752

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

- STUDY GUIDES:  
[HTTPS://CSLB.CA.GOV/CONTRACTORS/APPLICANTS/EXAMINATION\\_STUDY\\_GUIDES/](https://CSLB.CA.GOV/CONTRACTORS/APPLICANTS/EXAMINATION_STUDY_GUIDES/)

*Ready to elevate your painting career? Contact CSLB or enroll in a contractor licensing school today!*

# C-33 LICENSE

*Everything you need to know to get started*



# HOW TO OBTAIN A C-33 LICENSE:

## Eligibility Requirements:

- Be at least 18 years old.
- Possess a valid driver's license or identification.
- Have a Social Security number or ITIN.
- Not currently on probation or parole.
- Applicants must have at least four years of fully trained, journey level or higher, work experience in the classification applied for in the past ten years.

## Application Process:

- Submit a completed application to the Contractors State License Board (CSLB).
- Provide verifiable documentation of work experience and references.
- Applicants and anyone listed on an application must be fingerprinted and undergo a background check.

# Why Obtain a C-33 License?

- **Legal Requirement:**  
Any painting and decorating work in California over \$500 requires a C-33 license.
- **Professional Credibility:**  
A license ensures contractors meet CSLB standards for safety and quality.
- **Expanded Business Opportunities:**  
Licensed contractors can bid on larger projects and grow their businesses.



# WHAT IS A C-33?

In California, the C-33 license is a specialty contractor classification issued by the Contractors State License Board (CSLB) for painting and decorating contractors. This license permits professionals to prepare surfaces through methods like scraping or sandblasting and to apply materials such as paints, papers, textures, fabrics, pigments, oils, varnishes, shellacs, stains, fillers, waxes, and adhesives. These applications serve purposes including decorating, protecting, fireproofing, and waterproofing structures and their appurtenances.) (CSLB)

It's important to note that any painting and decorating work in California exceeding \$1,000 as of January 1, 2025 in combined labor and material costs requires a C-33 license. This ensures that contractors meet the state's standards for safety and workmanship, providing clients with confidence in the quality and reliability of the services offered. (Contractors License Schools)



## EXPERIENCE, REQUIREMENT & EXEMPTION OF C-33

### What qualifies as experience?

- Experience must meet California Code of Regulations Section 825 standards.
- **Acceptable experience includes:**
  - Journeyman, Foreman, Supervising Employee, or Contractor roles.
  - At least four years of fully trained experience within the past ten years.
  - A journeyman is someone fully trained to work independently or who has completed an apprenticeship program.
- **Unacceptable experience:**
  - Trainee/Apprentice-level experience or administrative duties.
  - However, supervising employees or contractors may spend some time in the office.

### Does education or school training count?

#### Education credit is granted for:

- College degrees, coursework, or completed apprenticeship programs relevant to the classification.

#### Requirements:

- Applicants must submit official unsealed transcripts directly from their college/university to the CSLB.
- Education credit can range from 0 to 36 months, but no amount is sufficient to qualify for a contractor's license alone.

### Can applicants use previous contract work as experience?

- Self-employed experience is accepted.
- Owner-builder experience is only acceptable for the B-General Building license.

## Are there alternatives or exceptions?

- The only alternative is education credit, but all applicants must still meet experience requirements.
- Consumer protection is CSLB's priority, ensuring all contractors meet the necessary qualifications.

## CCR 825 – Full Text

**(a)** Every applicant must have had, within the last 10 years, at least four years of experience as a journeyman, foreman, supervising employee, or contractor in the classification applied for. A journeyman is an experienced worker fully qualified to perform a trade without supervision or someone who has completed an apprenticeship program.

**(b)** Former qualifiers on a license in the same classification may count their experience without the 10-year limitation.

## New 7048 Exemption (Effective January 1, 2025)

### Minor work exemption raised to \$1,000

- Work under \$1,000 (including labor and materials) is exempt from licensure, but only if:
  - No employees are used.
  - No permits are required.

### When is a contractor's license required?

- A contractor's license from CSLB is required if any of the following apply:
  - The project requires a building permit.
  - Employee labor or workers are used.
  - The contract value (labor + materials) is \$1,000 or more.

### Business and professions code, Section 7048 – Full Text

**(a)** This chapter does not apply to a project under \$1,000, if the work is considered casual, minor, or inconsequential and does not require a building permit.

**(b)** This exemption does not apply if the work is part of a larger project or if contracts are divided to evade licensure.

**(c)** This exemption does not apply to individuals who:

1. Advertise or indicate they are a contractor.
2. Employ another person to perform or assist in the work.