

[Q. What is the National Electrical Code \(N.E.C.\)?](#)

A. The National Electrical Code (NEC) provides practical safeguarding of persons and property from hazards arising from the use of electricity. The NEC is updated every 3 years and considered to be the foundation for electrical safety. The new edition must be officially adopted prior to being implemented as the current edition in the City. The City Council appointed Electrical Board conducts public hearings to hear any comments or concerns regarding the adoption on the NEC and then makes a recommendation to City Council. The City Council makes the formal adoption of the NEC at one of their regularly scheduled meetings.

[Q. Are there any local code amendments to the NEC for electrical construction?](#)

A. Yes, Chapter 10 of the City Code serves to outline the requirements of permits and licenses along with amendments to the National Electrical Code (NEC). A copy of [Chapter 10](#) of the City Code can be found on our homepage by clicking on [current codes](#) under the resources tab or on the electrical section page.

[Q. Are there any other codes that I need to know about when doing electrical construction work in the City of San Antonio?](#)

A. Yes, in addition to the NEC and to the Chapter 10 of the City Code, you will have to be familiar with the latest edition of the City Public Service (CPS) Standards Handbook and the latest adopted edition of the International Energy Conservation Code. A list of [current codes](#) can be found on our main department webpage.

[Q. As a homeowner, can I do my own electrical work?](#)

A. No, Chapter 10 of the City Code requires all electrical work to be performed by licensed electrical contractors registered with the City of San Antonio. Contractors are required to obtain the necessary permits prior to starting the work and then are responsible for requesting the required inspections.

[Q. Why is it important to hire licensed electrical contractors to do my electrical work?](#)

A. By having a licensed electrical contractor registered with the City you are assured that they have the minimum electrical trade experience accepted by the City of San Antonio and the State of Texas. The contractor will also be insured and most even guarantee their work for a minimum of one year. Electrical contractors must request inspections which will help assure that the work is done in a safe manner and meets minimum code requirements.

[Q. How can I check to see if a Contractor is registered and properly licensed?](#)

A. Licensed contractors are required by local ordinance and by State law to display the name of their company and contractor license number on the side of their vehicles in letters no less than 2 inches high. You can research our website for a list of [electrical contractors](#) that are registered with us but perhaps the best way to make sure the contractor is legit is to make sure that they obtain the required permits and that the persons on site are licensed. If you should need to check on a particular contractor, please feel free to contact our customer service section at 207-1111 where someone from our staff can assist you.

[Q. How can I file a complaint against an electrical company or individual that is performing work without proper licenses and insurance?](#)

A. You can submit a complaint to the electrical inspections team by contacting Senior Electrical Inspector, John Raney (210) 215-7768 john.raney@www.sanantonio.gov or by mailing in a written complaint to the address of 1901 S. Alamo, San Antonio, TX 78204. All investigations will be reviewed and investigated and coordinated with the Electrical Board and the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation as needed. Complaints can be filed directly with the Texas Department of Licensing website at www.tdlr.state.tx.us.

[Q. What is the purpose of an electrical license?](#)

A. The major purpose of an electrical license is to protect public health and safety by preventing unqualified people from practicing the electrical trade and profession.

Q. How can I obtain an electrical license?

A. You can contact the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) at 1-800 803-9202 or visit them at www.tdlr.state.tx.us

Q. What is the difference between the journeyman electrician license and the master electrician license?

A. The journeyman license allows a person to work on a jobsite unsupervised while working for a licensed electrical contractor. The master's license is a higher classification that allows you to go into business and secure the required electrical permits, etc, provided the person follows all outlined rules and regulations set by our department involved with the registration process.

Q. What do I need to do to secure an electrical permit?

A. You have two options on registering with the City: Option 1: as a San Antonio Master Electrician License holder you may complete a DBA application request to be approved by the licensing section of the department. Once this is done, insurance requirements will need to be met prior to being allowed to secure permits. Option 2: as a licensed State Electrical Contractor you may register with the City and meet insurance requirements as listed above. The application for State electrical licenses are handled through the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) www.tdlr.state.tx.us

Q. What types of jobs require permits?

A. Usually the rule of thumb is that if you add to an existing electrical system such as adding new outlets or new circuits you will need to secure an electrical permit. The majority of projects that involve electrical work will require permits and inspections.

Q. Whom do I contact about taking electrical examinations?

A. They are currently being administered by the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) through their third party testing contractor. More information on dates and procedures involved in registering for examinations can be found by visiting TDLR <http://www.tdlr.state.tx.us/>

Q. What license number should be displayed on my vehicle?

A. The electrical contractor's or electrical sign contractor's license number is required to be displayed on the vehicle.

Q. What are the requirements for displaying the electrical contractor's or electrical sign contractor's license number on company operated vehicles?

A. A licensed electrical or sign contractor shall display its name and license number on both sides of the vehicle owned or operated by the business and used in the conduct of electrical work. Lettering shall be of a contrasting color and at least two inches in height. The lettering must be permanently affixed in conspicuous places on both sides of the vehicle. The license number shall be preceded by the letters TECL for electrical contractors and TSCL for sign contractors. For the requirements see Section 10-166 (d) of Chapter 10 of the City Code, and Section 1305.166 of Title 8 Occupations Code and Administrative Rules 73.51 & 73.52.

Q. Who must be licensed?

A. Persons who perform electrical work in the city of San Antonio and in the State of Texas. Electrical work means any labor or material used in installing, maintaining or extending an electrical wiring system and the appurtenances, apparatus, or equipment used in connection with the use of electrical energy in, on, outside, or attached to a building, residence, structure, property or premises. Licenses are also required for sign work and maintenance work performed in our city. For more details contact customer service at 207-1111 and someone can assist you.

Q. [What are the requirements for a license?](#)

A. Requirements will vary depending on the type of license. Most licenses are handled by the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR). Our department only handles a couple of sign related licenses, the Commercial Sign Operator and Billboard Operators license. For information on these licenses you can contact the sign inspection section at (210) 207-8289.

Q. [Whom do I contact to find out more information concerning state licenses?](#)

A. Information on state licenses can be obtained from the [Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation \(TDLR\)](#). They can be reached by phone at (1-800-803-9202).

Q. [What are the requirements for continuing education?](#)

A. Most electrical licenses require completion of 4 hours of continuing education annually prior to the license renewal date. For City of San Antonio license renewals, the educational courses must be through a training provider approved by the Electrical Board.

Q. [Do new hires have to possess an apprentice card before they can begin work on a job site?](#)

A. As of September 1, 2004, anyone performing subject electrical work must obtain a license through the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) prior to performing the work.

Q. [Are public entities required to have an electrical contractor's license to perform electrical work?](#)

A. Yes, Chapter 10 of the City Code requires that all work for which a permit is required to be performed by a licensed electrical contractor with proper permits.

Q. [Where can I locate continuing education provider and course information?](#)

A. You can find local education provider information on the electrical section page of our website by clicking on the resources tab. You can find [Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation \(TDLR\)](#) electrician continuing education provider and course information on TDLR's website.

Q. [How do I find the name and information for the inspector that will be doing my inspections?](#)

A. You can find the electrical inspector assigned area maps for either [residential](#) or [commercial](#) on the [electrical section page](#) of our department website. You will find the maps by clicking on the inspectors tab.

Q. [Is there an electrical check-list for electrical plan reviews?](#)

A. Yes, we have checklist for the following types of plan submittals:

- [Commercial Checklist \(Foundation, shell, and finish out\)](#)
- [Foundation only](#)
- [Shell only](#)
- [Interior Finish Out](#)

The checklists are in the form of information bulletins 103(a), (b), (c), and (d), these can be found on our website under the resources tab and by clicking on [information bulletins](#).

Q. [What do I do to request an inspection?](#)

A. You can request an inspection for any type of work by calling the Inspection Hotline at (210) 207-1111 or via our website at www.sanantonio.gov and scheduling them online.

Q. Where can I get a list of the codes that are enforced by the City of San Antonio?

A. You can view or print a list of our current codes by clicking on "[Current Codes](#)" under the Resources tab on our Development Services Department Homepage.

Q. Who do I call for sign information?

A. You can call the Sign Inspector at (210) 207-8289.

Q. What is a Work with CPS (WWCPS) Permit?

A. This is an authorization from the Development Services Department (DSD) to City Public Service Energy (CPS) to work with a licensed and bonded electrical contractor in disconnecting the electrical service equipment to a building or structure. The authorization sometimes will entail reconnecting the electrical service once the contractor has completed his work. The intent of this permit is to keep the electrical contractor from having to work on energized electrical distribution equipment and temporary connections at the service. The electrical contractor is responsible for requesting a final inspection and is responsible for making sure that all electrical work is in compliance with adopted codes.

Q. If an electrical service installation requires a Work with CPS (WWCPS) permit, how do I proceed?

A. If an electrical service installation requires a WWCPS permit the following steps should be followed:

- Make sure and select WWCPS from the menu item on the electrical application when securing the permit.
- After the permit is issued contact City Public Service Energy (CPS) to arrange a time and schedule the disconnection/reconnection of the electrical service.
- On residential WWCPS permits; inspections prior to scheduling with CPS will not be required. On commercial WWCPS permits we do ask that the electrical contractor request an inspection so that we may review the scope of work and the proposed installation.

Q. Can I call the Electrical Inspection office to meet inspectors on job locations for questions and information concerning job installations?

A. Absolutely. The electrical inspectors will meet at job locations or review information with you at our electrical inspection offices located at 1901 S. Alamo. Please keep in mind that inspectors are not allowed to assist with overall lay out or design. You can find contact information for the inspector in your area by clicking on the inspectors tab of the electrical section page of our department website. Office hours for walk in customers are from 7:45 to 9:30 in the mornings and from 3:00 to 4:30 in the afternoons each day Monday through Friday. Appointments will be needed for all other times.

Q. Can the City of San Antonio recommend licensed electrical contractors?

A. No, a specific contractor cannot be recommended.

Q. Can I schedule inspections for specific times during the day?

A. While it is the goal of our department and electrical section to provide the inspection on the date requested between 7:45am and 4:30pm, daily routing changes and the uncertainty with the volume of daily calls prevent us from offering an exact time for your inspection. Customers do have the opportunity to schedule an after hours inspection for a specific time; a fee will be assessed for this service. Please contact customer service at (210) 207-1111 to inquire about this service.

Q. My electrical permit inspection was passed but I do not have electrical service yet. Why has this occurred?

A. If you are encountering this problem, please check with our Customer Service section (210) 207-1111 to verify that all other required inspections have been performed and your permit is released to City Public Service (CPS) for connection. You may also check with CPS to ensure they have all needed information for account purposes. It is important to remember that other requirements besides electrical will need to be met prior to releasing utilities.

Q. Are permits required for installations of solar photovoltaic systems?

A. Yes, these systems are outlined in section 10-110 of Chapter 10 City Code and do require plan review and electrical permits. Electrical contractors will be responsible for requesting inspections. Depending on the size of the solar photovoltaic equipment, some installations will also require building permits. In addition, those systems that will be interconnected with the utility grid system will need to receive approval from [CPS Energy](#) prior to installation.

Q. Is direct bonding required for Corrugated Stainless Steel Tubing (CSST)?

A. The bonding will need to be done as per the manufacturer's instructions for this particular product. [Information bulletin \(IB 134\)](#) has been created to outline this issue and give guidance to installers. This bulletin can be found on our main website under the resources tab.

Q. Is MC Cable allowed in the City of San Antonio?

A. Yes, however, there are some restrictions on its use that are outlined in section 10-93 (1) (t) of [Chapter 10 City Code](#).

Q. What color are switch legs and travelers required to be?

A. Switch legs are required to be the same color as the phase conductor of the circuit associated with the lighting being switched. Travelers are permitted to be any color that is not associated with any of our current phase color schemes and must be the same for each traveler. Adopted phase coloring schemes can be found in section 10-93 (1) (k), (l) and (m) of [Chapter 10 City Code](#).