

California Septic Contractor License Roadmap

C-42 Sanitation System contractor

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Step-by-step roadmap

1. Identify the applicable installer pathway

CSLB expressly recognizes A, C-36, and C-42 classifications for septic installation and repair; do not describe C-42 as the exclusive license.

2. Prepare the qualification records

The original contractor route requires four qualifying years within the preceding ten years at journeyman, foreman, supervising-employee, or contractor level, subject to CSLB-approved experience credit. Document experience for C-42 on the prescribed certification. The application also requires the qualifying individual and business-entity information.

3. Complete the applicable assessment and filing

The original C-42 pathway includes the trade and Law and Business examinations unless an applicable waiver is approved. The official C-42 study guide sets out the trade examination subject areas.

4. Obtain the project approvals

Identify the permitting authority for the property, secure the required approved plans and construction authorization, and arrange inspections before covering the work. Keep the occupational credential separate from the site approval.

5. Track the applicable renewal requirements

Maintain the CSLB license and the business's required bond and insurance filings. Use the current renewal notice for the entity and license status; an original application fee is not the renewal fee.

Pre-application checklist

- Work scope and responsible authority identified
- Applicable qualification records prepared
- Required examination, training, and application completed
- Current fee and insurance requirements checked
- Site approval and inspection arrangements obtained
- Actual credential expiration and renewal requirements recorded

Key figures

Application fee: \$450.00

Examination: Depends on pathway

Examination fee: Not established; confirm with provider

Initial license: \$200.00

Renewal: Not established; see fee guidance; confirm the applicable renewal cycle

Estimated total cost: \$650 in CSLB application and initial issuance charges for a sole owner; \$800 for a non-sole owner, before examinations and other costs.

Time to license: Depends on the selected pathway, qualification review, and local project approvals. No complete end-to-end timeframe is established here.

Fee scope: Original C-42 sole-owner route: \$450 application plus \$200 initial license. Non-sole owners pay \$350 for initial issuance instead. Examination, fingerprint processing, bonding, and project permits are additional.

Renewal details: Maintain the CSLB license and the business's required bond and insurance filings. Use the current renewal notice for the entity and license status; an original application fee is not the renewal fee.

Continuing education: Confirm the education requirements for the actual credential or local authorization. No unverified number of continuing-education hours is quoted here.

Primary sources

CSLB — C-42 Sanitation System classification: https://www.cslb.ca.gov/About_Us/Library/Licensing_Classifications/Licensing_Classifications_Detail.aspx?Class=C42

[CSLB — C-42 examination study guide \(PDF\): https://www.cslb.ca.gov/Resources/StudyGuides/C42StudyGuide.pdf](https://www.cslb.ca.gov/Resources/StudyGuides/C42StudyGuide.pdf)
[CSLB — original license application: https://cslb.ca.gov/OnlineServices/WebApplication/InteractivePDFs/
ApplicationForOriginalContractorsLicense.aspx](https://cslb.ca.gov/OnlineServices/WebApplication/InteractivePDFs/ApplicationForOriginalContractorsLicense.aspx)
[CSLB — building official information: https://cslb.ca.gov/About_US/FAQS/Building_Official_Information_Guide.aspx](https://cslb.ca.gov/About_US/FAQS/Building_Official_Information_Guide.aspx)

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