



March 24, 2010

MEMORANDUM

*******RE-REVISED March 24, 2010*******

BULLETIN E-01-10 REVISED

To: All Permit Applicants

From: Thomas H. Goldsbury, P.E., C.B.O., LEED AP
Chief, Building Inspection Division

Subject: **Low Voltage Permit Requirements**
DCA09-DEC-257

Additions in underlined bold italics throughout. Deletions crossed out. ~~Example~~

Upon further clarification from the State of Florida, since a license has been required to perform low voltage work for many years, the City of Jacksonville can not issue a temporary license.

The Department of Community Affairs (DCA) has issued the above referenced Declaratory Statement which confirms the requirement to permit low voltage work. Therefore, **effective April 5, 2010**, an electrical permit will be required for low voltage work. For residential low voltage work the inspection has been exempted similar to other minor electrical work, and thus upon payment of the permit fee the permit will auto expire. For residential and/or commercial projects, when the low voltage work is being performed as part of an electrician's main contract, it can be included in the Nature of Work for that permit and will not require a separate permit.

In general, the type of low voltage work that will require a permit will include, but not be limited to, security alarm systems, central vacuum systems, stereo/surround sound systems, irrigation systems, and low voltage lighting. Thermostat wiring can be done by a mechanical contractor and does not need a separate permit if installed as part of another permit. Similarly, low voltage irrigation wiring **only**, can be installed by a licensed irrigation contractor.

As low voltage irrigation wiring is a topic covered under the irrigation contractor trade exam, no additional examination would be required. Please call 904-630-2091 for more information.

To aid in licensure, the Jacksonville City Council recently passed bill 2010-0067 (copy attached) which created a new category, Low Voltage Contractor. ~~Please read the attached bill thoroughly, it allows for a temporary license provided evidence is shown of three years of experience and a completed application. The temporary license is only good until December 31, 2010.~~

Listed below are two exemptions from licensure as stated in FS 489.503. Section (14)(a) exempts the said work from licensure, but not permitting. Section (14)(b) exempts the work in its section from licensure and permitting.

(14)(a) The installation of, repair of, alteration of, addition to, or design of electrical wiring, fixtures, appliances, thermostats, apparatus, raceways, and conduit, or any part thereof, when those items are for

the purpose of transmitting data, voice communications, or commands as part of a cable television, community antenna television, or radio distribution system. The scope of this exemption is limited to electrical circuits and equipment governed by the applicable provisions of Articles 725 (Classes 2 and 3 circuits only), 770, 800, 810, and 820 of the National Electrical Code, current edition, or 47 C.F.R. part 68.

(14)(b) The installation of, repair of, alteration of, addition to, or design of electrical wiring, fixtures, appliances, thermostats, apparatus, raceways, and conduit, or any part thereof, when those items are for the purpose of transmitting data, voice communications, or commands as part of a system of telecommunications, including computers, telephone customer premises equipment, or premises wiring. The scope of this exemption is limited to electrical circuits and equipment governed by the applicable provisions of Articles 725 (Classes 2 and 3 circuits only), 770, 800, 810, and 820 of the National Electrical Code, current edition, or 47 C.F.R. part 68. A company certified under chapter 364 is not subject to any local ordinance that requires a permit for work performed by its employees related to low voltage electrical work, including related technical codes and regulations. The exemption in this paragraph shall apply only if such work is requested by the company's customer, is required in order to complete phone service, is incidental to provision of telecommunication service as required by chapter 364, and is not the subject of a competitive bid. The definition of "employee" established in subsection (1) applies to this exemption and does not include subcontractors.

We have been asked to further clarify a few points regarding the type of work that must be permitted, and also the exemption in paragraph 14b above.

- **Any wiring in concealed spaces must be permitted**
- **Making electrical wiring terminations must be permitted**
- **Plug and play connections do not need to be permitted**

Example, a new home is constructed that includes wiring for a home theater system pre-wired in the walls. The wiring must be permitted (can be included in electricians house permit if installed by him). If separate company they must pull a \$5 Auto-expire permit. When the home theater system is installed, if electrical terminations are necessary, a \$5 Auto-expire permit is required. If the pre-wiring just plugs into the home theater system, no permit is required.

The exemption of paragraph 14b is for employees of a company certified under chapter 364 (Telecommunication Companies). The key point here being the company employees, not subcontractors. If you are a subcontractor (receive a form 1099 from the company) you must be licensed and must pull permits.

Introduced by the Council President at the request of the Mayor and amended by the Transportation, Energy & Utilities Committee:

ORDINANCE 2010-67-E

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 342 (CONSTRUCTION TRADES REGULATIONS), SECTION 342.110 (TRADES, CRAFTS, CONTRACTORS AND SUBCONTRACTORS), *ORDINANCE CODE*, SO AS TO CREATE A NEW CONTRACTOR CATEGORY OF LOW VOLTAGE CONTRACTOR; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, on November 4, 2009, the Construction Trades Qualifying Board (the “Board”) voted to recommend to City Council the amendment of Section 342.110, *Ordinance Code*, so as to create a new contractor category of Low Voltage Contractor; and

WHEREAS, on November 20, 2009, the Florida Building Commission issued Declaratory Statement DCA09-DEC-257 holding that the Florida Building Code requires that a permit be obtained for work related to low-voltage electrical systems for telephones, data transmission, fire and security systems, closed-circuit and cable television, paging systems and speakers; and

WHEREAS, the Board and the Building Inspection Division have both determined that the creation of a new local low voltage contractor category would be an appropriate action to facilitate the Florida Building Commission’s decision in Declaratory Statement DCA09-DEC-257,; now therefore,

BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Jacksonville:

Section 1. **Amending Section 342.110, *Ordinance Code*.** Section 342.110 (Trades, crafts, contractors and subcontractors) of Chapter 342 (Construction Trades Regulations), *Ordinance Code*, is hereby amended to create a new subsection (t), Low Voltage Contractor, and, as amended, shall read as follows:

CHAPTER 342. CONSTRUCTION TRADES REGULATIONS.

* * *

Section 342.110.

Trades, crafts, contractors and subcontractors.

* * *

(t) Low Voltage Contractor.

(1) For the purposes of this chapter, Low Voltage Contractor means a contractor whose practice and scope of work are limited to the installation, repair, fabrication, erection, alteration, addition to or design of electrical wiring, fixtures, appliances, thermostats, apparatus, raceways, conduit and fiber optics (transmission of light over stranded glass) or any part thereof not to exceed 98 volts, when those items are for the purpose of transmitting data, proprietary video (satellite systems which are not part of a community antenna television or radio distribution system) central vacuum, electric locks, data distribution, networks, home theater systems, surround sound systems, public address systems or telephone systems.

(2) After December 31, 2010, it shall be unlawful for a person to engage in the business of a Low Voltage Contractor who does not hold a valid contractor certificate issued by the Board in that category, or in the category of a certified or registered electrical contractor or a certified or registered specialty electrical contractor.

(3) Notwithstanding other provisions of this section, the Board may:

(i) Establish a certificate of competency classification of specialty contractor known as a Low Voltage Contractor and certify persons in that classification as qualified to have the knowledge and skill to perform the work within that classification.

(ii) Adopt rules to regulate the issuance, supervision and revocation of a Low Voltage Contractor certificate of competency, including the requirement for the appropriate examination as defined by (iii) below, proof of at least three (3) years of practical experience, the payment of reasonable fees not to exceed those of masters qualifying for other trades within the scope of this chapter, the

issuance of temporary certificates, and other regulations found necessary by the Board to administer this paragraph.

- (iii) Issue temporary certificates for a Low Voltage Contractor upon completion of both an approved Application for Examination and Application for Contractor Administration Examination, and proof of at least three (3) years of practical experience. Temporary certificates of competency shall be valid until the applicant successfully passes the appropriate certification examination with a grade of 75 or above, or no later than December 31, 2010.

Section 2. Effective. This ordinance shall become effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective without the Mayor's signature.

Form Approved:

/s/ Margaret M. Sidman

Office of General Counsel

Legislation prepared by: James R. McCain, Jr.