Buying a contractor business? The license does not come with it.

A licensing checklist for buyers, sellers and brokers · Checked November 20, 2026

> **Not legal advice.** General information only, not legal advice. Each fact is our plain-English summary of the linked official source on the date shown, and may be incomplete, out of date or wrong. Licensing rules change. Confirm with the official licensing board and a licensed professional (an attorney, and your CPA or broker for deal terms) before you act.

Before closing

☐ **Identify who holds the license.** Look up the seller's license on the state board's official search. Note the exact legal entity, license number, classifications, status, expiration date and the qualifying person. The license belongs to that entity, not to the business name on the truck.

☐ **Decide the deal structure early.** In an asset purchase your company is a new licensee and usually needs its own license before it can contract. In a stock or membership-interest purchase the entity, and its license, may continue, but ownership, officer and qualifier changes still have to be reported on the state's deadlines.

☐ **Lock down the qualifier.** Find out whether the qualifying person (RMO, RME, qualifying party, qualifier, RMI) stays after closing. If they leave, the state's notice and replacement clock starts on their departure date, not when you notice.

☐ **Start the buyer's license application before closing.** Licensing takes time (Oregon's CCB, for example, says applications may take six to eight weeks). Line up your own qualifier, exams or exam waivers, bonds, insurance and entity registration with the Secretary of State before you need to contract.

☐ **Check reciprocity or exam waivers for your qualifier.** If your qualifier is licensed in another state, check that board's own page and the target state's page. Agreements are often one-way and limited to certain classifications; the business-and-law exam is usually still required.

☐ **Re-issue bonds and insurance in the right name.** Plan bonds and insurance certificates in the new licensee's exact legal name. In California, for example, the bond's business name and license number must match CSLB's records exactly.

☐ **Calendar every deadline.** Use the deadline calculator for each state the business works in, then confirm the dates with the board. Count from the actual date of disassociation, change or filing.

☐ **Don't contract on someone else's license.** Nevada bars anyone but the licensee from using a license, and Utah's DOPL calls lending or borrowing a license a class A misdemeanor for both sides. Don't bid or sign contracts in the buyer's name until the buyer is licensed.

Does the license transfer? What each board says

State	What happens	Official source
California	No: “not transferable … under any circumstances”	https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=BPC&sectionNum=7075.1

Arizona	No: “nontransferable”; possible stock-sale exception for corps/LLCs	https://roc.az.gov/faq
Nevada	No: may not be assigned or transferred	https://www.leg.state.nv.us/NRS/NRS-624.html
Louisiana	No: not from an individual to a company or company to company	https://lslbc.louisiana.gov/faq/
Utah	Issued to the entity; a new entity files a new application	https://commerce.utah.gov/dopl/contracting/frequently-asked-questions/
North Carolina	No: “Licenses cannot be transferred”; exams can move	https://www.nclbgc.org/faq-contractors/
Florida	Business organizations contract through a qualifying agent; a new organization is qualified separately	https://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&URL=0400-0499/0489/Sections/0489.119.html
Oregon	Change of entity is a reason to terminate; new entity licenses separately	https://www.oregon.gov/ccb/Documents/Termination%20Request.pdf

First deadline to watch in each state

State	Event	Deadlines (calendar days)
California	Qualifier (RMO/RME/RMM) leaves the licensed business	90 days: Written notice of the disassociation must reach CSLB (Disassociation Request); 90 days: Replacement qualifier must be in place, or the license is suspended or the class removed; 180 days: Outside limit if CSLB grants the one 90-day extension (disputed date or qualifier's death)
Arizona	Qualifying party leaves the licensee	15 days: Licensee and qualifying party each notify the Registrar in writing; 60 days: New qualifying party must be in place, or the license is automatically suspended
Nevada	Qualified individual leaves the licensee	10 days: Written notice to the Board (otherwise automatic suspension); 30 days: Latest date to replace the qualifier, unless the Board extends it for good cause
Louisiana	Qualifying party leaves the licensee	30 days: Written notice to LSLBC (Disassociation of a Qualifying Party form); 60 days: Another party must qualify
Utah	Qualifier leaves the licensed company	10 days: Qualifier and licensee each notify DOPL in writing; 60 days: Replacement qualifier needed, or the license can be revoked
North Carolina	Change in ownership or corporate-structure filing	30 days: Notify the Board
Florida	Sole qualifying agent leaves the business	60 days: Business must employ a new qualifying agent (no new contracting until then without a temporary certificate)
Oregon	Responsible Managing Individual (RMI) lost suddenly	14 days: Select a new RMI and report it to the CCB

State-by-state detail, sources and a deadline calculator: https://contractor-reciprocity.pages.dev/states/

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