North Carolina: contractor reciprocity & license-transfer checklist

Licensing board: North Carolina Licensing Board for General Contractors (NCLBGC) · https://www.nclbgc.org/ · 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 Each fact is our plain-English summary of the linked official source on the date shown, and may be incomplete, out of date or wrong.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.

Moving here: reciprocity and exam waivers

- NCLBGC: “The North Carolina Licensing Board does not have full reciprocity with any other state.” On the check date it listed examination waiver agreements with South Carolina, Tennessee, Louisiana, Georgia, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida.
  FAQ for Contractors, North Carolina Licensing Board for General Contractors (NCLBGC): https://www.nclbgc.org/faq-contractors/
- You complete the full new-license application, and your current board completes the Examination Waiver form in that application. A qualifier using a waiver must still pass North Carolina's Business and Law exam.
  FAQ for Contractors, North Carolina Licensing Board for General Contractors (NCLBGC): https://www.nclbgc.org/faq-contractors/
- NCLBGC accepts the NASCLA exam for the Building classification.
  FAQ for Contractors, North Carolina Licensing Board for General Contractors (NCLBGC): https://www.nclbgc.org/faq-contractors/
- California's CSLB lists North Carolina for California's B and B-2 classes. North Carolina's own waiver list above didn't include California on the check date, so don't assume the reverse direction works.
  Reciprocal Classifications List, Contractors State License Board (CSLB): https://www.cslb.ca.gov/Contractors/Applicants/Reciprocity/Reciprocal_Classifications_List.aspx; FAQ for Contractors, North Carolina Licensing Board for General Contractors (NCLBGC): https://www.nclbgc.org/faq-contractors/

Buying or selling a licensed business

- “Licenses cannot be transferred.” They are granted to specific legal entities. To get a license under a new entity, you apply for a new license in that entity's name and transfer the qualifier's exams to it.
  FAQ for Contractors, North Carolina Licensing Board for General Contractors (NCLBGC): https://www.nclbgc.org/faq-contractors/
- A personal license can't be used to do business as a corporation; licenses are only valid for the entity named on them.
  FAQ for Contractors, North Carolina Licensing Board for General Contractors (NCLBGC): https://www.nclbgc.org/faq-contractors/
- A licensee must notify the Board within 30 days of a change in ownership or a Secretary of State filing that changes the licensed entity's corporate structure.
  21 NCAC 12A .0501 License Granted, North Carolina Administrative Code: http://ncrules.state.nc.us/ncac/title%2021%20-%20occupational%20licensing%20boards%20and%20commissions/chapter%2012%20-%20general%20contractors/subchapter%20a/21%20ncac%2012a%20.0501.html
- If the licensee files Articles of Dissolution or loses its Certificate of Authority, the Board archives the license.
  21 NCAC 12A .0501 License Granted, North Carolina Administrative Code: http://ncrules.state.nc.us/ncac/title%2021%20-%20occupational%20licensing%20boards%20and%20commissions/chapter%2012%20-%20general%20contractors/subchapter%20a/21%20ncac%2012a%20.0501.html

When the qualifier leaves

- To remove a qualifier, the licensee files a Qualifier Drop Form with the date of disassociation. A qualifier may qualify up to two licenses.
  FAQ for Contractors, North Carolina Licensing Board for General Contractors (NCLBGC): https://www.nclbgc.org/faq-contractors/
- We did not find a replacement deadline on the Board's FAQ page, so the calculator doesn't invent one. Ask NCLBGC.
  FAQ for Contractors, North Carolina Licensing Board for General Contractors (NCLBGC): https://www.nclbgc.org/faq-contractors/

Deadlines (calendar days from the event date; write in your dates)

Event	Period	What is due	Your date
Change in ownership or corporate-structure filing	30 days	Notify the Board	_____

> We found no official replacement deadline for a departing qualifier on NCLBGC's FAQ page, so none is shown. Ask the Board.

Checklist

☐ Looked up the license on the NCLBGC site: legal entity, number, classes, status, expiration, qualifier.

☐ Decided deal structure (asset purchase vs. buying the licensed entity) with counsel.

☐ Confirmed whether the qualifier stays after closing; calendared the notice and replacement dates above.

☐ Started the buyer's own license application, if needed, before closing.

☐ Checked exam waivers or endorsement for the buyer's qualifier on both boards' pages.

☐ Arranged bonds and insurance in the licensee's exact legal name.

☐ Confirmed every date with NCLBGC and a licensed professional.

Notes

Free from Contractor Reciprocity (https://contractor-reciprocity.pages.dev), run by Diamond Ray Inc, support@liteflow.app. Facts checked November 20, 2026. 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. Not affiliated with, endorsed by or sponsored by any state licensing board, government agency or NASCLA. Board names are used only to identify the official sources we cite.