Appendix A: Contractor License Types for Building Construction

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A-1 Caltrans General Policy

It is Caltrans' general policy to design, advertise, and administer contracts for Type B, General Building construction projects in a manner similar to private industry construction practices. It is important to note the Contractors License Board of California, as well as most other states, requires unique qualifications and separate contractor licenses for Type "A" General Engineering Contractors and Type "B" General Building Contractors, each corresponding to different types of construction. Furthermore, unique specialty licenses (Type "C") are required for each of the different specialty subcontract trades.

A-2 CA Business and Professions Code Div 3 Chap 9 Art 4

For context and general information, the following are excerpts from the California Business & Professions Code, describing license classifications. The organizational path is found in Division 3, *Professions and Vocations Generally*, Chapter 9, *Contractors*, Article 4, *Classifications*. Information presented is current at the time of this manual's publication.

A-2.01 Contracting Business Branches

§ 7055. For the purpose of classification, the contracting business includes any or all of the following branches:

(a) General engineering contracting.

(b) (1) General building contracting.

(2) Residential remodeling contracting.

(c) Specialty contracting.

A-2.02 General Engineering Contractor

§ 7056. A general engineering contractor is a contractor whose principal contracting business is in connection with fixed works requiring specialized engineering knowledge and skill, including the following divisions or subjects: irrigation, drainage, water power, water supply, flood control, inland waterways, harbors, docks and wharves, shipyards and ports, dams and hydroelectric projects, levees, river control and reclamation works, railroads, highways, streets and roads, tunnels, airports and airways, sewers and sewage disposal plants and systems, waste reduction plants, bridges, overpasses, underpasses and other similar works, pipelines and other systems for the transmission of petroleum and other liquid or gaseous substances, parks, playgrounds and other recreational works, refineries, chemical plants and similar industrial plants requiring

specialized engineering knowledge and skill, powerhouses, powerplants and other utility plants and installations, mines and metallurgical plants, land leveling and earthmoving projects, excavating, grading, trenching, paving and surfacing work and cement and concrete works in connection with the above mentioned fixed works.

A-2.03 General Building Contractor

§ 7057. (a) Except as provided in this section, a general building contractor is a contractor whose principal contracting business is in connection with any structure built, being built, or to be built, for the support, shelter, and enclosure of persons, animals, chattels, or movable property of any kind, requiring in its construction the use of at least two unrelated building trades or crafts, or to do or superintend the whole or any part thereof.

This does not include anyone who merely furnishes materials or supplies under Section 7045 without fabricating them into, or consuming them in the performance of, the work of the general building contractor.

(b) A general building contractor may take a prime contract or a subcontract for a framing or carpentry project. However, a general building contractor shall not take a prime contract for any project involving trades other than framing or carpentry unless the prime contract requires at least two unrelated building trades or crafts other than framing or carpentry, or unless the general building contractor holds the appropriate license classification or subcontracts with an appropriately licensed contractor to perform the work. A general building contractor shall not take a subcontract involving trades other than framing or carpentry, unless the subcontract requires at least two unrelated trades or crafts other than framing or carpentry, or unless the general building contractor holds the appropriate license classification. The general building contractor shall not count framing or carpentry in calculating the two unrelated trades necessary in order for the general building contractor to be able to take a prime contract or subcontract for a project involving other trades.

(c) A general building contractor shall not contract for any project that includes a fire protection system as provided for in Section 7026.12 or 7026.13, or the “C-57” Well Drilling classification as provided for in Section 13750.5 of the Water Code, unless the general building contractor holds the appropriate license classification, or subcontracts with the appropriately licensed contractor.

A-2.04 Specialty Contractor

§ 7058. (a) A specialty contractor is a contractor whose operations involve the performance of construction work requiring special skill and whose principal contracting business involves the use of specialized building trades or crafts.

(b) A specialty contractor includes a contractor whose operations include the business of servicing or testing fire extinguishing systems.

(c) A specialty contractor includes a contractor whose operations are concerned with the installation and laying of carpets, linoleum, and resilient floor covering.

A-2.05 Concluding Note

Note that per § 7057(a), "…for the support, shelter, and enclosure of persons, animals, chattels, or movable property of any kind…" is a defining characteristic of general building construction and helps distinguish Type B General Building Contractors from Type A General Engineering Contractors.