

Who's On Your Roof?

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Now the State of Illinois has something called the Illinois Roofing Industry Licensing Act (225 IL CS 335/). This document outlines the various requirements needed in order to obtain and fulfill the requirements of a valid State of Illinois Roofing License and the penalties for working without a license. Some of the key points to note are:

Section 5 of the Act outlines the requirements for displaying the license number. Any state licensed contractor must display the roofing license number on all contracts and bids, commercial vehicles, principal offices, and published ads that carry the license holder's name or company name. Further, the contractor "must provide a land based phone number and a street address other than a post office box at which he or she may be contacted".

Under Section 9 of the Licensure Requirement section, Sections 9-9.15, the Act notes, "It is unlawful for any person to engage in the business or act in the capacity of or hold himself or herself out in any manner as a roofing contractor without having been duly licensed under the provisions of this Act". It further states that "no work involving the construction, reconstruction, alteration, maintenance, or repair of any kind of roofing or waterproofing may be done except by a roofing contractor licensed under this Act", which includes subcontractors that may be involved in the project.

It is important to note, also, that the State of Illinois does not just issue a roofing license arbitrarily. There are elements that need to be in place before the application for the license can be fulfilled. As stated in Section 3 of the Act, an applicant has to provide evidence that he or she has obtained public liability and property damage insurance; obtained Workers' Compensation insurance covering his or her employees or is approved as a self insurer of Workers Compensation in accordance with Illinois law; an Illinois Unemployment Insurance employer identification number or has proof of application to the Illinois Department of Labor for such an identification number; submitted a continuous bond to the Department in the amount of \$10,00.00 for a limited license and in the amount of \$25,000.00 for an unlimited license; and satisfactorily completed the examination required under Section 3.5

So, before you have the following conversation, "I like your firm, but the other guy is so much cheaper...", take the time and make sure that you do really know who's on your roof. Check your bid or contract for the license number, take a look at the work vehicles, reverse search the phone number to verify the address...do your due diligence before you sign that contract.

And Building Officials, before you issue the permit for that roofing project, PLEASE make sure that the contractor applying for the permit is properly licensed by The Department of Financial and Professional Regulation to do the job. You can research this on the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation website.

These are just a few of the requirements that a legitimate "Professional Roofing Contractor" must meet in order to properly conduct a roofing business in the State of Illinois and in your community. For more information visit www.idfpr.com/dpr/who/roof.asp.

It is your right, and a necessity, to know who's working on your roof. Insist on a Chicagoland Roofing Professional. For a list of the Chicagoland Roofing Professionals in your area visit the Chicagoland Roofing Contractors Association website at www.crca.org.



In today's world we are all working longer and harder and finding things more stressful and "competitive". Typically, this translates into, "I would like to have your firm do the job; but the other guy is so much less expensive I had to go with them."

Which begs the question – Do you really know who's on your roof? Let's start with some basic facts that you should know whether you own a commercial/industrial building or a residential building, and especially if you work in the building department of a local municipality and are responsible for issuing building permits. In Illinois roofing is a regulated industry. That means that anyone performing ANY kind of roofing work MUST hold a current, valid license from the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation. Not a general contractor license, not an architect license, but a Roofing Contractor License.

There are two distinctly different types of roofing licenses. The first is a "limited roofing license", which means a license made available to contractors whose roofing business is limited to residential roofing, including residential properties consisting of eight units or less. The second type of license is an "unlimited roofing license". This is a license made available to contractors whose roofing business is unlimited in nature and includes roofing on residential, commercial, and industrial properties.