

# Florida

## Solar Contractor Licensing

The Florida Legislature and the Construction Industry Licensing Board (CILB) have established the scope of work for solar contractors. There are two solar contractor categories: Certified Solar Contractor (CV) and Residential Solar Water Heating Specialty Contractor (CW).

The CV license scope of work covers residential and commercial solar water heating, solar pool heating and photovoltaic (solar electric) systems. The CV license holder is exempt from subcontracting certain roofing, plumbing and electrical work on residential installations. Electrical contractors (EC) are also authorized to install PV systems, but may be required to subcontract roofing work if the local building department so requires.

The CW license scope of work is limited to solar water heating and solar pool heating systems on residences only. The CW license holder is not authorized to install photovoltaic systems and is not authorized to install solar water heating or pool heating systems on commercial buildings. Since the CW license does not have these tasks included in its scope of work, a CW license holder may not subcontract the work to an authorized license holder (such as an electrical contractor or CV solar contractor). Plumbing contractors (CF) are also authorized to install solar water and pool heaters, but may be required to subcontract roofing and electrical work if the local building department so requires. Plumbing contractors are not authorized to install PV systems.

If a CW license holder serves as the prime contractor on a job outside of its scope of work, it will likely be considered to be engaging in unlicensed activity. A subcontractor who performs

work for a CW license holder that is outside the scope of the CW license will likely be considered as aiding and abetting an unlicensed contractor.

The Florida Legislature established a solar rebate program for residential and commercial solar water heaters, solar electric (PV) systems, and residential solar pool heaters. The legislature has determined that a solar water or pool heater must be installed by a CW or CV license holder (or a plumbing contractor), and a photovoltaic system must be installed by a CV license holder or an electrical contractor (EC), but not a CW license holder. Systems not installed by these contractors will not be eligible for rebates.

Several local licensing jurisdictions have established a solar contractor certificate of competency that is usually designated as an RX license. These are limited to the installation of solar water or pool heaters, but generally do not apply to photovoltaic system installations. These license holders are permitted to install solar water and pool heating systems under the state solar rebate program.

For further information, including a list of contractors licensed to install solar energy systems in Florida, please visit [www.flaseia.org](http://www.flaseia.org), or contact FlaSEIA at (407) 339-2010.

#### Legal Citations:

Rule 61G4-15.012, FAC, Certification of Residential Solar Water Heating Specialty Contractors.

Rule 61G4-15.021, FAC, Certification of Solar Contractors.

Section 489.105(3)(o), Fla. Stat.

Section 489.113(3)(f), Fla. Stat.

**Find a Solar Contractor or Distributor  
Near You**

Web: [www.flaseia.org](http://www.flaseia.org)

Phone: 407-339-2010 or 800-426-5899



Florida Solar Energy Industries Association

**Florida's Solar Connection**

*The Florida Solar Energy Industries Association (FlaSEIA), founded in 1977, is a nonprofit association of companies with an interest in the promotion and advancement of solar energy resources in Florida.*