



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

MICHAEL F. EASLEY  
GOVERNOR

LYNDO TIPPETT  
SECRETARY

July 10, 2006

MEMORANDUM TO: Steve Varnedoe, P.E., Chief Engineer - Operations  
Debbie Barbour, P.E., Director of Preconstruction  
Steve DeWitt, P.E., Director of Construction

FROM: Len A. Sanderson, P.E.  
State Highway Administrator

SUBJECT: Contractor Licensing Requirements for Traffic Signal,  
ITS and/or Related Contracts

In our ongoing efforts to clarify contractors licensing requirements for our many construction activities, issues have arisen related to traffic signal and ITS work. In investigating this issue further with the North Carolina Licensing Board for General Contractors (NCLBGC) and the North Carolina State Board of Examiners of Electrical Contractors (NCSBEEC), it has been determined that a General Contractor's License is not required for contracts comprised of traffic signals, traffic signal systems, and/or ITS devices. Due to the nature of the work in these contracts, contract language should include the requirement for the bidder to hold an appropriate Electrical Contractor's License.

These contracts can include conduit installation, foundations, metal pole support structures, dynamic message signs, closed circuit television cameras, roadway weather information systems, detection and speed systems, communications networks, and weigh-in-motion scales. Footings, support structures for signals, and similar items are considered incidental to the work in these contracts and may be installed by a Licensed Electrical Contractor.

This clarification of the licensing requirement should be placed into effect immediately. Licensed Electrical Contractors with the appropriate classification may bid these types of projects currently in advertisement with the requirement for a General Contractor's License.

As there have been many issues recently related to contractor-licensing requirements, it appears a summary policy clarifying these issues is in order. This is being prepared with input from all appropriate groups and will be issued upon completion. In order to ensure that there is consistency in our working with the NCLBGC and the NCSBEEC, and consistency in our application of the licensing requirements, I would like all questions related to this topic to be channeled to one area. I am asking Greg Keel, State Contractor Qualifications Engineer, with the Contractual Services Unit to be the lead for these issues. Please refer any questions and/or concerns directly to him. His telephone number is 919-733-7174.

LAS/alh

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cc: Willie Riddick, Deputy Secretary of Administration and Business Development  
Roberto Canales, P.E., Deputy Secretary of Transit  
Bill Rosser, P.E., Director of Field Operations  
Lacy Love, P.E., Director of Asset Management  
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Greg Keel, P.E., State Contractor Qualifications Engineer  
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Mark Selph, Secretary-Treasurer  
    North Carolina Licensing Board for General Contractors  
Robbie Brooks, Executive Director - North Carolina State  
    Board of Examiners of Electrical Contractors  
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