

1 21 NCAC 12A .0202 is amended **with changes** as published in 40:07 NCR 650-654 as follows:

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3 **SUBCHAPTER 12A – GENERAL PROVISIONS**

4  
5 **SECTION .0200 - LICENSING REQUIREMENTS**

6  
7 **21 NCAC 12A .0202 CLASSIFICATION**

8 (a) A general contractor shall be certified in one of the following five classifications:

- 9 (1) Building Contractor. This classification covers all building construction and demolition activity  
10 including: commercial, industrial, institutional, and all residential building construction. It includes  
11 installation of solar panels; parking decks; all site work, grading and paving of parking lots,  
12 driveways, sidewalks, and gutters; storm drainage, retaining or screen walls, and hardware and  
13 accessory structures; and indoor and outdoor recreational facilities including natural and artificial  
14 surface athletic fields, running tracks, bleachers, and seating. It also covers work done under the  
15 specialty classifications of S(Concrete Construction), S(Insulation), S(Interior Construction),  
16 S(Marine and Freshwater Construction), S(Masonry Construction), S(Roofing), S(Metal Erection),  
17 S(Swimming Pools), S(Asbestos), S(Wind Turbine), and S(Sign/Billboard).

18 (A) For the purposes of providing disaster relief assistance pursuant to a declaration of a state  
19 of an emergency, if a contractor who holds this classification with an unlimited limitation  
20 as defined in G.S. 87-10(a1) and has been pre-qualified by the North Carolina Department  
21 of Public Safety, Emergency Management Division, this classification also includes  
22 construction of non-publicly maintained bridges. this classification also includes  
23 construction of non-publicly maintained bridges for contractors holding an unlimited  
24 license, as defined in G.S. 87-10(a1), and has been pre-qualified by the North Carolina  
25 Public Safety, Emergency Management Division. The pre-qualification process can be  
26 found at: <https://connect.ncdot.gov/business/Prequal/Pages/default.aspx>.

27 (B) For the purposes of this Rule, a "declaration of a state of an emergency" shall be defined  
28 as in Chapter 166A, Article 1A, Part 4 of the N.C. General Statutes.

29 (C) For the purposes of this Rule, a "non-publicly maintained bridge" shall be defined as a  
30 bridge that is not maintained by the State, Federal government, a municipality, or a county.

- 31 (2) Residential Contractor. This classification covers all construction and demolition activity pertaining  
32 to the construction of residential units that are required to conform to the Residential Building Code  
33 adopted by the Building Code Council pursuant to G.S. 143-138; all site work, driveways,  
34 sidewalks, and water and wastewater systems ancillary to the aforementioned structures and  
35 improvements; and the work done as part of such residential units under the specialty classifications  
36 of S(Insulation), S(Interior Construction), S(Masonry Construction), S(Roofing), S(Swimming

1 Pools), and S(Asbestos). This classification also covers the installation of solar panels on residential  
2 units that are required to conform to the residential building code.

3 (3) Highway Contractor. This classification covers all highway construction activity including:  
4 demolition, grading, paving of all types, installation of exterior artificial athletic surfaces, relocation  
5 of public and private utility lines ancillary to a principal project, bridge construction and repair,  
6 culvert construction and repair, parking decks, sidewalks, curbs, gutters and storm drainage. It also  
7 includes installation and erection of guard rails, fencing, signage, and ancillary highway hardware;  
8 covers paving and grading of airport and airfield runways, taxiways, and aprons, including the  
9 installation of fencing, signage, runway lighting and marking; and work done under the specialty  
10 classifications of S(Boring and Tunneling), S(Concrete Construction), S(Marine and Freshwater  
11 Construction), S(Railroad Construction), H(Grading and Excavating), S(Metal Erection), and  
12 S(Sign/Billboard).

13 (4) Public Utilities Contractor. This classification includes demolition and operations that are the  
14 performance of construction work on water and wastewater systems and on the subclassifications  
15 of facilities set forth in G.S. 87-10(b)(3). The Board shall issue a license to a public utilities  
16 contractor that is limited to any of the subclassifications set forth in G.S. 87-10(b)(3) for which the  
17 contractor qualifies. A public utilities contractor license covers work done under the specialty  
18 classifications of S(Boring and Tunneling), PU(Communications), PU(Fuel Distribution),  
19 PU(Electrical-Ahead of Point of Delivery), PU(Water Lines and Sewer Lines), PU(Water  
20 Purification and Sewage Disposal), and S(Swimming Pools).

21 (5) Specialty Contractor. This classification covers all construction operation and performance of  
22 contract work outlined as follows:

23 (A) H(Grading and Excavating). This classification covers the digging, moving, and placing of  
24 materials forming the surface of the earth, excluding air and water, in such a manner that  
25 the cut, fill, excavation, grade, trench, backfill, or any similar operation may be executed  
26 with the use of hand and power tools and machines used for these types of digging, moving,  
27 and material placing. It covers work on earthen dams and the use of explosives used in  
28 connection with all or any part of the activities described in this Subparagraph. It also  
29 includes clearing and grubbing, and erosion control activities.

30 (B) S(Boring and Tunneling). This classification covers the construction of underground or  
31 underwater passageways by digging or boring through and under the earth's surface,  
32 including the bracing and compacting of such passageways to make them safe for the  
33 purpose intended. It includes preparation of the ground surfaces at points of ingress and  
34 egress.

35 (C) PU (Communications). This classification covers the demolition and installation of the  
36 following:

- 1 (i) all types of pole lines, and aerial and underground distribution cable for telephone  
2 systems;
- 3 (ii) aerial and underground distribution cable for cable TV and master antenna TV  
4 systems capable of transmitting R.F. signals;
- 5 (iii) underground conduit and communication cable, including fiber optic cable; and  
6 (iv) microwave systems and towers, including foundations and excavations where  
7 required, when the microwave systems are being used for the purpose of  
8 transmitting R.F. signals; and installation of PCS or cellular telephone towers and  
9 sites.
- 10 (D) S(Concrete Construction). This classification covers the construction, demolition, and  
11 installation of foundations, pre-cast silos, and other concrete tanks or receptacles,  
12 prestressed components, and gunite applications, but excludes bridges, streets, sidewalks,  
13 curbs, gutters, driveways, parking lots, and highways.
- 14 (E) PU(Electrical-Ahead of Point of Delivery). This classification covers the construction,  
15 installation, alteration, maintenance, or repair of an electrical wiring system, including sub-  
16 stations or components thereof, which is or is intended to be owned, operated, and  
17 maintained by an electric power supplier, such as a public or private utility, a utility  
18 cooperative, or any other properly franchised electric power supplier, for the purpose of  
19 furnishing electrical services to one or more customers. This classification includes the  
20 construction of solar arrays.
- 21 (F) PU(Fuel Distribution). This classification covers the construction, installation, alteration,  
22 maintenance, or repair of systems for distribution of petroleum fuels, petroleum distillates,  
23 natural gas, chemicals, and slurries through pipeline from one station to another. It includes  
24 all excavating, trenching, and backfilling in connection therewith. It covers the installation,  
25 replacement, and removal of above ground and below ground fuel storage tanks.
- 26 (G) PU(Water Lines and Sewer Lines). This classification covers demolition and construction  
27 work on water and sewer mains, water service lines, and house and building sewer lines,  
28 as defined in the North Carolina State Building Code, and covers water storage tanks, lift  
29 stations, pumping stations, and appurtenances to water storage tanks, lift stations, and  
30 pumping stations. It includes pavement patching, backfill, and erosion control as part of  
31 construction.
- 32 (H) PU(Water Purification and Sewage Disposal). This classification covers the demolition and  
33 performance of construction work on water and wastewater systems; water and wastewater  
34 treatment facilities; and all site work, grading, and paving of parking lots, driveways,  
35 sidewalks, curbs, and gutters that are ancillary to such construction of water and wastewater  
36 treatment facilities. It covers the work done under the specialty classifications of  
37 S(Concrete Construction), S(Insulation), S(Interior Construction), S(Masonry

- 1 Construction), S(Roofing), and S(Metal Erection) as part of the work on water and  
2 wastewater treatment facilities.
- 3 (I) S(Insulation). This classification covers the installation, alteration, or repair of materials  
4 classified as insulating media used for the non-mechanical control of temperatures in the  
5 construction of residential and commercial buildings. It does not include the insulation of  
6 mechanical equipment, and lines and piping that are ancillary to the building.
- 7 (J) S(Interior Construction). This classification covers the installation and demolition of  
8 acoustical ceiling systems and panels, load bearing and non-load bearing partitions, lathing  
9 and plastering, flooring and finishing, interior recreational surfaces, window and door  
10 installation, and installation of fixtures, cabinets, and millwork. It includes the removal of  
11 asbestos and replacement with non-toxic substances.
- 12 (K) S(Marine and Freshwater Construction). This classification covers all marine and  
13 freshwater demolition and construction and repair activities and all types of marine and  
14 freshwater construction and demolition in deep-water installations and in harbors, inlets,  
15 sounds, bays, channels, canals, rivers, lakes, ponds, or any navigable waterway; it covers  
16 dredging, construction, and installation of pilings, piers, decks, slips, docks, and bulkheads.  
17 It does not include other structures that may be constructed on docks, slips, and piers.
- 18 (L) S(Masonry Construction). This classification covers the demolition and installation, with  
19 or without the use of mortar or adhesives, of the following:
- 20 (i) brick, concrete block, gypsum partition tile, pumice block, or other lightweight  
21 and facsimile units and products common to the masonry industry;
- 22 (ii) installation of fire clay products and refractory construction; and
- 23 (iii) installation of rough cut and dressed stone, marble panels and slate units, and  
24 installation of structural glazed tile or block, glass brick or block, and solar screen  
25 tile or block.
- 26 (M) S(Railroad Construction). This classification covers the demolition, building, construction,  
27 and repair of railroad lines including:
- 28 (i) the clearing and filling of rights-of-way;
- 29 (ii) shaping, compacting, setting, and stabilizing of road beds;
- 30 (iii) setting ties, tie plates, rails, rail connectors, frogs, switch plates, switches, signal  
31 markers, retaining walls, dikes, fences, and gates; and
- 32 (iv) construction and repair of tool sheds and platforms.
- 33 (N) S(Roofing). This classification covers the installation, demolition, and repair of roofs and  
34 decks on residential, commercial, industrial, and institutional structures requiring materials  
35 that form a water-tight and weather-resistant surface. The term "materials" for purposes of  
36 this Subparagraph includes cedar, cement, asbestos, clay tile and composition shingles, all  
37 types of metal coverings, wood shakes, single ply and built-up roofing, protective and

1 reflective roof and deck coatings, sheet metal valleys, flashings, gravel stops, gutters and  
2 downspouts, and bituminous waterproofing, including torch down roof systems. Any  
3 insulation material installed as a component of a torch down roofing system shall be  
4 included as work covered under this classification.

5 (O) S(Metal Erection). This classification covers:

6 (i) the field fabrication, demolition, erection, repair, and alteration of architectural  
7 and structural shapes, plates, tubing, pipe and bars, not limited to steel or  
8 aluminum, that are or may be used as structural members for buildings,  
9 equipment, and structure; and

10 (ii) the layout, assembly and erection by welding, bolting, riveting, or fastening in any  
11 manner metal products as curtain walls, tanks of all types, hoppers, structural  
12 members for buildings, towers, stairs, conveyor frames, cranes and crane  
13 runways, canopies, carports, guard rails, signs, steel scaffolding as a permanent  
14 structure, rigging, flagpoles, fences, steel and aluminum siding, bleachers, fire  
15 escapes, and seating for stadiums, arenas, and auditoriums.

16 (P) S(Swimming Pools). This classification covers the construction, demolition, service, and  
17 repair of all swimming pools. It includes:

18 (i) excavation and grading;

19 (ii) construction of concrete, gunite, fiberglass, metal-walled with liner, steel-walled  
20 with liner, and plastic-type pools, pool decks, and walkways, and tiling and  
21 coping; and

22 (iii) installation of all equipment including pumps, filters, and chemical feeders. It  
23 does not include direct connections to a sanitary sewer system or to portable water  
24 lines, nor the grounding and bonding of any metal surfaces or the making of any  
25 electrical connections.

26 (Q) S(Asbestos). This classification covers renovation or demolition activities involving the  
27 repair, maintenance, removal, isolation, encapsulation, or enclosure of Regulated Asbestos  
28 Containing Materials (RACM) for any commercial, industrial, or institutional building,  
29 whether public or private. It also covers all types of residential building construction  
30 involving RACM during renovation or demolition activities. This specialty is required only  
31 when the cost of asbestos activities as described herein are equal to or exceed forty  
32 thousand dollars (\$40,000).

33 (R) S(Wind Turbine). This classification covers the construction, demolition, installation, and  
34 repair of wind turbines, wind generators, and wind power units. It includes assembly of  
35 blades, generator, turbine structures, and towers. It also includes ancillary foundation work,  
36 field fabrication of metal equipment, and structural support components.

1 (S) S(Sign/Billboard). This classification covers the construction, renovation, installation,  
2 repair, erection, or demolition of any structural signs or billboards, as used in G.S. 136-  
3 128(3), that are permanently annexed to real property and as defined in Article 11 of  
4 Chapter 136 of the N.C. General Statutes.

5 (b) An applicant may be licensed in more than one classification of general contracting provided the applicant meets  
6 the qualifications for the classifications, which includes passing the examinations for the classification requested by  
7 the applicant. The license granted to an applicant who meets the qualifications for all of the classifications set forth in  
8 the rules of this Section shall be designated "unclassified."  
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10 *History Note: Authority G.S. 87-1; 87-4; 87-10;*  
11 *Eff. February 1, 1976;*  
12 *Readopted Eff. September 26, 1977;*  
13 *Amended Eff. June 1, 1994; June 1, 1992; May 1, 1989; January 1, 1983;*  
14 *Temporary Amendment Eff. February 18, 1997;*  
15 *Amended Eff. April 1, 2014; June 1, 2011; September 1, 2009; April 1, 2004; April 1, 2003; August*  
16 *1, 2002; April 1, 2001; August 1, 2000; August 1, 1998;*  
17 *Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. July 23,*  
18 *2016;*  
19 *Amended Eff. September 1, 2019; April 1, 2018;*  
20 *Recodified from 21 NCAC 12 .0202 Eff. January 2, 2020;*  
21 *Amended Eff. April 1, 2026; September 1, 2025; December 1, 2023; January 1, 2023; January 1,*  
22 *2022.*  
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