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Contractor License Lookup by State: PE Mapping in 2026

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Executive Summary

Contractor license lookup by state is a jurisdiction-routing problem followed by an identity-resolution problem. This research asset covers **50 states plus the District of Columbia**, with official entry points, credential scope, searchable keys, documented fields, bulk routes, and access limits. It is a checked routing matrix as of **October 13, 2026**, rather than a national list of acquisition-ready companies. California supports business, license-number, and personnel searches; Washington documents number, Unified Business Identifier, and business or owner-name searches. Those different keys require different collection strategies. (cslb.ca.gov) (www.lni.wa.gov)

The important distinction is the **unit of record**. Florida places the approved business entity on an individual's contractor license. North Carolina separates licensees from examination qualifiers, while Wisconsin identifies its Dwelling Contractor credential as held by an organization or business. A name appearing in a contractor database needs its role established before becoming a company record. Oregon permits its responsible managing individual to be an owner, officer, partner, or employee. Qualifier relationships can support a join; they cannot independently establish beneficial ownership. (www2.myfloridalicense.com) (www.nclbgc.org) (dsps.wi.gov) (www.oregon.gov)

Bulk availability helps discovery but does not establish complete coverage. California's downloadable master omits cancelled, revoked, and expired nonrenewable licenses. (web.cslb.ca.gov) Pennsylvania's current search returns active registrations only. (hicsearch.attorneygeneral.gov) Minnesota documents a nightly spreadsheet and uses **Issued** for active credentials. (www.dli.mn.gov) These are different population and refresh rules, not interchangeable definitions of an active operating company. Scope varies too: North Carolina's board states a **$40,000** project threshold. (www.nclbgc.org) Arkansas describes **$50,000** for its commercial-license trigger. (labor.arkansas.gov) Project thresholds are scope conditions, not revenue estimates.

The recommended acquisition-mapping protocol preserves raw licensee names, jurisdiction-qualified credential IDs, native classifications, exact status wording, qualifier roles, source dates, and unresolved conflicts. It joins those observations to a legal-entity registry and company evidence before deduplicating businesses. Statistical denominators must match the research unit: the Census Bureau defines an

establishment as a physical location and excludes nonemployers from Statistics of U.S. Businesses. The coverage arithmetic below is explicitly hypothetical; this report supplies no measured national resolution rate, ownership finding, or acquisition-interest estimate. (www.census.gov)

Introduction and Background

A private equity (PE) analyst searching for contractors should first identify the research question. **Discovery** asks which potentially relevant operators appear in a credential system. **Verification** asks whether a named target matches a particular record. **Trade screening** asks what work a credential covers. **Entity reconciliation** asks whether a person, business name, legal entity, and location belong together. The same portal may answer these questions differently.

California distinguishes contractor business searches from associated-person searches and separate salesperson registrations. Louisiana separates company-name inputs from names used when an individual owns the license. Neither structure supports treating every returned name as an independent acquisition target. (cslb.ca.gov) (arlspublic.lslbc.louisiana.gov)

The practical starting point for “general contractor license requirements by state” is the regulator's current scope statement, followed by the relevant local department. Oklahoma says general contractors are not currently required to hold a state license, while retaining trade and roofing routes. Austin describes local general-contractor registration within a Texas system where general contractors do not require a state license. An absent statewide credential does not settle trade licensing or municipal registration. (oklahoma.gov) (www.austintexas.gov)

This informational report focuses on the contractor credential-to-company bridge; it is not licensing advice. It does not repeat broad market mapping, general entity-registry directories, or applicant instructions about examinations. The matrix is designed for research operations: which source to open, which identifiers to preserve, what a field establishes, and where a join remains unresolved.

Docket describes company research with supporting excerpts and collection dates. That delivery model is relevant to evidence handling, but the regulator remains the authority for its credential. The distinction between a sourced research file and a licensing record is maintained throughout.

Research Methodology and Record Taxonomy

The research prioritizes opened regulator pages, official verification interfaces, documented export schemas, and agency instructions. Built-in page fetches were attempted first; blocked pages used the supplied rendering fallback. A retrieved navigation page counts as a verified route, not a successful record search. Agency-described fields are labeled documented; inspected result fields are labeled observed.

Coverage is qualified. Organization results or detail labels were inspected in Alabama, Delaware, and Illinois. Many portals returned shells, unlabeled controls, CAPTCHA challenges, or inaccessible detail pages. Representative person and organization records were not tested across every jurisdiction; an attempted Maine individual-record test also failed. **Unverified** is a substantive finding, not a blank to fill from another state.

The operational record types are:

- **Credential:** License, registration, certificate, or tax credential with jurisdiction and native identifier (ID).
- **Licensee:** Person or organization to which the credential is attributed.
- **Classification:** The agency's permitted-work category.
- **Endorsement:** An additional scope dimension such as residential or commercial.
- **Qualifier:** A person with a defined examination or supervisory relationship.
- **Location:** An address whose role needs verification.
- **Status:** Exact agency wording and observation date.
- **History:** Separately retrieved changes, prior names, or agency documents.

These are research categories, not universal statutory vocabulary. Hawaii lists entity, sole proprietor, and responsible managing employee credentials. South Carolina separates its contractor and residential programs, with firm authorizations in the latter. (cca.hawaii.gov) (www.llr.sc.gov)

Table 1 distinguishes acquisition-mapping inputs and delivery models. The primary axis is evidence delivered, not authority to issue a contractor license.

Input or delivery model	Research output	Authority and limitation
Official contractor portal	Credential identity, scope and status fields	Authoritative within its program; California separates business and personnel searches. (cslb.ca.gov)
Official business registry	Legal entity and filing identifiers	California documents entity and role information but not shareholder ownership. (www.sos.ca.gov)
Local building department	Municipality-specific credential evidence	Lafayette documents local licensing; that coverage cannot be generalized nationally. (www.lafayetteco.gov)
Docket sourced target research	Structured company research with excerpts and dates; self-serve or managed delivery	Research provider, not issuer; Audit reviews evidence support and conflicts.

Source authority is field-specific. A research provider can organize and review findings, but its company file does not replace an agency credential record. Conversely, that record can establish a licensing relationship without answering ownership, scale, service-mix, or acquisition-interest questions.

The 50-State Contractor License Lookup Matrix

Table 2 routes analysts to an official lookup or the agency page documenting it. Every row was checked on **October 13, 2026**. **U** means unverified this session. “Documented” identifies agency-described fields or exports; “observed” identifies inspected form, list, or result features. General contractor is abbreviated **GC**. **DBA** means doing business as; **RMI** means responsible managing individual; **RME** means responsible managing employee; **QP/QI** mean qualifying party/individual; **QA** means qualifying agent; **UBI** means Unified Business Identifier; **SIC** means Standard Industrial Classification; **WC** means workers' compensation. Oregon **CCB** numbers identify its board credentials; Hawaii **CT** is a contractor credential prefix. Iowa **PMSB** means Plumbing and Mechanical Systems Board. **CSV** means comma-separated values; **NAICS** means North American Industry Classification System; **FOIA** denotes a Freedom of Information Act records route.

The evidence link is the search page where readable. Otherwise, it is the regulator's routing or scope page, from which the current lookup should be entered. A routing citation is not a successful interactive-portal test.

Jurisdiction	Regulator or routing authority	Credential and geographic scope	Verified or documented search keys	Identity, classification and status fields	Bulk/list route	Access, history and scope caveat	Official evidence
Alabama	Alabama General Contractors Licensing Board	General-contractor license roster; residential coverage separate	Name, number, city, state, specialty, phone	List identity/contact; detail bid limit, specialty, expiration labels	CSV list observed	Exemption scope needs review; values partly unreadable	(licensesearch.alabama.gov)
Alaska	Alaska Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing Division	State construction credentials; residential endorsement separate	Number, DBA, owner/entity, city, type	Entity/DBA search; detail fields U	CSV databases documented	Professional search; quarterly reports documented	(www.commerce.alaska.gov)
Arizona	Arizona Registrar of Contractors	Commercial, residential, dual and specialty licenses	Number, name; city, classification, status	QP, officers, former names, DBA documented	Posting List/export route documented	Fallback recovered instructions; records U	(azroc.my.site.com)
Arkansas	Arkansas Contractors Licensing Board	Commercial/residential licenses; subcontractor and roofer registrations	Agency lookup link; portal keys U	Credential types documented; detail fields U	U	Lookup blocked after fallback	(labor.arkansas.gov)
California	California Contractors State License Board	Contractor licenses; salesperson registrations separate	Number, business, personnel	Bulk: name, address, class, status, dates, bond, WC	CSV/Excel master and personnel documented	Lookup complaint disclosure; record tests U	(cslb.ca.gov) (web.cslb.ca.gov)
Colorado	Colorado Regulatory Agencies Department; local departments	State trade verification plus local contractor credentials	State person/facility, profession, number, status	Lafayette local classes; state detail fields U	U	Local example only; statewide GC scope U	(www.lafayetteco.gov)

Jurisdiction	Regulator or routing authority	Credential and geographic scope	Verified or documented search keys	Identity, classification and status fields	Bulk/list route	Access, history and scope caveat	Official evidence
Connecticut	Connecticut Consumer Protection Department	Home improvement/new-home registrations; major/trade categories	Type, number, status, business/DBA, person, address	Name, address, number/type, effective/expiration documented	No-fee credential rosters documented	Some scope/supervisor fields; records U	(portal.ct.gov) (elicense.ct.gov)
Delaware	Delaware Labor Department Contractor Registry	Businesses certified as construction contractors; professional licensing separate	Name/all, expiry year, state, category, public/private, NAICS	Certificate, expiry, NAICS, location, DBA, work scope observed	All-contractor view; export U	Organization rows inspected; history U	(contractorregistry.delaware.gov)
District of Columbia	D.C. Licensing and Consumer Protection Department	General contractor/construction manager; home improvement separate	SCOUT business-license route; keys U	Residential salesperson designation documented	Certification/FOIA route; export U	SCOUT blocked after fallback	(dlcp.dc.gov)
Florida	Florida Business and Professional Regulation Department; construction board	Individual credential tied to approved business; local carve-outs	Number, person name, organization field	Officially documented person/business link	U	Form labels unreadable; representative results U	(www2.myfloridalicense.com)
Georgia	Georgia SOS	Residential/commercial individual or qualifying-agent licenses	FAQ License Search link; GOALS fields U	Individual/DBA vs registered company/qualifier distinction	U	Legacy blocked; current public search U	(sos.ga.gov)
Hawaii	Hawaii Professional and Vocational Licensing Division	CT entity, sole proprietor, RME	Board verification link; keys U	Distinct entity/RME categories; detail fields U	U	Portal destination unavailable; history U	(cca.hawaii.gov)

Jurisdiction	Regulator or routing authority	Credential and geographic scope	Verified or documented search keys	Identity, classification and status fields	Bulk/list route	Access, history and scope caveat	Official evidence
Idaho	Idaho Occupational and Professional Licenses Division	Contractor registration	Linked public search; keys U	Detail fields U	U	Public search shell; formal-action route documented	(dopl.idaho.gov)
Illinois	Illinois Financial and Professional Regulation Department; municipalities	State roofing license; local general-contractor requirements	Individual/entity and bulk lookup	Organization sample: name, number, profession, status, expiry, location	Bulk lookup documented	Single/bulk refresh differs; municipal coverage separate	(idfpr.illinois.gov) (idfpraps.illinois.gov)
Indiana	Indiana PLA; city/county	Official guide routes plumbers statewide, other contractors locally	Profession/type, person, number/status, DBA, geography	Individual/facility forms; detail fields U	U	Local jurisdictions need separate coverage	(www.in.gov)
Iowa	Iowa Inspections, Appeals and Licensing Department	Construction registration; PMSB trade licensing separate	Agency Check a contractor link; keys U	Separate-business registration documented; detail fields U	U	Local project requirements; result tests U	(dial.iowa.gov)
Kansas	Sedgwick County Metropolitan Area Building and Construction Department	Verified local route; separate state roofer certificate referenced	Local licensed-contractor route; fields U	Qualified-person authorization distinct from company	U	State roofing page blocked after fallback	(www.sedgwickcounty.org)
Kentucky	Kentucky Housing, Buildings and Construction Department	State trade-specific credentials; GC scope U	Trade, license type, name, number, status	Active number/issue/expiration documented	U	Other licensees use JO route; history U	(dhbc.ky.gov)
Louisiana	Louisiana State Licensing Board for Contractors	Contractor licenses; qualifying-party search separate	Company/person, number, type, location	Company vs individual owner inputs observed	U	Detail result/retention U	(lslbc.gov)

Jurisdiction	Regulator or routing authority	Credential and geographic scope	Verified or documented search keys	Identity, classification and status fields	Bulk/list route	Access, history and scope caveat	Official evidence
Maine	Maine Professional and Financial Regulation Department	State licensed trades; GC/roofing/framing scope separately sourced	Individual/company name or number; entity type	Exact status definitions documented; detail fields U	Delimited lists documented	Certified-history request; trade scope varies	(www.maine.gov)
Maryland	Maryland Home Improvement Commission	Home-improvement contractor and salesperson credentials	Person/trade name, number, city/ZIP; active-only	Contractor vs salesperson; detail fields U	U	Commission contact for discipline; active-only bias	(www.dllr.state.md.us)
Massachusetts	Massachusetts Consumer Affairs and Business Regulation Office	Home-improvement registrations via Contractor Hub	Hub lookup linked; keys U	Registration/history availability documented	U	Hub fields and separate CSL route U	(www.mass.gov)
Michigan	Michigan Licensing and Regulatory Affairs Department	Residential builder/maintenance and alteration credentials	Accela route documented; keys U	Residential/combined structure scope; detail fields U	U	Portal record tests U	(www.michigan.gov)
Minnesota	Minnesota Labor and Industry Department	Residential contractor/remodeler/roofer; qualifier Q separate	Complete credential number; holder criteria	Exact active status Issued; businesses/individuals in file	Nightly all-license spreadsheet documented	No lookup account required; records U	(www.dli.mn.gov)
Mississippi	Mississippi Contractors Board	Contractor license roster; native class/type	Name, number; advanced DBA, qualifier, class, dates	Advanced inputs distinguish company/qualifier	U	Numeric number entry; result fields U	(search.msboc.us)
Missouri	Missouri Statewide Electrical Contractors	State electrical route; GC/local roster unresolved	mopro license-search route; keys U	Agency daily-update claim; detail fields U	Downloadable listings linked	Local portals failed; not statewide GC coverage	(pr.mo.gov)

Jurisdiction	Regulator or routing authority	Credential and geographic scope	Verified or documented search keys	Identity, classification and status fields	Bulk/list route	Access, history and scope caveat	Official evidence
Montana	Montana Labor and Industry Department	License conversion effective 2026; scope wording conflict	Linked DLI portal; keys U	Converted registrations; detail fields U	Public-record request route	Portal shell; older wording retained on page	(boards.bsd.dli.mt.gov)
Nebraska	Nebraska DOL	Contractor/subcontractor registration	DBA, corporation, city, ZIP, phone, number, county, NAICS	DBA/corporation inputs; result fields U	U	Separate registration per business name	(dol.nebraska.gov)
Nevada	Nevada Contractors Board	Contractor licenses and classifications	Number, company, principal/qualified individual	Principal/QI searchable; result fields U	Listing/records route; export U	Board action/records links documented	(app.nvcontractorsboard.com)
New Hampshire	New Hampshire Professional Licensure and Certification Office	Board-specific professional lookup; GC scope U	Licensing menu License Lookup; keys U	Board-specific fields U	Written archived-verification request	PDF routing verified; homepage blocked	(www.oplc.nh.gov)
New Jersey	New Jersey Consumer Affairs	Business/person professional credential searches; HIC scope U	Profession/type, business, number, city	Business/person forms separate; detail fields U	U	Agency landing blocked; hosted form read	(newjersey.mylicense.com)
New Mexico	New Mexico RLD/CID via PSI	Company licenses; individual certificates separate	Company/type/number/name/city/ZIP; person/name/number	Person/company distinction; detail fields U	U	CAPTCHA; result tests U	(public.psiexams.com)
New York	New York Labor Department; local jurisdictions	Registration for public work and private projects covered by Article 8 of the Labor Law; local home improvement separate	Public dashboard linked; local keys U	Article 8 project registry scope; detail fields U	U	Local portals/dashboard not tested	(dol.ny.gov)

Jurisdiction	Regulator or routing authority	Credential and geographic scope	Verified or documented search keys	Identity, classification and status fields	Bulk/list route	Access, history and scope caveat	Official evidence
North Carolina	North Carolina General Contractors Licensing Board	General-contractor license; qualifier IDs separate	License/qualifier number, class, company/person, address, phone	License and qualifier search distinction	U	Results/history U; project threshold separately sourced	(portal.nclbgc.org)
North Dakota	North Dakota SOS	Contractor license; project-value classes	FirstStop contractor search; keys U	Class A/B/C/D project ceilings; result fields U	U	FirstStop minimal shell; trade credentials separate	(sos.nd.gov)
Ohio	Ohio Construction Industry Licensing Board; local departments	Commercial electrical/HVAC/hydronics/plumbing/refrigeration	eLicense route; keys U	Company assignment distinct from holder	Current License Listing linked	Old portal failed; local requirements separate	(com.ohio.gov)
Oklahoma	Oklahoma Construction Industries Board	GC state license not currently required; trades/roofing separate	Official trade/roofing routes; fields U	Trade and roofing categories; detail fields U	U	Lookup shell; local coverage separate	(oklahoma.gov)
Oregon	Oregon Construction Contractors Board	Contractor license; residential/commercial endorsement	CCB number, business, last name, phone	Bulk: address, expiration, RMI, SIC, bond, insurance	Mailing list/open-data export documented	Name-match caution; detail tests U	(search.ccb.state.or.us) (www.oregon.gov)
Pennsylvania	Pennsylvania Attorney General	Home-improvement registration; excludes new-home construction	Number, business, applicant, address, phone, type of work	Active-only; Type of Work incompleteness disclosed	Excel results observed; reuse permission stated	Contractor-supplied information; result detail tests U	(hicsearch.attorneygeneral.gov)

Jurisdiction	Regulator or routing authority	Credential and geographic scope	Verified or documented search keys	Identity, classification and status fields	Bulk/list route	Access, history and scope caveat	Official evidence
Rhode Island	Rhode Island Contractors Registration and Licensing Board	Registration/license categories; future residential rollout announced	Number, contractor type, company, person	Residential/commercial and specialty categories observed	U	Future residential roadmap; current scope retained	(datadbr.ri.gov)
South Carolina	South Carolina Labor, Licensing and Regulation Department	CLB general/mechanical; Residential Builders separate	Board selector; deeper fields U	Residential firm authorization separate from individuals	License e-list request route	Cookies/popups; deeper records U	(www.llr.sc.gov)
South Dakota	South Dakota Revenue Department; Electrical Commission	Contractor tax license distinct from electrical competency	Agency route; search keys U	Tax credential scope; result fields U	U	Electrical agency separate; history U	(dor.sd.gov)
Tennessee	Tennessee Commerce Contractors Board	Contractor/home-improvement and limited trade credentials	Legacy name/type/number/city/county	Separate qualifying-agent route	QA dashboard download documented	Current portal blocked; legacy selector read	(www.tn.gov)
Texas	Texas Licensing and Regulation Department; local departments	State trade licenses; Austin GC registration example	Type, number, name, expiration, city/county/ZIP; active licenses only	Individual/business distinction; result fields U	License-file links observed	Local GC coverage needs municipal search; treat a missing result as history unverified, not proof a credential was never held; request historical records through the TDLR records-request route	(www.tdlr.texas.gov)
Utah	Utah Professional Licensing Division	Contractor and individual trade professions	Name/profession or number	Native classification; result fields U	U	Classification changes require recheck	(secure.utah.gov)

Jurisdiction	Regulator or routing authority	Credential and geographic scope	Verified or documented search keys	Identity, classification and status fields	Bulk/list route	Access, history and scope caveat	Official evidence
Vermont	Vermont Professional Regulation Office	Residential registration; individual/business distinction	Name; Profession Roster Download	Number/type, dates/status; endorsements/supervision if applicable	Exportable profession rosters documented	Employee-based registration distinction separately sourced	(sos.vermont.gov)
Virginia	Virginia Professional and Occupational Regulation Department	Business contractor license; class separate from specialty	Name, number, address, type	Monetary class and work specialty documented	U	DPOR lookup warns processing lag	(www.dpor.virginia.gov)
Washington	Washington Labor and Industries Department	Contractor registration; individual trades/account checks	Number, UBI, business/owner name	Account context and workers compensation documented	U	Official Verify instructions; portal records U	(www.lni.wa.gov)
West Virginia	West Virginia Contractors Board	Contractor licenses/classifications	WV-number, company, DBA, classification, city/county	Number, company/DBA, address, phone, class, expiration columns	U	Fallback recovered; real-time database claim	(wvclboard.wv.gov)
Wisconsin	Wisconsin Safety and Professional Services Department	Dwelling Contractor organization/business certification	LicensE route; keys U	Organization credential; qualifier detail scope U	U	Public lookup records U	(dsps.wi.gov)
Wyoming	Wyoming SOS; local jurisdictions	General-contractor inquiries routed locally; electrical separate	Local system-dependent; U	Local field schema U	U	FAQ routing; municipal record tests U	(sos.wyo.gov)

The matrix's strongest use is routing. Declaring completeness from one row per state would ignore source boundaries. Maine's general-contractor scope differs from its licensed trades, New York combines local home-improvement jurisdictions with a registry covering public work and private projects covered by Article 8 of the

Labor Law (NYSDOL), and Missouri's verified state route here is electrical contracting. Collection plans should follow those boundaries. (www.maine.gov) (ag.ny.gov) (pr.mo.gov)

For **state contractor licensing board directories**, record the board and credential family together. Arkansas combines licenses and registration certificates, while South Carolina divides contractor and residential programs. Massachusetts' verified Hub covers home-improvement registrations and history; its separate construction-supervisor route was not established here. An agency name alone does not define the target universe. (labor.arkansas.gov) (www.llr.sc.gov) (www.mass.gov)

For **contractor license public records**, use the current records route. Idaho links formal-action information; Nevada provides public-record and board-action routes. Those routes do not establish that a clean lookup contains a complete historical file. Preserve the retrieved document scope and record when retention is unverified. (dopl.idaho.gov) (app.nvcontractorsboard.com)

Resolving a License Record Into a Target Company

A company identifier should be a jurisdiction-qualified legal-entity identifier supported by a registry record. A contractor number remains a credential key. Joining them should create a reversible evidence relationship, rather than replacing one identifier with the other. California's Secretary of State documents entity numbers, jurisdictions, addresses, and officer, director, member, and manager information. The same office says ownership and shareholder information are not made of record. (www.sos.ca.gov)

A useful **license-to-company evidence record** contains:

- **Raw licensee:** Preserve spelling, punctuation, suffixes, and source.
- **Credential key:** Combine jurisdiction, program, type, and native number.
- **Person or organization:** Record the observed category and supporting evidence.
- **Native classification:** Retain original codes and descriptions.
- **Qualifier relationship:** Keep role and associated credential separate.
- **Exact status:** Preserve wording without a generic active substitution.
- **Dates:** Separate issue, expiration, effective, update, and collection dates.
- **Address role:** Label mailing, business, branch, or unspecified.
- **DBA bridge:** Capture an explicit doing-business-as relationship.
- **Legal entity:** Preserve registry jurisdiction, exact name, and entity ID.
- **Matching evidence:** Record identifiers or documents supporting the join.
- **Conflict:** Retain contradictory names, entities, addresses, and dates.
- **Outcome:** Mark resolved, unresolved, person-only, out of scope, or duplicate.

These are recommended collection fields, not claims that every portal publishes them. Delaware's observed rows expose business-related data, while Wisconsin identifies an organization credential. Florida describes a different starting point: an individual license linked to an approved business. (contractorregistry.delaware.gov) (dsps.wi.gov) (www2.myfloridalicense.com)

Proceed in a fixed order:

1. **Preserve the row.** Normalize a separate search value without changing evidence.

2. **Resolve the holder.** Identify person, organization, or uncertain type.
3. **Search the registry.** Use exact name, explicit DBA, and jurisdiction first.
4. **Check the bridge.** Seek a source explicitly linking credential or trade name to entity.
5. **Check company evidence.** Reconcile website legal disclosures and locations.
6. **Review conflicts.** Keep competing candidate entities unresolved.
7. **Cluster cautiously.** Merge rows only after establishing the company relationship.

Matching name and address can identify a candidate join. This report recommends an explicit bridge or corroborating entity-specific evidence before accepting it. Similar trade names and shared addresses should trigger review rather than automatic merging.

Jurisdiction-specific rules help. Minnesota requires the exact Secretary of State filing name, with an assumed-name filing for a different name. Iowa requires separate registration for businesses with separate federal identification numbers. Nebraska requires separate registrations for different business names. These rules explain why one website can coexist with multiple credential rows. (www.dli.mn.gov) (dial.iowa.gov) (dol.nebraska.gov)

A qualifier is not an automatic parent-company or beneficial-owner link. Georgia permits one person to qualify multiple companies. North Carolina describes qualifiers as people passing exams on behalf of a license. Oregon permits employee qualifiers. Shared qualifier names should become typed relationships, not common-ownership findings. (sos.ga.gov) (www.nclbgc.org) (www.oregon.gov)

Trade Scope, Status and Coverage Gaps

A universal “licensed contractor” flag discards information useful for acquisition mapping. Preserve **native scope**, then map it into a declared research taxonomy. A commercial-service mandate might include electrical maintenance and exclude new residential construction. That research decision should follow classification evidence and company evidence separately.

Table 3 gives a limited classification crosswalk. Official category claims were checked on **October 13, 2026**. Suggested research buckets are editorial categories, not agency equivalence determinations.

Jurisdiction and native field	Official meaning retained	Suggested research bucket	What remains separate
California A	General Engineering Contractor	Civil/infrastructure candidate	Company services and project mix. (cslb.ca.gov)
California B	General Building Contractor	General-building candidate	Residential/commercial operating mix. (cslb.ca.gov)
California B-2	Residential Remodeling Contractor	Residential-remodeling candidate	Native credential and detailed scope. (cslb.ca.gov)
California C-10, C-36, C-39	Electrical, plumbing, roofing specialties	Specialty-trade candidate	Each trade remains distinct. (cslb.ca.gov)
Virginia class and specialty	A/B/C monetary scope; separate work specialty	Monetary band plus trade	Class is not an industry code. (www.dpor.virginia.gov)

Jurisdiction and native field	Official meaning retained	Suggested research bucket	What remains separate
North Dakota A/B/C/D	Project-value categories	Project-scope band	Specialized trade credentials. (sos.nd.gov)
Oregon endorsements	Residential/commercial distinction	Structure-scope category	Endorsement plus trade evidence. (www.oregon.gov)
Tennessee classification and limit	Work classification plus per-project monetary limit	Trade plus credential limit	Neither is observed annual revenue. (www.tn.gov)

The same letter can have different meanings. California A is a work classification; Virginia A is a monetary class. Local labels change too: Lafayette says its previous Class C was updated to Class B. Preserving codes and effective dates prevents manufactured equivalence. (cslb.ca.gov) (www.dpor.virginia.gov) (www.lafayetteco.gov)

Status normalization needs the same restraint. Keep **active, inactive, suspended, expired, revoked, pending**, or other wording as a source value, then add a separately defined research interpretation. California says an inactive license cannot be used to practice or bid for work. Minnesota uses Issued for active credentials. Maine publishes its own definitions and certified-history route. (web.cslb.ca.gov) (www.dli.mn.gov) (www.maine.gov)

Recommended screening outcomes are:

- **Current credential observed:** Relevant native status is captured.
- **Historical credential only:** Current authorization is not established.
- **Application or pending:** Completion remains unestablished.
- **Local-only coverage:** State verification is insufficient locally.
- **Person-only evidence:** No operating-entity bridge is accepted.
- **Scope unresolved:** Trade, endorsement, or threshold remains uncertain.
- **Access blocked:** Required detail could not be retrieved.
- **History unverified:** No complete history claim is supported.

These labels are research outcomes, not regulatory determinations. An expiration date is not necessarily a closure date. Pennsylvania's active-only search omits other statuses; California's master excludes several historical categories, while its personnel file excludes disassociated personnel. (hicsearch.attorneygeneral.gov) (web.cslb.ca.gov)

Bond and insurance fields require context. California's schema includes bond and workers' compensation information; Washington combines contractor and compensation checks. Such fields cannot independently prove insurance adequacy for an acquisition or operating quality. Registration also need not represent an agency endorsement, as Pennsylvania expressly states. (web.cslb.ca.gov) (www.lni.wa.gov) (hicsearch.attorneygeneral.gov)

Data Analysis and Evidence

The useful quantitative result is **unit-consistent coverage**, not a license-row count. Define the numerator as resolved unique in-scope legal entities. Define the denominator as unique potentially in-scope organization-license clusters reviewed. Report unresolved organization clusters and person-only clusters separately. These are proposed research metrics, not measured benchmarks.

The statistical denominator requires care. Census defines an establishment as a single physical location; a firm can combine establishments under common ownership or control. Statistics of U.S. Businesses excludes nonemployers. A credential dataset containing sole proprietors should not be compared directly with an employer-business denominator without accounting for that difference. (www.census.gov)

Census's construction presentation distinguishes **236 Construction of Buildings**, **237 Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction**, and **238 Specialty Trade Contractors**. These groupings frame a universe but do not automatically convert state classes into North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) codes. This is a dated Census presentation, not evidence that a particular contractor currently files under a particular code. (www2.census.gov)

Project-value rules illustrate why scope is not company size. North Dakota says licensing applies when a job exceeds **$4,000**. (sos.nd.gov) North Carolina states **$40,000 or more** for its general-contractor threshold. (www.nclbgc.org) Arkansas describes **$50,000 or more** for commercial work including labor and materials. (labor.arkansas.gov) Tennessee describes **$25,000 or more** for prime contractors and construction managers, with separately described subcontractor categories. (www.tn.gov) These are selected examples, not a complete requirements guide.

Virginia adds aggregate tests. Class A includes a project of **$150,000 or more** or **$1 million or more** in aggregate construction work in a **12-month** period. (law.lis.virginia.gov) Class B includes projects from **$30,000** to below **$150,000**, or aggregate work from **$250,000** to below **$1 million** in a **12-month** period. (law.lis.virginia.gov) Preserve the project and aggregate alternatives together. Neither is verified target revenue.

Hypothetical calculation: A fictional review contains 120 potentially in-scope organization-license clusters. If 84 resolve to unique in-scope legal entities, 24 remain unresolved, and 12 resolve outside the mandate, resolution is 84 / 120 = **70%**. Another 30 person-only clusters are reported separately, outside that organization denominator. Every quantity here is invented solely to demonstrate the formula.

Record source yield separately: candidate clusters contributed, accepted entities contributed, duplicate overlap, unresolved bridge rate, and access failures. Many rows with repeated people, classes, and locations can coexist with few resolved companies. No national empirical licensing-to-company conversion rate was established.

Case Studies and Real-World Examples

License-to-company reconciliation (Hypothetical Example)

All names, identifiers, website details, and outcomes in this example are fictional. **Harborline Building Services** appears on a contractor record with a number, electrical classification, current native status, mailing address, and qualifying employee. A researcher finds a limited liability company (LLC), **Harborline Building Services LLC**, in an entity registry and a website using the shorter trade name.

This is initially a candidate join. The analyst preserves the raw licensee name and marks the holder uncertain until an agency record establishes whether it is the company or individual. Florida's guidance shows why: a company can appear on an individual's credential. Oregon's employee-permitted qualifier role also prevents that person's name from becoming an ownership finding. (www2.myfloridalicense.com) (www.oregon.gov)

The fictional website's legal footer names the LLC and prints the same credential number. A current agency document names the LLC as the licensed business. The registry supplies its entity identifier. The analyst accepts that bridge and attaches the credential observation to the entity, preserving date and scope.

The website lists another service location. It is recorded as a company-reported address, rather than another acquisition target. The mailing address remains attached to the license observation. Neither address is overwritten, and local authorization at the new location remains a separate question.

Now alter the fictional facts. There is no legal footer, the registry contains another similarly named entity, and the only shared field is the qualifier's name. The outcome is **unresolved**, with both candidates and the missing bridge documented. Georgia permits a qualifier to serve multiple companies, so the person match cannot settle the join. (sos.ga.gov)

Ownership, revenue, headcount, insurance adequacy, quality, and acquisition interest remain unanswered in both fictional versions. Resolved identity is a prerequisite for further research, not a substitute for it. The deliverable is a reviewable company-to-credential relationship with explicit limits.

Implications and Future Directions

A maintainable contractor license database by state needs a **change log**, not just bookmarks. Recommended entries include:

- **Regulator change:** Previous agency, replacement, and official announcement.
- **Route change:** Old URL, redirect/failure, replacement, and checked date.
- **Field disappearance:** Previous field, new layout, and affected joins.
- **Scope change:** Credential family, local carve-out, or exemption affected.
- **Classification change:** Native codes and source-stated effective date.
- **Export change:** Population, schema, cadence, or method changed.
- **Access change:** Login, CAPTCHA, JavaScript, terms, or request requirements.

Quarterly review is a proposed cadence. Material announcements should trigger earlier checks. Montana reports registration conversion at the start of **2026**, yet retains older employee-registration wording. (boards.bsd.dli.mt.gov) Utah announces changes effective **April 20, 2026**. (dopl.utah.gov) Alabama describes exemptions effective **October 1, 2026**. (genconbd.alabama.gov) Rhode Island's residential-license page announces **January 2028**, not a 2026 rollout. (crb.ri.gov) Uncertain operative scope should be escalated to the agency.

Bulk contractor license data should be obtained through documented exports or records routes before considering automation. California documents master files; Connecticut provides rosters; Oregon describes its self-service list. Availability does not establish blanket permission to automate, republish, or use personal information for outreach. (web.cslb.ca.gov) (elicense.ct.gov) (www.oregon.gov)

South Carolina's roster form prohibits commercial solicitation using public-record personal information and defines that term in a consumer-product/service context. This report does not determine its application to acquisition outreach. Pennsylvania separately requires Press Office permission for reuse. Counsel or the agency should address unclear intended uses. No national automation permission or request-rate policy was verified. (www.llr.sc.gov) (hicsearch.attorneygeneral.gov)

Retain requested records, response scope, collection date, and unresolved questions. Blocked portals should lead to official contact or records requests while the company file stays incomplete. A future refresh can expand observed-field coverage without retroactively describing this session's untested detail records as verified.

Conclusion

Contractor license lookup by state is most useful to PE origination when a credential is treated as one evidence layer in a company file. The routing matrix identifies official entry points and exposes local boundaries, registration-versus-license differences, person-versus-organization distinctions, and access gaps.

The recommended sequence is straightforward: choose jurisdiction and credential family, preserve the record, identify its holder, retain native scope and status, establish a legal-entity bridge, and only then cluster company relationships. When the bridge is missing, unresolved is the appropriate output. A qualifier, similar name, shared address, or additional location should never settle ownership or identity by itself.

Coverage should use a company-oriented denominator. License rows, qualifying people, trade names, and establishments are different units. Keeping them separate makes exclusions, duplicates, person-only evidence, and unresolved joins reviewable. It prevents a large download from becoming an unsupported claim of market completeness.

Maintenance belongs inside the design. Store checked dates, source-update dates where supplied, and changes affecting routes, fields, scope, and reuse. Preserve earlier findings when current records change. The resulting asset helps analysts discover and verify candidates while treating ownership, scale, quality, and transaction interest as separate questions.

Source links

Links cited in this article, in order of first appearance. Full addresses are provided for readers using extracted text.

1. https://cslb.ca.gov/OnlineServices/CHECKLICENSEII/CheckLicense.aspx
2. https://www.lni.wa.gov/licensing-permits/contractors/hiring-a-contractor/verify-contractor-tradesperson-business
3. https://www2.myfloridalicense.com/construction-industry/construction-industry-business-information
4. https://www.nclbgc.org/faq-contractors
5. https://dsps.wi.gov/a-z-professions-list/dwelling-contractor-dc
6. https://www.oregon.gov/ccb/pages/ccb%20license.aspx
7. https://web.cslb.ca.gov/Onlineservices/DataPortal/ContractorList
8. https://hicsearch.attorneygeneral.gov
9. https://www.dli.mn.gov/license-and-registration-lookup
10. https://www.nclbgc.org
11. https://labor.arkansas.gov/licensing/arkansas-contractors-licensing-board/apply-for-contractors-license-registration
12. https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/susb/about/glossary.html
13. https://arlspublic.lslbc.louisiana.gov/Public/DetailedSearch/ByName
14. https://oklahoma.gov/cib.html
15. https://www.austintexas.gov/development-services/contractor-registration
16. https://cca.hawaii.gov/pvl/boards/contractor
17. https://www.llr.sc.gov/res
18. https://www.sos.ca.gov/business-programs/business-entities/information-requests
19. https://www.lafayetteco.gov/363/Contractor-License-Information
20. https://licensesearch.alabama.gov/genconbd
21. https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/cbp/main
22. https://azroc.my.site.com/AZRoc/s/contractor-search
23. https://portal.ct.gov/dcp/licensing/verify-a-license---instructions
24. https://elicense.ct.gov/Lookup/GenerateRoster.aspx
25. https://contractorregistry.delaware.gov/Certification_PublicLookup?f=Name&t=delaware
26. https://dlcp.dc.gov/page/contractor-and-construction-services
27. https://sos.ga.gov/page/residential-and-commercial-general-contractors-frequently-asked-questions
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29. https://idfpr.illinois.gov/checklicense.html
30. https://idfprapps.illinois.gov/applications/verifyqr/QRCodeLicenseData.asp?credentialidnt=3565089
31. https://www.in.gov/core/business_guide.html
32. https://dial.iowa.gov/licenses/building/contractors
33. https://www.sedgwickcounty.org/mabcd/contractor-licensing
34. https://dhbc.ky.gov/Search/HBC_List_Licensees.aspx

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36. https://www.maine.gov/pfr/consumer/licensee-search
37. https://www.dllr.state.md.us/cgi-bin/ElectronicLicensing/OP_search/OP_search.cgi?calling_app=HIC::HIC_qselect
38. https://www.mass.gov/info-details/ma-contractor-hub
39. https://www.michigan.gov/lara/bureau-list/bcc/Sections/Licensing-Section/residential-builders
40. https://search.msboc.us/ConsolidatedSearch.cfm
41. https://pr.mo.gov/electricalcontractors
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45. https://www.oplc.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt441/files/inline-documents/verification-letter-request.pdf
46. https://newjersey.mylicense.com/verification/Search.aspx?facility=Y
47. https://public.psiexams.com/search.jsp
48. https://dol.ny.gov/contractor-and-subcontractor-registry-landing
49. https://portal.nclbgc.org/Public/Search
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51. https://com.ohio.gov/divisions-and-programs/industrial-compliance/boards/ohio-construction-industry-licensing-board/contractors-and-contracting-companies
52. https://search.ccb.state.or.us/search
53. https://datadbr.ri.gov/crb-search/contractor-search.php
54. https://www.llr.sc.gov/clb
55. https://dor.sd.gov/businesses/taxes/contractors-excise-tax
56. https://www.tn.gov/commerce/regboards/contractors.html
57. https://www.tdlr.texas.gov/disclaimer.htm
58. https://www.tdlr.texas.gov/LicenseSearch
59. https://secure.utah.gov/llv/search/index.html
60. https://sos.vermont.gov/opr/find-a-professional
61. https://www.dpor.virginia.gov/Boards/CONTRACTORS
62. https://wvclboard.wv.gov/verify
63. https://sos.wyo.gov/FAQS.aspx?root=BUS
64. https://www.maine.gov/ag/consumer-protection/consumer-help-topics/housing/home-construction-and-repair
65. https://ag.ny.gov/publications/hiring-home-improvement-contractor
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