License Lapse Costs Contractor $7,200

A Bay Area cabling contractor recently learned the hard way that letting your license expire is dangerous and expensive. On October 2, 2001, the Department of Industrial Relations Division of Labor Standards upheld a $7,200 penalty assessment and Stop Order issued to a Navato, California electrician at his work site last summer.

When the Deputy Labor Commissioner and CSLB investigator investigated a complaint of unlicensed contracting activity on August 16, they found the contractor and his crew installing cable in a commercial building. After being asked to show his license, he produced one that had expired on July 31. It was then determined that he had employed a crew of six on the job for 12 days after his license had expired.

Despite the contractor’s declaration that he did not intend to be unlicensed, his explanation that he was in the process of renewing his license, and the fact that his Worker’s Comp insurance was in order, the Deputy Labor Commissioner issued a stop order and penalty assessment of $7,200. The assessment was based on California Labor Code Section 1021, which provides for a penalty of $100 a day for each employee performing work for which a contractors license is required.

At a September 28 hearing, the Hearing Officer affirmed the penalty, citing, “Although the Appellant may have intended to renew his contractors license, the fact remains that (when he was cited on August 16, 2001), his contractors license had expired.”

Don’t learn this lesson the hard way. In situations such as this, nobody wins. Keep your paperwork up to date and renew your license early to avoid a lapse and the risk of heavy penalties.

--from CALIFORNIA LICENSED CONTRACTOR, Winter 2002.

Education

Scholarship Fund

The IPSSA scholarship fund is now open to requests! Yes, it has arrived. After many hours of hard work and thanks to the many contributions of individual members as well as associate members, the applications are now available. Below are answers to some frequently asked questions about how the fund works and what you need to do to participate.

Who is eligible?

Any self-employed pool service professional (more than 50% of income) and/or their immediate family members (spouses, children) are eligible to apply.

What classes are included?

Any class or program that is related to the business of being a
self-employed pool or spa service technician is included; just explain how it is connected on your application.

When can I apply?

There are two enrollment periods: May 1 - August 1 and Nov. 1 - Feb 1. Applications must be post marked during those periods.

Where do I get an application?

The application is currently under revision. New applications will be available October 1. To answer any questions call 1-888-360-9505.

How will I be reimbursed?

There are two ways to receive payment from the scholarship fund. One is to send in a receipt for any eligible class taken after February 24, 2001 with your application. Or, you may apply in advance and receive a pledge from the fund that will be paid after the class has been completed.

How much money is available?

There is no limit. One application is screened it will be sent to the standing committee with all personal information deleted. The standing committee will then determine the amount of available funding and make disbursements.

The members of the standing committee are: David Hawes, Jim Ciccone, Roberta Rohwedder, Ray Ar Ouhesty and the IPSSA Education chair, currently Celia Huguley. The term of office for committee members is two years, at which time the can continue with a vote of confidence by the other members of the committee.

How will I be notified if I am awarded a scholarship?

After the 3-month enrollment period has closed, the screening committee will make its recommendations and the standing committee will match the available funding with the funding requests. Applicants will then be notified how much has been awarded to them. That process will be completed within six weeks of the closing of enrollment or Sept 15 and February 15 of each year.

How can I help?

The IPSSA Financial Office gladly accepts all donations of any amount. Every little bit helps. Call IPSSA at (888) 391-6012.

NSPI offering classes

The National Spa and Pool Institute (NSPI) is offering a variety of educational classes for pool and spa service technicians to further their knowledge in pool and spa service and repair. These classes are the first step towards earning the CSP Certified Service Professional® certification.

TECH I Correspondence Course

The NSPI TECH I Correspondence Course is available at any time of the year in any part of the United States.

NSPI Proficiency Exam

Individuals who haven't completed TECH I but have at least five years of experience in the pool and spa industry may skip TECH I by receiving a passing grade on the NSPI Proficiency Exam.

For more information, contact Bird Dawson of NSPI at (703) 838-0083 ext. 152; fax (703) 549-0493; or e-mail bdawson@nspi.org. The current schedule for NSPI Tech Schools is maintained and updated at the www.nspi.org Web site.

Welcome New Members!!

Escondido: -- Rory O’Neal . . . San Diego -- Ladd Carlson, Dee Eakright, Russ Hargrove, Alan Jaquish, Nobby Mandolf, Mario Padilla, Michael Patoliano, Tom Richardson, Patrick Schultheiss, Gary Sevigny, John Toms. San Diego is over 90% Chem Certified. Contact your chapter president for the next scheduled test that will be given by me.

Welcome New Members!!


Success

He who is waiting for something to turn up might start with his own shirtsleeves.

The secret of success is to start from scratch and keep on scratching.

--from Black Art - Words to live by…

“The biggest people with the biggest ideas can be shot down by the smallest people with the smallest minds. Think big anyway.”


You are all welcome and encouraged to submit newsworthy items and/or ideas to the Editor/Publisher: Nancy Gillespie

P.O. Box 192, Vista, CA 92085-0192 Ph (760) 945-6667 • Fax (760) 945-6616 nancy5@flash.net  •  www.flash.net/~nancy5