

Special inspector

A Special Inspector is a person certified by the County to perform special types of construction inspection. The definition is contained in section 1701.2 of the 2002 County of Los Angeles Building Code. It reads: "1701.2 Special Inspector. The special inspector shall be a qualified person who shall demonstrate competence, to the satisfaction of the building official, for inspection of the particular type of construction or operation requiring special inspection." The special inspector shall observe the work assigned for conformance to the approved design drawings and specifications. The special inspector shall furnish inspection reports to the building official, the engineer or architect of record, and other designated persons. All discrepancies shall be brought to the immediate attention of the contractor for correction, then if uncorrected, to the proper design authority and to the building official. The special inspector shall submit a final signed report stating whether the work requiring special inspection was, to the best of the inspector's knowledge, in conformance to the approved plans and specifications and to the applicable workmanship provision of the code.

The special inspector must be hired by the owner, engineer or architect of record, and not by the contractor. For the County of Los Angeles, the special inspector shall hold a valid and current certification from ICC, (the International Code Council) and a Los Angeles County Special Inspector card in the disciplines of inspections being reported. The inspections are required to be either periodic or continuous as required by the specification for the work being inspected.

The categories of special inspection covered for Los Angeles County are:

- structural concrete,
- structural masonry,
- prestressed / post tension,
- structural welding.

The high strength bolting is covered under concrete, masonry, and prestressed certificates. It can also be done with a welding certificate if the inspector also holds a valid Los Angeles City Drilled in Anchor rider card. The spray applied fire-resistive materials inspections are covered by the welding inspector only.

1. What are the requirements to become a Special Inspector?

Applicants must have a current and valid ICC **and** at least three years experience in the type of construction that they are requesting qualification for as a Special Inspector. One of those years must have been as a practicing Special Inspector for another agency or jurisdiction in California. A certificate from an approved training course may be accepted as a substitute for six months of the required inspection experience. Prior inspection experience will also be taken into consideration. See the information in the application package for further requirements.

2. How do you apply to become a Special Inspector for LA County?

If you meet the requirements as indicated in the application package you may apply by completing the form and attaching a check for the amount indicated. Once your application and references are received you will be contacted for an interview. The

oral examination portion of the application process is conducted every 2nd Thursday of each month. The interview will assess actual experience and expertise in the specific field of construction, as well as knowledge of the current Los Angeles County Building Code and familiarity with procedure and responsibilities within the Los Angeles County Building and Safety system.

3. Is there a cost?

The cost to apply is \$138.40. Failure to appear at, or cancellation of or postponement of, your scheduled oral examination without 48 hours notice may result in forfeiture of this fee.

4. How long is the license good and how do you renew?

All licenses expire on June 30 of even numbered years regardless of the date issued.

Renewals are due by June 30th of every even year. The renewal fee for each type of construction certification will be listed in your renewal notification. Please let us know of any change in your mailing address to assure timely receipt of our biennial renewal notice. A renewal is subject to review by the Management and Field Support section of Building and Safety Division for renewal fee submittal and a current ICC Special Inspector card in the disciplines being renewed. Any questions should be directed to the Management and Field Support Section of Building and Safety at 626 458-3188.

5. Where do I call with questions

Contact the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, Building and Safety Division Research Section at 626-458-3189 Monday through Thursday 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

If you want to be a Special Inspector an application package can be printed by clicking on the link below:

I need the services of a Special Inspector. How do I contact one in my area?
Click on the link below to see the current list of County certified Special Inspectors.
<Special Inspector List>