



## AIR CONDITIONING & REFRIGERATION CONTRACTORS AT A GLANCE

**Statutes:** Chapter 1302, Occupations Code

**Rules:** Title 16 T.A.C. Chapter 75

**Practice Act?** Yes

**Title Act?** Yes

**Number of Licenses:** 56,672 (FY 24)

**Webpage:** [www.tdlr.texas.gov/acr](http://www.tdlr.texas.gov/acr)

### Contractors

A person who offers to provide air conditioning and refrigeration (ACR) contracting services in Texas must hold an air conditioning and refrigeration contractor license. "Air conditioning and refrigeration contracting" means performing or offering to perform the design, installation, construction, repair, maintenance, service, or modification of equipment or a product in an environmental air conditioning system, a commercial refrigeration system, or a process cooling or heating system.

An ACR contracting company must employ an ACR contractor in each permanent location. If the company doesn't employ an ACR contractor as required at the time a contract for ACR services is signed, it cannot collect a fee or enforce the contract.

TDLR issues Class A and Class B ACR contractor licenses.

- The Class A license allows you to work on any size unit.
- The Class B license allows you to work on cooling systems of 25 tons and under, and heating systems of 1.5 million BTUs/hour and under.

Contractors must also have the appropriate endorsement associated with their license in order to perform ACR contracting. The contractor may hold either, or both, of the following endorsements:

- Environmental air conditioning; and/or
- Commercial refrigeration and process cooling or heating

To obtain an ACR contractor license you must:

- be at least 18 years old
- have at least 48 months of practical experience in air conditioning and refrigeration work under the supervision of a licensed air conditioning and refrigeration contractor (or equivalent experience; see ACR section of TDLR website) within the past 72 months **OR** have held a Texas ACR technician certificate for the preceding 12 months and have at least 36 months of practical experience in ACR-related work under the supervision of a licensed ACR contractor in the preceding 48 months.
- submit completed application
- submit \$115 application fee
- pass the required TDLR competency exam

After the application is approved and the exam is passed, the contractor must either:



- send TDLR a waiver that indicates they will not be performing public contracting; or
- send TDLR a certificate of insurance in order to perform public contracting.

Contractor licenses are good for one year. Licenses are not transferable.

### Technicians

Anyone working as an ACR technician must be registered or certified by TDLR. An air conditioning and refrigeration technician must be supervised by an air conditioning and refrigeration contractor licensed by TDLR.

To obtain an ACR technician **registration** you must:

- be at least 16 years old.
- pass a criminal background check
- submit a \$20 application fee

Note: an applicant for a technician registration is not required to have practical experience or to take an examination to obtain the registration.

To obtain an ACR technician **certification** you must:

- be at least 18 years old;
- have completed a certification training program in the preceding 48 months; or
- have completed 24 months of air conditioning and refrigeration-related work:
  - under the supervision of a licensed air conditioning and refrigeration contractor; or
  - as part of the applicant's military occupational specialty within the armed forces of the United States;
- submit \$50 application fee; and
- pass the required TDLR competency examination.

ACR technician registrations or certifications are good for one year.

### Career and Technology Education

**In the 88th Legislature (regular session), HB 1859** created an opportunity for high school students or college students to receive HVAC certification by lowering the minimum age from 18 to 16 to apply for a registered technician certification. A student could begin a career as early as 16 years of age if they are enrolled in a public high school, a private high school, college or in a career and technical school (CTE).

Anyone under 18 will be required to learn under the direct supervision of a licensed ACR contractor or a certified ACR technician.

Licenses	Fees
Contractor	\$115
Contractor Renewal	\$65
Certified Technician	\$50
Certified Technician Renewal	\$35
Registered Technician	\$20
Registered Technician Renewal	\$20

For information on exam content, fees, requirements, and procedures, please review the Candidate Information Bulletin linked to the TDLR ACR Exam Information web page ([www.tdlr.texas.gov/acr/acrexam.htm](https://www.tdlr.texas.gov/acr/acrexam.htm)).

**Check if an ACR Contractor or Technician has a license:** <https://www.tdlr.texas.gov/LicenseSearch/>.

**Check if an ACR Contractor or Technician has been fined or their license revoked:** <https://www.tdlr.texas.gov/cimsfo/fosearch.asp>.

**Concerned about an ACR Contractor or Technician? File a complaint:** <https://www.tdlr.texas.gov/complaints/>.

## The Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Contractors Advisory Board

has nine members serving six-year terms, which includes:

- one official of a municipality with a population of more than 250,000;
- one official of a municipality with a population of not more than 250,000;
- five full-time licensed air conditioning and refrigeration contractors:
  - Class A licensee who practices in a municipality with a population of more than 250,000 and employs labor unions;
  - Class B licensee who practices in a municipality with a population of more than 250,000;
  - Class A licensee who practices in a municipality with a population of more than 25,000 but not more than 250,000;
  - Class B licensee who practices in a municipality with a population of not more than 25,000;
  - licensee of any classification under this chapter who is principally engaged in air conditioning and refrigeration contracting, and practices in a municipality;
- one building contractor who is principally engaged in home construction and is a member of a statewide building trade association; and
- one member of the public.

**License numbers** have the following form:  
**Title / Class / Number / Endorsement code**  
**TACL / A / 000000 / C.**

Endorsement codes are as follows:

**E:** Environmental Air Conditioning

**R:** Commercial Refrigeration & Process Cooling and Heating

**C:** Combined Endorsements

TDLR issues Class A and Class B ACR contractor licenses.

- The Class A license allows you to work on any size unit.
- The Class B license allows you to work on cooling systems of 25 tons and under, and heating systems of 1.5 million BTUs/hour and under.

## What is the difference between Environmental Air Conditioning and Commercial Refrigeration/Process Heating and Cooling?

- "Environmental Air Conditioning" means treating air to control temperature, humidity, cleanliness, ventilation, and circulation to meet human comfort requirements.
- "Environmental" includes central air conditioning and heating.
- "Commercial Refrigeration" means the use of mechanical or absorption equipment to control temperature or humidity to satisfy the intended use of a specific space.
- "Process Cooling or Heating" includes controlling temperature, humidity, or cleanliness solely for production requirements or the proper operation of equipment.
- "Commercial Refrigeration/Process Heating and Cooling" is limited to coolers, freezers, ice machines, and equipment that provides temperature and humidity controls.

There are numerous exemptions to the law. Please see <https://www.tdlr.texas.gov/acr/acrlaw.htm#subchapter-B> for more information.