



The Building Divisions Business License Inspection

Why do I need an inspection from the building division for my business license?

Before issuing a business license, the County of Humboldt wants to ensure the place of business meets a minimum standard for public safety. An inspection from the building division will ensure this standard is met or exceeded.

How can I ensure I will pass the Building Divisions business license inspection?

Generally speaking, you will need to ensure that your place of business does not contain any obvious structural, mechanical, electrical, or plumbing hazards. Additionally, you will need to verify your place of business is a legal structure and that no work has been done without permits. Any unpermitted construction will need to be addressed with a building permit before issuance of a business license. Use the following checklist to ensure you pass your business license inspection.

General

- My place of business was constructed before 1962 OR it was built with building permits.
- The proposed business does not constitute a change of use from how the structure was permitted to be used. If it is a change of use, a building permit addressing this change was applied for and finalized.
- An address is on the building and is placed in a position that is visible from the street fronting the property.

Water Heater(s)

- The temperature pressure relief valve is hard piped to the exterior.
- Water heaters shall be anchored or strapped to resist horizontal displacement due to earthquake motion. Strapping shall be at points within the upper one third (1/3) and lower one-third (1/3) of its vertical dimensions. At the lower point, a minimum distance of four(4) inches (102 mm) shall be maintained above the controls with the strapping.
- The flue is installed according to the manufacturer's instructions and appears in safe condition.
- Combustion air is adequately provided per manufacturer's instructions.

Furnace(s)

- The flue is installed according to the manufacturer's instructions and appears in safe condition.
- Combustion air is adequately provided per manufacturer's instructions.
- The furnace is installed according to the manufacturer's instructions and appears in safe condition.

Electrical

- Required GFCI outlets are in place and working (required in bathrooms, outdoors, garages, other wet areas).
- Extension cords are not being used as permanent wiring.
- Visible wiring appears to be in safe condition. All cover plates are installed and there are no exposed conductors.
- All outlets test correct with a receptacle tester (outlet testers can cost less than \$20 at most hardware stores).

Note About Accessibility

Although we do not inspect accessibility elements, under federal and state law, compliance with disability access laws is a serious and significant responsibility that applies to all California building owners and tenants with buildings open to the public. You may obtain information about your legal obligations from the following handout located on our website:

<https://humboldt.gov/DocumentCenter/View/114305/ADA-LAW-CASp-Notice-PDF>