FOCUS ON: Minimum Standards

By law, all licensed landscape contractors must meet the **Minimum Standards** laid out in the law. **Minimum Standards** are the basic, must-do, procedures for projects licensed landscape contractors routinely perform:

- General
- Contracts
- Planting
- Turf
- Finish Grade
- Design and Consultation
- Drainage Systems and Cisterns
- Low-Voltage Lighting; Pools
- Walls
- Paving
- Pruning
- Wildflower, Native Grass, and No-Mow Seed Establishment

As a reputable business, you are probably already doing these Minimum Standards. However, we encourage you to review the list to be sure they are all integrated in your business. **One of the most common formal complaints filed with NCLCLB by consumers is failure to meet Minimum Standards.** Avoid issues by providing quality work via the **Minimum Standards**.

By meeting the Minimum Standards, your business is:

- Complying with the law.
- Protecting consumers.
- Staying above the competition.
- Saving costly lawyer, reparation, and/or settlement fees.

For the full list of minimum standards, visit: [nclclb.com/statutes-and-rules/minimum-standards/](nclclb.com/statutes-and-rules/minimum-standards/)
Maintaining Your License

**Continuing Education Landscape Credits (CEL)**
Licensees need to complete 7 hours of CELs in a renewal year (August 1 - July 31).

3 CELs must be technical
2 CELs must be business
2 remaining credits can be technical or business.

To search the easy-to-use list of approved courses by course#, provider, date, hours of credit, or location, visit: nclclb.com/continuing-education/continuing-education-approved-courses/

Courses are added regularly. Check back for updates.

**Market Your License**
All licensees should display a license seal or decal in their office, on contracts, and on work vehicles.

For decal guidelines and order forms, visit: nclclb.com/faq-hold/use-of-seal/

Here are 4 other ways you can use the license decal to promote your business:
1. On your website
2. On your social media accounts
3. On your business card
4. On promotional brochures/sales sheets

**News You Can Use**
There are many resources outside of NCLCLB to help licensed landscape contractors. Visit any of these NC green industry websites for news and information.

Legislative Issues: www.ncgreenindustrycouncil.com

Networking and News:
- www.ncnla.com
- www.ncsod.org
- www.ncturfgrass.org
- www.carolinasirr.org

**The Manuals**
NCLCLB has created three manuals that every landscaper should have on its shelf. The manuals serve as study guides for license applicants, and comprehensive references for professionals working in the field every day. Visit nclclb.com/licensing-2/manuals/ to order.

**Guide to Business, Law, and Project Management**
**Manual of Professional Horticulture Practice**
**Landscape Construction Manual of Practice**

**Stay Connected!**
Email NCLCLB to receive news and reminders via email.

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