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Beware of un-licensed contractors working on your projects.

TAMPA, FL (July 1, 2001) – Are you aware that contractors installing and/or servicing alarms and/or telephone communications systems require a state license? There are many Audio-Video installers working in the industry installing Telephone Systems (i.e. Structured Cabling Systems), alarms and sometimes even electrical system for builders that do not hold the proper state license to perform such work. Are you aware? Are you going to take responsibility for their unlicensed work?

I. Electrical Systems. There are unlicensed (or improperly licensed) companies that are selling and installing lighting control systems. They are replacing the existing light switches in the home with dimmers or communicating lighting controls.

1. This voids the any electrical warranty on the home. Making the builder responsible and liable for any problems that occur with that homes' electrical system.
2. To perform this type of work requires one of the State Electrical Contractor License listed below:
 - a. EC Certified Electrical Contractor
 - b. ER Registered Electrical Contractor
 - c. ES Residential Electrical Specialty Contractor -043
 - d. ET Registered Residential Electrical Specialty Contractor -043

II. Alarm Systems. Be aware that there are unlicensed (or improperly licensed) companies installing alarm systems (or modifying existing systems).

1. To perform this type of work requires one of the State Electrical Contractor License listed below:
 - a. EC Certified Electrical Contractor
 - b. EF Alarm System Contractor I
 - c. EG Alarm System Contractor II
 - d. EH Registered Alarm System Contractor I
 - e. EI Registered Alarm System Contractor II
 - f. EJ Registered Residential Alarm System Contractor

III. Telecommunication Systems. Be aware that there are unlicensed (or improperly licensed) companies installing telecommunication systems (i.e. Structured Cabling Systems). Many builders and sub-contractors are unaware that this type of work requires a valid electrical license.

1. Electrical Inspectors will begin inspecting low-voltage system installations. If the electrical contractor does not perform the work, then the contractor performing the work will need an additional permit and inspection.
2. To perform this type of work requires one of the State Electrical Contractor License listed below:
 - a. EC Certified Electrical Contractor
 - b. ER Registered Electrical Contractor
 - c. EF Alarm System Contractor I
 - d. EG Alarm System Contractor II
 - e. EH Registered Alarm System Contractor I
 - f. EI Registered Alarm System Contractor II
 - g. EJ Registered Residential Alarm System Contractor
 - e. ES Residential Electrical Specialty Contractor -043
 - f. ES Low Voltage Electrical Specialty Contractor -069
 - h. ET Registered Residential Electrical Specialty Contractor -043
 - i. ET Registered Low Voltage Electrical Specialty Contractor -069

Although there are no licenses required for the sale or installation of Audio-Video components or cabling, many Audio-Video are performing additional services that do require a license. Make sure all of your contractors are properly licensed, insured, and are not performing work that they are not licensed or qualified for. Make sure that they are in accordance with all state statutes (i.e. "State License Number(s) must be stated in each offer of services, contracts, business proposals, or advertisement, regardless of medium (including all vehicles), used by contractor").

Are your Alarm and Audio-Video contractors licensed? Are they performing work that goes beyond the scope of their license?

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