

As of January 1, 2015, Drain Layers that operate within the State of Rhode Island must be licensed by the Contractors' Registration and Licensing Board.

UNDERGROUND UTILITY CONTRACTORS

5-65.3-1. Purpose. The purpose of this chapter is to establish provisions, qualifications and procedures for licensing underground utility contractors engaged in the laying or repairing of underground utilities.

5-65.3-2. Definitions. When used in this chapter:

(1) "Board" means the contractors registration and licensing board as defined in § 5-65-1.

(2) "Underground utility" means the installation, repair, alteration, or replacement of underground utilities, sewer lines, storm drainage lines or water lines, water service and laterals, laying drains and related services outside of buildings, making connections with public and/or private underground utilities provided that such work is to be done between the main, lateral, related services and/or appurtenances to within five feet (5') of the outer wall of a building or structure and specifically excluding gas and telecommunications work and any work defined in § 28-27-28.

(3) "Underground utility contractor" means any corporation, association, sole proprietorship, firm, partnership, limited liability corporation, limited liability partnership, or other business organization that is engaged in the installation, repair, alteration, or replacement of underground utilities, outside of buildings, making connections with public and/or private underground utilities provided that such work is to be done between the main, laterals, services and/or appurtenances to within five feet (5') of the outer walls of a building or structure. The term "underground utility contractor" shall include any agent, servant, and/or employee of a licensed underground utility contractor. The term "underground utility contractor" does not include individuals licensed under chapter 20 of this title entitled "Plumbers and Irrigators."

5-65.3-3. License required.

(a) It is unlawful for any underground utility contractor to engage in the installation, repair, alteration, or replacement of an underground utility as defined in this chapter

without a valid license issued by the board.

(b) Any person licensed as a master plumber under the provisions of chapter 20 of this title or as a master pipefitter under the provisions of chapter 27 of title 28 shall be exempt from the requirement to obtain both an underground utility contractor's license as required by chapter 65.3 of this title and an installer's license, as required by chapter 56 of this title provided that such master plumber or master pipefitter shall be required to comply with the provisions of §§ 5-65.2-3 and 5-56-7.

(c) Any public utility, or agent thereof, regulated by the public utilities commission or the division of public utilities and carriers shall be exempt from the provisions of this chapter.

5-65.3-24. Municipal inspectors and installation permits.

Nothing contained in this chapter prohibits any city or town from requiring permits for the installation, maintenance, and repair of underground utility systems and collecting fees for the installation and repair of an underground utility system.

Please visit the State of Rhode Island Contractor's Registration and Licensing Board website: www.crb.state.ri.us for further information.