



Mount Hood – Lost Lake, OR

*“When the well is dry, we learn the worth of water.”
Ben Franklin, Poor Richard's Almanac 1733*

We are here



landscapeontario.com



I live here



James Dowd CID, CLIA

I WONDER HOW MANY GUNS
HE HAS?

James Dowd CID, CLIA

ON ME?

Irrigation Licensing

Irrigation Regulation

**Who wants to be regulated by
the government in their
chosen business?**

Licensing

- Doctors
- Nurses
- Attorneys

Licensing

- Contracting trades.....
 - Plumbers
 - Heating and Cooling (HVAC)
- Hairdressers
- Dogs and Cats

Licensing Myths

- A license will improve quality
- The government will help “clean up” the industry
- Consumers need and demand it

Licensing Truths

- Creates a barrier to entry
- Costs will increase
- Enforcement will be limited
- Non-licensed will install cheaper

Irrigation Licensing United States

- Texas
- Connecticut
- Rhode Island
- New Jersey
- Louisiana
- North Carolina
- South Dakota
- California

TEXAS

What prompted licensing?

- Consumer complaints
- Need to improve irrigation industry and installation quality
- Create revenue for government
- Limit plumbing regulations

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Who pushed for licensing?

- State trade association formed in 1965 (Texas Turf Irrigation Association)
- TTIA worked with state legislators to enact law

TEXAS

- Licensing law passed in 1973
- 322 irrigators “grandfathered” in 1974
- More than 19,000+ licenses issued

TEXAS

- Program administered by state agency - Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)
- State level equivalent of the national Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

TEXAS

Classes of licenses

- Licensed irrigator 1974
- Licensed technician and
Licensed Inspector added in
2008

TEXAS

Licensing is not static

- Regulations increased in 2008
- Violations made criminal offense in 2011

License Exams

- Only demonstrate a minimum level of competence
- Fair and available to all
- Legally defensible
 - Use of psychometrics and anghoffs

License Exams

- Psychometrics is the science of administration and interpretation of objective educational tests
- Anghoffs are a method for determining standards and cut scores for tests

License Exams

- Why reinvent the wheel?
- Try to use existing proven, certified, and recognized exams and programs.
- Can be modified for local or regional use

Considerations....

- Administration – Who and How
- Governing body
- Costs – short and long term

Other considerations....

- Initial training (non-mandatory)
- Study materials and references for both exams and training classes
- Continuing education (mandatory)

Summary

- Proceed carefully – be careful what you wish for!
- Be objective – gather only **FACTS** to drive your course of action

Questions?

Thank you and Good Luck!

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