

Due to the level of tree worker injuries and fatalities, a need was identified to protect companies, workers, and consumers from avoidable accidents. On Monday April 17, 2017, the New Jersey Register posted the New Jersey Board of Tree Experts' rules, setting standards for professional practices, qualifications for Licensed Tree Experts and Licensed Tree Care Operators.

The Board of Tree Experts urges all municipalities to check the credentials and the insurance coverage of any company they intend to hire for tree care services in the municipality. It is now mandatory to hire a tree care business that is registered with the state. The business must have in it's employ a Licensed Tree Expert or Licensed Tree Care Operator depending on the services they offer for hire. It is important to make sure that the person is qualified to do tree work and is fully insured. Improper tree care can predispose your trees to future problems, including tree failure. In addition, many insurance policies will not cover injuries or damage done by an under-insured tree care contractor. Follow the Law and ensure the safety of all the residents.

BOARD OF TREE EXPERTS

101 West Veterans Hwy
Jackson, NJ 08527
(732) 534-0982
www.njtreeexperts.org

State of New Jersey
Board of Tree Experts
Municipality Edition



N.J.S.A.45:15C11 et. seq.

**“TREE EXPERTS AND
TREE CARE OPERATORS
“LICENSING ACT”**



This is a general overview of some of the Act's requirements. The full text of the statute, N.J.S.A. 45:15C-11 et seq., & rules can be found on the Board's website at njtreeexperts.org

All Businesses providing tree care services in the State of New Jersey are required to:

- ⇒ Register with the Board (45:15C22)
- ⇒ Have at least one licensed individual employee Licensed tree expert (LTE) or Licensed tree care operator (LTCO) (45:15C17) in the company and at each branch location,
- ⇒ Maintain current liability of at least \$1,000,000.00, (45:15C17d),
- ⇒ Maintain workers compensation insurance for tree workers (45:15C17e),
- ⇒ Abide by adopted industry safety standards including equipment, (45:15C-17) and,
- ⇒ Provide training to their employees in workplace safety and the safe operation of all equipment used(45:15C-23).

Businesses shall display registration NJTC Number on each service vehicle, to be issued by the Board. Current all registered companies will be listed on the website for verification. All customers are strongly encouraged to check for a current license and registration at: www.njtreeexperts.org

What is covered under the law?

LTCO Services

- Tree Maintenance (Pruning & Repairing)
- Tree Removal, Brush Cutting or Removal
- Stump Grinding or Removal

LTE Services

- Pesticide Applications
- Tree Appraisals/Insurance Claims
- Plant Health Care (I&D/Fertilization/Soil)
- Utility Line Clearance/Vegetation Management Mechanical Tree Spade Services
- Tree Establishment
- Lightning Protection
- Tree Assessment and Risk Management
- Tree Management Site Planning & Development Cabling and Bracing Community
- Forestry/Shade Tree Inventory Planning and Consulting Services

Visit njtreeexperts.org to find a detailed list of the LTE and LTCO services.

• TREE CARE EXEMPTIONS ARE;

The provisions of this act shall not apply to:

- Any public utility business or their employees,
- Any employer working for the Utility,
- Any forestry activity covered under a Forestry Management & Stewardship program.
- Landscape construction activities or ground based landscape maintenance .
- Site plan or subdivision ground based clearing.
- Employees of a county or municipality while engaged in the actual performance of their duties as an employee.

*See website for exemption details.

Municipality Responsibilities

Maintain the Safety of all residents, by following and promoting all (45:15C-23) ANSI Z133 safety laws and standards by the State of New Jersey,

When hiring a business performing tree care service operations all municipalities are required to be registered and licensed by the Board and to provide continuous training to the employees involved in tree care operations. Voluntary certifications help assure tree care consumers and public receive a service that follows the standards of safety in our industry.

What are the benefits?

Quality work, proper insurance coverage, trained workers responsible individuals accountable to the board, problem resolution, & a safe environment.

ENFORCEMENT: No business shall advertise (45:15C-24) , enter into, or engage in tree care services unless the business is registered and compliant.

This allows municipalities to cite non-compliant business or individuals as it would with all other State Statute violations. The Board will upon notice of the citation, communicate directly to cited party and determine if suspension, revocation or imposition of additional monetary fines are warranted. The Board may also determined additional training required.

*See website for penalties details.