DISCLAIMER: The information provided below is not an all inclusive set of laws or rules and regulations that must be followed if licensure is obtained. The information below is provided as a guide to determine if you qualify for licensure and is provided to assist in understanding the type of licensure that pertains to your inquiry. For further information, please consult Arkansas Code Annotated §17-40-101 to §17-40-354.

DEFINITIONS:

The definition of an alarm company in the law states:

As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:
(5) “Alarm systems company” means any person, firm, association, or corporation that for a fee or other valuable consideration installs, services, sells on site, performs a survey of the premises to be protected, monitors, or responds to electrical, electronic, or mechanical alarm signal devices, burglar alarms, television cameras, or still cameras; used to manually or automatically signal or detect burglary, fire, breaking or entering, shoplifting, pilferage, theft, hold-up, or other illegal or unauthorized activity;
(27) “Single-station alarm systems company” means any person, firm, association, or corporation that for a fee or other valuable consideration installs, services, or sells on site fire, smoke, or heat detectors to be installed in a one-family or two-family dwelling or performs a survey of the premises to be protected if the detectors are single-station installations and not a part of or connected to any other detection device or system;

The definitions for alarm employees in the law are as follows:

(3) “Alarm systems agent” means any individual employed by an alarm systems company who sells on site, performs a survey of the premises to be protected, or responds to alarm signal devices, burglar alarms, or cameras as described in subdivision (5) or (27) of this section;
(4) “Alarm systems apprentice” means any individual employed by an alarm systems company who installs, services, or repairs on site as described in subdivision (5) or (27) of this section that is supervised by an alarm systems technician, a supervisor of technicians, or a manager;
(6) “Alarm systems monitor” means any individual employed by an alarm systems company who monitors or responds as described in subdivision (5) of this section;
(7) “Alarm systems technician” means any individual employed by an alarm systems company who installs, services, or repairs on site as described in subdivision (5) or (27) of this section;
(16) “Manager” means, in the case of a corporation, an officer or supervisor, or, in the case of a partnership, a general or unlimited partner meeting the experience qualifications set forth in §17-40-306 for managing a security services contractor or an investigations company;
(28) “Supervisor of technicians” means any individual employed by an alarm systems company who supervises alarm systems technicians or alarm systems apprentices and who may install, service, or repair on site as described in subdivision (5) of this section;

The alarm certificate abbreviations in the law are as follows:

(17) “NBFAA” means the National Burglar and Fire Alarm Association, 7101 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 901, Bethesda, MD 20814-4805, (301) 907-3208;
(18) “NICET” means the National Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies, 1420 King Street, Alexander, VA 22314-2794, (703) 684-2835;
LICENSE CLASSIFICATIONS:

The license classifications in the law are as follows:

§17-40-309. License—Classifications.

(a) No person may engage in any operation outside the scope of the person’s license.

(b) For the purpose of defining the scope of licenses, the following license classifications are established:

(5)  (A) Class E Level 1: Alarm systems company license, covering operations as defined in §17-40-102(5). Fire alarm license is restricted to structures for which applicable building and life safety codes do not mandate the installation of fire alarm systems; one-family or two-family dwellings classified as “Group R3” in the Arkansas Fire Prevention Code.

(B) Class E Level 2: Alarm systems company license, covering operations as defined in §17-40-102(5). Fire alarm license is restricted to structures for which applicable building and life safety codes do not mandate the installation of fire alarm systems, one-family and two-family dwellings classified as “Group R3”, “Group R1”, except buildings with three (3) or more stories; “Group R2”, except buildings with three (3) or more stories; “Group A”, except those that exceed fifteen thousand square feet (15,000 sq. ft.); “Group B”, except “highrise”; “Group E”, except those that exceed fifteen thousand square feet (15,000 sq. ft.); “Group F”; “Group M”; and “Group S” in the Arkansas Fire Prevention Code.

(C) Class E Level 3: Alarm systems company license covering operations as defined in §17-40-102(5). Fire alarm license is unrestricted.

(D) Class E-M: Alarm systems company license covering only monitoring as defined in §17-40-102(5).

(E) Class E-S: A single-station alarm systems company license covering operations as defined by §17-40-102(27) with no more than five (5) registered employees required to be registered under this chapter. Fire alarm license is restricted to one-family and two-family dwelling.

(6)  (A) Class F: An alarm systems company license covering operations as defined in §17-40-102(5) with no more than five (5) employees required to be registered under this chapter. Fire alarm license is restricted to structures for which applicable building and life safety codes do not mandate installation of fire alarm systems and one-family and two-family dwellings classified as “Group R3” in the Arkansas Fire Prevention Code.

(B) Class F-M: Alarm systems company license covering only monitoring as defined in §17-40-102(5) with no more than five (5) persons required to be registered under this chapter;

FEES:

The fees for the Class types in the rules are as follows:

Rule 2.2 The fee for a Class “E” original license is four hundred and fifty dollars ($450.00). The fee for renewal of a Class “E” license is one hundred and fifty dollars ($150.00).

The fee for a Class “F” original license is two hundred and twenty-five dollars ($225.00). The fee for renewal of a Class “F” license is seventy-five dollars ($75.00).
TRAINING REQUIREMENTS:

The training requirements for employees in the law states:

§17-40-318. Training requirements for alarm system business.

(a) The licensee or his or her manager of a Class E Level 1 and Class F license shall show proof of National Burglar and Fire Alarm Association Level 2 certification or board-approved equivalent. The licensee or his or her manager for a Class E Level 1 shall have two (2) years from July 30, 1999, to obtain the aforementioned certification. An applicant for a Class E Level 1 and Class F license or his or her manager applicant shall show proof of National Burglar and Fire Alarm Association Level 2 certification or board-approved equivalent before the license may be issued.

(b) The licensee or his or her manager of a Class E Level 2 license shall show proof of National Burglar and Fire Alarm Association Level 2, National Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies Level II certification or board-approved equivalent. The licensee or his or her manager shall have two (2) years from July 30, 1999, to obtain the aforementioned certification. An applicant for a Class E level 2 license or his or her manager applicant shall show proof of National Burglar and Fire Alarm Association Level 2 certification, National Institute for Certification in Engineering the Technologies Level II certification or board-approved equivalent before the license may be issued.

(c) The licensee or his or her manager of a Class E Level 3 license shall show proof of National Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies Level III, National Burglar and Fire Alarm Association Level 2 and Practical Fire Alarm Course, or board-approved equivalent. The licensee or his or her manager shall have two (2) years from July 30, 1999, to obtain the aforementioned certification. An applicant for a Class E Level 3 license or his or her manager applicant shall show proof of National Burglar and Fire Alarm Association Level 2 and Practical Fire Alarm Course, National Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies Level III, or board-approved equivalent before the license may be issued.

(d) All persons applying for a license as an alarm system company or his or her manager applicant shall successfully complete the examination as manager under the provisions of this chapter and the Arkansas Board of Private Investigators and Private Security Agencies’ rules and regulations.

(e) All applicants for licensure shall meet other reasonable qualifications as may be adopted by the board.

(f) The licensee or the licensee’s manager of a Class E-S or Class F-S license shall demonstrate that he or she is knowledgeable in fire protection and the proper use and placement of single-station fire and heat detectors by satisfactorily completing an examination to be approved by the board on the single-station portion of the Household Fire Warning Protection provision of the National Fire Protection Association, 72 Code Book, as it exists on January 1, 2001, and the Arkansas Fire Code as it pertains to single-station fire detection devices.

TO QUALIFY THE OWNER/MANAGER:

The requirement for qualifying an owner/manager in the law states:

§17-40-306. License—Applicant qualifications.

(a) Unless the requirement is waived by the Arkansas Board of Private Investigators and Private Security Agencies, an applicant for a license or his or her manager must:
(1) Be at least twenty-one (21) years of age;
(2) Be a high school graduate or its equivalent if the applicant is a manager of an investigations company or an individual applying for an investigations company license;
(3) Not have been found guilty of or pleaded guilty or nolo contendere to any: 
   (A) Felony, Class A misdemeanor, or an offense of a comparable level, crime involving an act of violence, or any crime involving more turpitude in any court in another state for which a pardon has not been granted; or 
   (B) Felony, Class A misdemeanor, or an offense of a comparable level, crime involving an act of violence, or any crime involving moral turpitude in any court in another state for which a pardon has not been granted; or 
   (C) Felony, Class A misdemeanor, or an offense of a comparable level, crime involving an act of violence, or any crime involving moral turpitude in a military or federal court for which a pardon has not been granted.
(4) Not have been declared by any court of competent jurisdiction incompetent by reason of mental defect or disease and not have been restored;
(5) Not be suffering from habitual drunkenness or from narcotics addiction or dependence;
(6) Not have been discharged from the armed services of the United States under other than honorable conditions;
(7) Be of good moral character; and
(8) Be in compliance with any other reasonable qualifications that the board may fix by rule.

The examination requirements for the owner/manager in the rules states:

Rule 2.4 An application for a Class “E” or Class “F” license under the provisions of this chapter and its rules and regulations if the applicant is an individual, the manager, and any branch manager, if the applicant is a partnership or corporation, must demonstrate his qualifications by successfully completing an examination on the following:

Arkansas Code §17-40-101 et seq.
and the rules promulgated by the Board

Successful completion of the examination shall consist of making a minimum score of seventy percent (70%). If any individual fails to successfully complete the required examination, they will not be allowed to retake the examination until a period of five (5) working days have elapsed and pay the re-examination fee, which shall be in the amount of fifty dollars ($50.00). Failure to pass after two (2) examinations have been administered shall result in the denial of the application in accordance with Arkansas Code §17-40-350(A)(5).

CERTIFICATION:

The requirements for certification in the rules are as follows:

Rule 2.6.1 Class “F”, Class “E” level 1 and Class “E” level 2 alarm systems technicians and alarm agents shall show proof to the Board that they are NBFAA level 1 certified or Board approved equivalent. The aforementioned technicians and agents shall have 365 days from the effective date of this rule to obtain said certification.
Rule 2.6.2 Class “E” level 3 alarm systems technicians shall show proof to the Board that they are NBFAA level 1 certified, NICET II certified or Board approved equivalent. The aforementioned technicians shall have two (2) years from the effective date of this rule to obtain said certification. Alarm systems technicians that are registered as alarm systems agents, on the effective date of this rule, may perform operations listed in Arkansas Code §17-40-309 for a period of two (2) years from said effective date.

Rule 2.6.3 Class “E” level 3 alarm systems agents and supervisors of technicians shall show proof to the Board that they are NICET level II certified, NBFAA with Practical Fire Alarm Course certified or Board approved equivalent. The aforementioned alarm systems agents shall have 365 days from the effective date of this rule to obtain said certification. Alarm systems agents and supervisors of technicians that are registered as alarm systems agents, on the effective date of this rule, may perform operations listed in Arkansas Code §17-40-309 for a period of two (2) years from said effective date.

CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK:

The requirement for passing a criminal background check in the law states:

§17-40-350. License, registration, or commission—Grounds for disciplinary action.
(a) The Arkansas Board of Private Investigators and Private Security Agencies may revoke, place on probation, or suspend any registration, license, or security officer commission and may either fine in an amount not to exceed one thousand dollars ($1,000) for each violation of this chapter or reprimand any registrant, licensee, or commissioned security officer, or both, or the board may deny an application for a registration, license, or security officer commission, or renewal thereof, on proof that the applicant, licensee, commissioned security officer, or registrant has:

(1) Violated any provision of this chapter or violated any of the rules and regulations promulgated under this chapter;

(2) Been found guilty of or pleaded guilty or nolo contendere to any:
   (A) Felony, Class A misdemeanor, crime involving an act of violence, or crime involving moral turpitude in any court in the State of Arkansas for which a pardon has not been granted;
   (B) Felony, Class A misdemeanor, or an offense of a comparable level, any crime involving an act of violence, or any crime involving moral turpitude in any court in another state for which a pardon has not been granted; or
   (C) Felony, Class A misdemeanor, or an offense of a comparable level, any crime involving an act of violence, or any crime involving moral turpitude in a military or federal court for which a pardon has not been granted;

(3) Practiced fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation;

(4) Made a material misstatement in the application for or renewal of a license, registration, or security officer commission; or

(5) Demonstrated incompetence or untrustworthiness in his or her actions.
INSURANCE:

The requirement for insurance in the law states:
§17-40-308. License—Insurance prerequisite.

(c) (1) All Class E licensees shall maintain in force at all times while licensed a public liability insurance policy, with minimum limits of liability of three hundred thousand dollars ($300,000). All class F licensees shall maintain in force at all times while licensed a public liability insurance policy, with minimum limits of liability of one hundred thousand dollars ($100,000).

(2) All alarm systems businesses which issue Underwriters’ Laboratories certificates for local mercantile, central station, or police connected alarms shall maintain in force at all times a public liability insurance policy in an amount of at least three hundred thousand dollars ($300,000).

(3) Proof of such insurance must be provided to the board upon request.

(4) This section will not pertain to alarm systems businesses that do not sell, install, or service alarm systems.

ALARM SYSTEM APPRENTICE:

The requirements for an alarm system apprentice in the rules states:

Rule 2.21 The alarm system apprentice may be employed as such, for a period of six (6) months without having to furnish the board proof of NBFAA certification. By the end of the six (6) month period, the alarm system company must furnish the Board with proof of NBFAA certification of the alarm apprentice. The alarm system apprentice shall work under the direct supervision of an alarm system agent or technician.

Rule 2.22 If the alarm system apprentice leaves the employment of the original alarm system company employing him as an alarm apprentice, the alarm apprentice shall not be employed with another alarm system company as an alarm apprentice for a period of two (2) years from the date of termination from the original alarm system company. The alarm system apprentice may return to the employment of the original alarm system company and complete the remaining six (6) month apprentice time period, which was suspended on the date of termination.

For your information—alarm training certification information:

ESA (Electronic Security Association—formerly NBFAA) FAIM (Fire Alarm Installation Methods) and ABAT (Advanced Burglar Alarm Tech) certifications, phone number 1-888-447-1689.

NESA (National Electronic Security Alliance) Electronics & Fire certifications, phone number 1-800-542-7866.

NICET (National Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies) Level 3 certification, phone number 1-888-476-4238.