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# Construction Labor

**REPORT**

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**State News**

## **California**


### **Roofing Contractor Pleads Guilty To Misrepresentations, Tax Evasion Charges**

A Riverside, Calif., roofing contractor was sentenced to 240 days in jail, 36 months of probation, and more than \$72,000 in restitution and fees for tax evasion and misclassifying workers to avoid paying workers' compensation premiums (*California v. Curran*, Cal. Super. Ct., Riverside Cty., No. RIF116310, 6/8/05).

Michael Louis Curran, a roofing contractor from Riverside County, Calif., was sentenced after pleading guilty June 8 to two felony charges of willful material misrepresentation and intent to evade taxes, according to documents from the California Superior Court for Riverside County, where he was sentenced.

California Insurance Commissioner John Garamendi June 15 said in a statement that Curran, while working as Curran Roofing on a project in Indio, Calif., made material misrepresentation to the State Compensation Insurance Fund to "obtain the lower premiums by intentionally misclassifying his workers' job classifications in intentionally failing to disclose his total payroll."

Curran was ordered to pay \$6,000 in restitution for failing to report and pay employment taxes to the Employment Development Department.

Garamendi added: "By cheating the system, Mr. Curran was able to obtain lower premiums and potentially undercut the bids of other honest roofers. In the end, it's simply not worth the risk, nor the jail time to commit workers' comp fraud." 

*By Radim Hladik*

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