



ELECTRICAL CURRENTS

Newsletter from the Office of the Chief Electrical Inspector

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● Upcoming Electrical Stakeholders Meetings

Stakeholder meetings will run through June 2008 at the locations listed below. It is important for you to stay up to date with changes that might affect you. You have an opportunity to get your questions answered and give the Electrical Program your valued input when you attend a stakeholder meeting. Please join us at 6:00 p.m., at one of the remaining stakeholder meetings near you.

Safety Tip of the Month!

Keep generators dry.
Consumer grade generators are not weatherproof and can pose the risk of electrocution and shock when used in wet conditions.

2008 Remaining Stakeholder Meetings

February 20	100 Oyster Bay Ave., Public Works Conference Rm., Bremerton	February 21	City Council Chambers, 321 E 5 th St., Port Angeles
April 9	Clark County PUD, 1200 Fort Vancouver Way, Vancouver	May 20	Location to be determined, Moses Lake
May 21	Cowlitz County PUD, 961 12 th St., Longview	May 21 (also)	Walla Walla College (tentative), Walla Walla
May 22	Location to be determined, Yakima	June 11	Hampton Inn, 3985 Bennett Dr, Bellingham

● The Legislature Is In Session

The legislature convenes January 14th for a short session. The regular session will adjourn on March 13th. Bills, so far that might affect the electrical industry, include:

- Senate Bill 6190 – eliminating the equipment listing requirements for wineries
- Senate Bill unknown # - HVAC/R mechanical regulation

You should visit the legislative web site for information on committee hearings and bill proposals that might affect you or the electrical industry at: <http://www1.leg.wa.gov/legislature>

● Electrical Trainee Education

Formal education is a requirement for electrical trainees. The electrical law requires that each trainee take at least 16 hours of approved classroom education during each two year renewal cycle. A trainee renewing after December 31, 2007, must have at least 16 hours of approved classroom education. If a trainee lets their certificate lapse, for any reason, the classroom education is still required to renew the training certificate. Reinstating a lapsed training certificate is the same as a renewal. The intent of the law is to require anyone wanting to continue to work in the electrical industry as a trainee to have classroom education.

The electrical industry (i.e. contractors and trainers) is responsible for providing all electrical training. L&I does not provide classes for trainees. There are about 16,000 electrical trainees. Only 43 classes have been submitted and approved. It is your responsibility as a contractor to ensure your trainees have the necessary training and education.

You already provide training for all your employees. Make it official; become an approved course provider as an electrical contractor. If you are a certified electrician or administrator, you can become an approved instructor. If you want to ensure good training for your staff, you can provide continuing education classes and trainee classes. Contact Sheila Lisle at (360) 902-5210 for details about how to get your class approved. You can also look at WAC 296-46B-970(4) and (5) for more information.

Course Application (F500-068-000) at: <http://www.lni.wa.gov/FormPub/Detail.asp?DocID=1800>
Instructor Application (F500-090-000) at: <http://www.lni.wa.gov/FormPub/Detail.asp?DocID=1808>

● Compliance Violator List

We have begun posting "all" electrical compliance violations that have become a final judgment on the electrical website instead of quarterly in the *Electrical Currents* newsletter. This is to better address compliance issues across the state, respond to your requests for information, and give you a better way

to stay informed. A final judgment means that all appeal rights have been exhausted and that a penalty is due or has been paid. The compliance violations posting can be found at:

<http://www.lni.wa.gov/TradesLicensing/Electrical/violators/>

Consumers, contractors, and electricians will now have information about everyone who has violated the electrical laws and received an electrical citation within the past three years. Please ensure that you and your electricians stay in compliance and do not commit a violation.

● Expired/Suspended/Revoked Electrical Contractors & Requesting Inspections

If an electrical contractor license is suspended, revoked, or expired an inspection request cannot be made. A contractor in this type of status is effectively out of business and any work done cannot be inspected. The contractor must either regain active status or, if a registered general contractor, may subcontract the completion of the work to a licensed electrical contractor. The new contractor must buy a permit for the work to be inspected. The new contractor cannot work on the previous contractor's permit.

● Provisional Permits Eliminate the Emergency

In 2004, the provisional permit label was created to allow an electrical contractor to begin their electrical work immediately in an emergency situation. Provisional labels allow an electrical contractor to immediately have a valid permit when doing service or maintenance work where the exact nature of the repair is unknown until the electrician is on the job site. The provision in WAC 296-46B-900(6) allowing the purchase and posting of the electrical permit to happen after the work is begun in an emergency should never be used by an electrical contractor. In an unforeseen or emergency situation, the electrical contractor should be posting a provisional permit label. The provisional electrical work permit label is an acceptable substitute for a normal permit for two working days.

Only licensed electrical (or telecommunications) contractors can use provisional electrical work permits. Provisional electrical work permit labels are sold in blocks of twenty for \$200. Once purchased, they may be divided up between the contractor's service vehicles or personnel. The labels are bright yellow in color to easily differentiate them from the similarly formatted (bright pink) Class B basic electrical work labels. Refunds are not available for provisional electrical work permit labels, and the \$10 individual label cost is not deducted from the normal permit fee. They are **not valid in city jurisdictions** that perform their own electrical inspections.

The certified electrician or telecommunications worker doing the installation must put the provisional permit label on the cover of the panelboard, overcurrent device, or telecommunications equipment supplying the circuit or equipment **prior to beginning the work**. The labels must be **completely** filled in using sunlight weather resistant ink. The contractor and job site portion of the **label must include all of the following information**:

- DATE OF WORK SITE ADDRESS, CITY, COUNTY
- ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR'S NAME SITE OWNER NAME
- ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR'S LICENSE # DESCRIPTION OF WORK
- INSTALLING ELECTRICIAN'S CERTIFICATE #

The contractor's portion of the label **must be returned to the L&I electrical office having jurisdiction for the inspection, within two working days** after the job site portion of the label is posted.

● Class 1 Control Circuits And Power Wiring

Class 1 control circuits and power supply circuits may be installed in the same cable, enclosure, or raceway when the equipment powered is functionally associated (NEC 725.26(B)(1)).

"Functionally associated" means the power circuit(s) and the control circuit operate the same electrical components. The Class 1 controls operating the ON/OFF circuit for a motor starter and the circuit power conductors for a motor controlled by that motor starter are functionally associated.

● Question of the Month

A series circuit contains _____ paths for current flow. **Answers:** 3, 2, 1, multiple

December's Question was: Where installed in raceways, conductors of size 8 AWG and larger shall be stranded?