



● Three Electrical Inspectors Are Recognized For Excellence

“Electrical Inspector of the Year” and “Electrical Inspector Supervisor of the Year” awards were presented to three of our finest Labor and Industries electrical inspectors by Chief Electrical Inspector, Ron Fuller (left center) at the January 29th Electrical Board Meeting.

Dave Campbell (right center), was chosen as Labor and Industries Electrical Inspector of the Year. Jim Hinrichs (far right), and Steve Thornton (far left), will share the award for Electrical Inspector Supervisor of the Year. All three recipients are quick to point out that they would have no success if it weren't for the tremendous support and efforts from their inspectors and support staff.



Dave Campbell, Lead inspector in the Vancouver office, has worked for the department for over ten years. He is well respected by his peers and supervisors alike. He goes way beyond that which is required and is quick to volunteer for special projects and community outreach opportunities. Always a team player, Dave is well known for always being available to help out when help is needed.

Jim Hinrichs, the Everett office supervisor, has worked with the

department for twenty-two years and is the senior supervisor. He piloted the highly successful SAFES program which paved the way for the E-CORE program (Electrical Compliance, Outreach, Regulation and Enforcement). Highly respected by his peers for his knowledge, experience, and tenacious spirit, Jim has dedicated his life to the pursuit of excellence in the electrical industry. Jim has been a role model in developing an extremely efficient and effective inspection workgroup. His accomplishments and desire to improve the electrical program are indisputable.

Steve Thornton, the Vancouver office supervisor, has worked for the department for over fourteen years. Steve is highly regarded by his staff and peers, and has a sterling reputation with his customers. When asked to describe Steve his fellow supervisors used terms like: knowledgeable, reasonable, great people skills, loves what he does. Like Jim, Steve's primary concern is the success of his inspectors, which is evidenced by their consistency and success in ensuring safe, compliant installations, and combating the underground economy.

● The Correction Reduction Initiative Is Being Expanded

Corrections cost time and money for contractors and inspectors alike. The Correction Reduction Initiative was first introduced in June of 2006 with the goal of reducing the number of corrections written to contractors. All corrections indicate a problem with the work and require return trips to the jobsite for both the contractor and inspector.

In July, we identified and monitored a group that was consistently receiving the most corrections (i.e. 20% of contractors who received the most corrections per inspection and had at least 24 inspections in FY08.

The Correction Reduction Initiative has been very successful, resulting in much fewer corrections being written to the identified contractors. We are now going to expand the initiative and focus on all contractors who received at least twenty-four inspections in the twelve month period between July 1, 2007 and June 30, 2008, and who received more than the average number of corrections as compared to all other electrical contractors within the state. Electrical contractors within the group will receive an

Safety Tip of the Month!

Always purchase an electrical work permit before you start your electrical project.

Purchasing a permit ensures an electrical inspector will review your work for safety and code compliance.

ongoing monthly performance report, which is meant to help them keep track of how they are doing month to month, permit by permit.

● Pop-up Receptacle Outlets For Residential Kitchen Countertops Must Be Listed

Receptacles serving dwelling unit countertops are required in kitchens, pantries, breakfast rooms, dining rooms, and similar areas. In the last few years “pop-up” receptacles have been appearing on the surface of residential kitchen countertops.

In addition to the listed GFCI protected receptacle, the fixture/box that houses the device must also be listed or the package must be listed as an assembly. If the unit is going to be installed in a kitchen countertop, the manufacturer’s installation instructions must indicate it is suitable for this environment.



● Third-Party Evaluation Is Required For Unlisted Electrical Equipment

In order to meet the minimum electrical safety standards for installations, all materials, devices, appliances, and equipment, not exempted in chapter 19.28 RCW, must conform to applicable electrical product standards recognized by the department, be listed, field evaluated, or in specific cases engineer reviewed. See WAC 296-46B-903(5) and (6) for eligible industrial utilization equipment and details of the engineering review process.

The electrical inspector can only approve equipment for use if it meets the one of the following third-party identification criteria:

- It arrives on the job site listed and identified with the certification mark of an L&I approved electrical products testing laboratory. The mark will identify the appropriate product category for the equipment. There may be listed individual components within the assembly but they are only a part of the product.
- Field evaluated with a field evaluation label applied by an L&I approved electrical testing lab.
- Engineer evaluated with the engineering evaluation label applied by an L&I approved engineer.

A third-party evaluator can have no organizational, managerial, financial, design, or promotional affiliation with manufacturers, suppliers, installers, or vendors of products covered under its certification or evaluation programs. Only laboratories or engineers approved by the department are allowed to perform field or engineering evaluations. “Approved” means the evaluator has met the requirements of WAC 296-46B, and is authorized by the department to evaluate electrical products that are installed in Washington. A list of approved evaluators can be found on our Web site at:

<http://www.lni.wa.gov/TradesLicensing/Electrical/Install/default.asp>

● February 15th The Department Will Resume Normal Enforcement Of Tower Cranes

A voluntary compliance effort was initiated by the department for lack of third-party electrical evaluation and certification of tower cranes erected prior to December 15, 2008. This voluntary effort will extend through February 14, 2009. All tower cranes erected on or after December 15, 2008, are expected to carry the appropriate third-party electrical certification identification mark or evaluation label before they are put into operation.

Beginning February 15, 2009, L&I’s Division of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH) will resume normal enforcement when construction tower crane electrical components do not have the required third-party evaluation. If electrical components are not properly evaluated and certified, DOSH will issue citations with possible monetary penalties. In all cases where inspections are performed, if DOSH determines that there exists an imminent danger to workers or the public, immediate correction will be required prior to continuing operation.

● Electrical Question of the Month

This Month’s Question: Where EMT is installed on the roof of an office building for the purposes of supplying power to an HVAC heat pump, is an equipment grounding conductor required to be provided within the raceway? **A) Yes, B) No, C) It’s allowed, but not required.**

Last Month’s Question: In crawl spaces, can a nonmetallic sheathed cable with three No. 12 AWG conductors be run perpendicular to the direction of the joists, and be secured directly to the lower edges of the joists? **A) Yes, B) No, C) Yes, if on running boards.** The answer is: **A) [WAC 296-46B-334(6)].**

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