

Question of the Month

What are the savings for renewing a journey level or specialty electrician certificate online instead of renewing in person, by mail, or by fax? A general or specialty master electrician or administrator certificate?

Note from the Chief

In my note last month, I discussed how electrical inspection workload has exceeded the department's previous projections and that I would be assessing our budget allotment to determine if we can restore some electrical inspector positions eliminated in 2009 and 2010. I am happy to report that we believe there is sufficient positive variance in the budget allotment to be able to restore eight electrical inspector positions. This is good news to all who depend upon timely electrical inspections to help ensure progress of their construction projects. It is certainly good news for our hard working inspectors.

We will post recruitments for these positions on our website shortly. If you are interested in becoming an electrical inspector, please visit our web page, [Find a job at L&I](#) and search using keyword "inspector".

You may have noticed we did not schedule stakeholder meetings this fall as we normally do. We plan to hold stakeholder meetings at selected locations statewide next spring. With proposals for revisions to [WAC 296-46B](#) being accepted during October, this will allow the department to be able to discuss all of the proposed rule changes with our stakeholders and receive their feedback. Watch for a schedule of meetings in the *Electrical Currents* newsletter after the first of the year.

2014 NEC Update

On March 1, 2013, Washington State adopted the 2014 edition of the National Electrical Code (NFPA 70-2014) with an effective date of July 1, 2014. The 2014 NEC is now available, and the department is approving 2014 code update courses. Since Washington State was not able to adopt the 2011 NEC, careful preparation is more important than ever. The 2011 NEC changes are not marked as changes in the 2014 NEC. To be prepared for the 2014 NEC, it is advisable to get a new codebook as soon as possible and enroll in a 2014 NEC update course.

Provisional Permits and the Unforeseen Situation

How can you have a valid permit when you want to make an electrical installation because of an imminent threat to life or property? Posting a provisional permit label allows an electrical contractor to begin an electrical repair or installation immediately. Any electrical work in L&I inspection jurisdiction can be started with a provisional label. Within the 2 days of posting a provisional label, a standard electrical permit must be obtained. Sometime within those 2 days, an electrical work permit must be obtained and request for inspection made within 1 day of energizing or 3 business days of completion, whichever occurs first.

The provision in [WAC 296-46B-901\(5\)](#) allowing property owners to purchase and post the electrical permit after the work is begun should never be used by an electrical contractor. Only licensed electrical or telecommunications

Safety Tip of the Month!

What Does a Safe Jobsite Look Like?

Electrical equipment can be located just about anywhere. Getting to the equipment safely can be challenging. Make sure you have a safe plan and take the proper precautions before beginning any electrical work. Some hazards you will want to pay special attention to may include:

- Rooftop installations.
- Unguarded stairs or catwalks.
- Fall hazards from overhead workers.

If you are aware of special hazards, alerting your inspector in advance can save unnecessary delays in your inspection response times.

contractors can use provisional electrical work permit labels. Provisional electrical work permit labels are sold in blocks of twenty for \$248. Once purchased, they may be divided between the contractor's service vehicles or personnel. Refunds are not available for provisional electrical work permit labels, and the \$12.40 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. All fields on 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:

The contractor's portion of the label must be returned to the L&I electrical office having jurisdiction for the inspection and a standard electrical work permit must be purchased for the work done within two working days after the job site portion of the label is posted.

Ductless Split System HVAC Equipment

Because of energy conservation and new equipment technology, HVAC contractors are installing more and more ductless split system HVAC units. The systems that are being manufactured meet the intent of the National Electrical Code (NEC); but, not necessarily the letter of the code. In order to better align current industry standards, equipment manufacturing practices, and the NEC, the following variances from the NEC are acceptable.

In one and two-family dwellings units, a disconnecting means is not required for the indoor unit(s) of a split system HVAC/R system if:

- An indoor disconnecting means is not required by the manufacturer;
- The indoor unit(s) is exclusively powered from the outdoor unit; and
- The outside unit's disconnecting means is lockable and identifies the location of the indoor unit.

Often, Type TC cable is installed as part of a Ductless split system. [WAC 296-46B-336](#) allows Type TC cable to be used in any location allowed for nonmetallic-sheathed cable in NEC 334. When Type TC cable is used in NEC 334 applications, it must be installed in strict conformance with Part II of NEC Article 334 and the bending radius requirements of NEC 336.26 or adhere strictly to the requirements of NEC Article 336. For split systems, taping TC cable to a line set is not an acceptable means of securing and supporting as required by NEC 334.30.

Typically, the multi-conductor type TC cable installed from the outdoor unit to each indoor fan unit contain power and control conductors for the indoor units. Installation of line voltage conductors is specifically excluded from the 06A HVAC/R work scope in [WAC 296-46B-920](#)(f) (iv) (B). Electrical work excluded from the 06A work scope must be performed by properly licensed electrical contractors employing properly certified electricians.

Ugly Installations: Online readers - click on the picture to open larger image. Major violations: NEC 110.13; Service equipment is required to be securely mounted. NEC 334.12 (B) (4) & 334.15 (B); NM cable is not permitted for use in a wet location and not to be subject to physical damage. Possibly a violation of [WAC 296-46B-230](#) (1); Many serving utilities will not allow fittings, such as an LB ahead of the meter. These types of fittings allow access to conductors ahead of the meter.

Answer to Question of the Month: \$10.40 savings for a journey level or specialty electrician certificate; \$20.00 savings for a master electrician or administrator certificate, except (09) telecommunications administrators, who save \$13.90. You can renew up to 90 days before your expiration date. Save time and money by using our [online system](#) to complete your renewal!



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<http://www.ElectricalCurrents.lni.wa.gov>

Electrical Section Internet Address: <http://www.ElectricalProgram.Lni.wa.gov/>

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