

Question of the Month

Is a 125-volt, single-phase, 15- or 20-amp receptacle required to be installed at or near electrical service equipment?

Note from the Chief

As I mentioned in previous newsletters, the department gave the electrical program approval to increase electrical inspection staff by restoring eight permanent inspector positions eliminated during the great recession. All eight were hired and all have completed initial training. Inspector training is very important to ensure efficient, consistent, and accurate inspections and compliance work. We have placed the new inspectors in areas based on the highest need as indicated by permit sales. Our ability to respond to inspection requests in a timely manner has declined with the steady increase in numbers of permits and resulting increase in inspection workload. With more inspectors on board and trained, our response time should improve. We understand the financial impact that delays in inspections have on our customers. We continue to focus on improving the customer experience by identifying and removing waste in our processes.

We are not able to add more inspectors because we are limited to the amount of money we can spend from the dedicated electrical fund, which consists of deposits from electrical permit and licensing fees. Because of the recovering economy, resulting in projected increases in workload, we have asked the legislature for approval to restore up to sixteen more inspectors and one technical specialist starting on April 1, 2014.

1-Day Inspector Training will Affect Inspections on March 11 & 12

In preparation for July 1, 2014, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) is providing training on the 2014 NEC for L&I and city electrical inspectors who enforce the NEC. There will be no L&I electrical inspections on March 11 on the west side of the Cascades and March 12 on the east side.

We regret the inconvenience this may cause our customers who rely on timely inspections. Please let your customers know and plan for your inspections accordingly.

2014 NEC update training is important for inspectors, as well as installers and designers. If you are an electrical administrator, master electrician or electrician, you can find a complete list of approved 2014 NEC update classes on our [Continuing Education](#) webpage. If you are a trainee, approved classes are found on our [Basic Classroom Instruction](#) webpage.

WAC Rule Revision Update

On January 30, 2014, during their regular meeting, the [Electrical Board](#) reviewed the proposed changes to WAC 296-46B. The Electrical Board recommended that the department move forward with the proposed rules

Safety Tip of the Month!

When operating a motor vehicle, your life and the lives of others hinge on your actions. Just sending or receiving a text at 55 mph takes your eyes from the road an average of 4.6 seconds, the equivalent of blindly driving the length of a football field.

Please do not text and drive. Nothing is worth jeopardizing your life or the life of another.

as recommended by the 32 member Technical Advisory Committee after their extensive review and debate of rule proposals made by stakeholders and the department. The version of the proposed rules recommended by the Electrical Board is available on the [Rule Development](#) page of our website.

A public hearing is scheduled for 1 p.m. on April 10, 2014 at the [Department of Labor & Industries](#), Room S119, 7273 Linderson Way SW, Tumwater, WA 98501. This hearing is the last opportunity for public comment before the proposed rules become effective on July 1, 2014.

Reminder – Statewide Stakeholder Meetings Kicking Off in Longview March 4

If you participate in the electrical industry in Washington State, come visit us at one of our statewide stakeholder meetings. This is an opportunity for our customers to talk with Electrical Program representatives in an informal setting. Meetings are scheduled from 6 to 8 p.m. with the [meeting dates and locations](#) posted on our webpage.

Installations of Circuit Extensions Connected by Extension Cords can now be Approved

In previous versions of the NEC, there was not a provision to allow extension cords as a permanent wiring method. That is why the department published an article in this newsletter in the [December 2009](#) edition prohibiting circuit extensions powered by cords. 2014 NEC 400.7(11) now permits a cord between an existing receptacle outlet and an inlet, where the inlet provides power to an additional single receptacle outlet, if;

- The wiring interconnecting the inlet to the single outlet receptacle outlet is a Chapter 3 wiring method.
- The entire extension kit is a listed assembly specific for the application.

Although, the 2014 NEC is not effective until July 1, 2014, the department will accept the installation of listed circuit extension kits powered by cords as of the publication of this newsletter. An electrical work permit is required for this type of work. Because it is an extension of a branch circuit, this installation would be Class B permit eligible. See [WAC 296-46B 908](#) for more information on Class B permits.

NFPA Issues 2014 National Electrical Code Corrections and Revisions

The NEC is a complex document with thousands of people working together to bring it to publication every three years. Sometimes there are errors and omissions that need correction after publication. The NFPA addresses this by issuing an erratum or correction to a specific article after publication. There have been two errata issued to date. The latest, Errata No.: 70-14-2, dated December 3, 2014, includes all changes to date and can be found at <https://www.nfpa.org/Assets/files/AboutTheCodes/70/Errata70-14-2.pdf>. Please be sure to incorporate these changes into your copy of the 2014 NEC.

Ugly Installations: Pictured is a computer server assembly in a shipping container. This installation does not conform to the requirements for information technology equipment in Article 645 of the NEC. Notice the 120-volt power supplies and circuit boards laying on the metal shelf, apparent lack of grounding, open wiring, cords used for permanent wiring, the list goes on.



Answer to Question of the Month: Effective July 1, 2014, NEC 210.64 will require a 125-volt, 15- or 20-amp rated receptacle to be installed within 50 feet of all electrical service equipment except for one- and two-family dwellings.

This document may contain hyperlinks to internet web pages. To access this PDF document online, go to:

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

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

This document is available in alternative formats to accommodate persons with disabilities. For assistance, call 1-800-547-8367. (TDD/TTY users, please call 360-902-5797.) Labor & Industries is an Equal Opportunity employer.