

## The Question of the Month

As proposed WAC 296-46B-210 (4), Arc-Fault Circuit-Interrupter Protection, will be deleted from rule effective July 1, 2014. If this happens, what circuits will be required to be Arc-Fault Circuit-Interrupter protected for dwelling units with electrical permits purchased after June 30, 2014?

## Note from the Chief – Electrical Board Vacancies

There are currently two vacant positions on the [Electrical Board](#). Richard Damiano and Louis LaMarche have served the board faithfully and I would like to thank them for their hard work and dedication to the electrical industry. There is an open electrical utility seat and the candidate must be an employee or officer of a corporation or public agency generating or distributing electric power. An electrical contractor's seat is also available and the candidate must be an owner or member of the firm for a licensed electrical contractor.

Anyone interested in applying for one of these openings must submit an application using the form on the Governor's website at:

<http://www.governor.wa.gov/boards/application/default.aspx>.

Application must be made using the Governor's form. To be considered for these openings, your application must be received by May 16, 2014.

Send your resume and any additional information you would like considered in a separate email to the Boards and Commissions mailbox at: [GovernorBoardsandCommissions@gov.wa.gov](mailto:GovernorBoardsandCommissions@gov.wa.gov). Recommendation letters should be sent to the Governor's office. If you have questions about the positions or the Electrical Board, contact Elissa Zyski at 360-902-5259.

## Reminder - WAC Rule Revision Update – Public Comment Ends April 10, 2014 at 5 p.m.

You can submit comments about the proposed rule changes until April 10 at 5 p.m. Comments can be submitted in writing or heard during the public hearing, at 1 p.m. on April 10, 2014 at the [Department of Labor & Industries](#), Room S119, 7273 Linderson Way SW, Tumwater, WA 98501. To learn more, please review our [Electrical Rules Information Packet](#) and the proposed rules on the [Rule Development](#) page of our website.

## Statewide Stakeholder Meetings Nearly Complete

If you have not had the opportunity yet this year, come visit with us at one of the five remaining stakeholder meetings. This is an opportunity for you to talk with Electrical Program representatives in an informal setting. At the previous meetings, we have listened to your concerns and received many constructive suggestions for improving our services.

Our goal is to use your ideas to create an Electrical Program that is easier to do business with. Meetings are held from 6 to 8 p.m. with the meeting dates and locations posted on our webpage at:

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

## Safety Tip of the Month!

Arc-Fault Circuit-Interrupter protection saves lives and property. AFCI protection protects branch circuit wiring from arcing faults that could start an electrical fire. AFCIs monitor circuits for both normal and dangerous arcs. If the AFCI deems the arc's characteristics to be dangerous, it will open, removing the arcing condition.

## Recall on Square D-Brand F and K Frame Circuit Breakers

Square D-Brand F and K frame circuit breakers manufactured between May 2, 2013 and June 21, 2013 may be on recall. Please visit the [Consumer Product Safety Commission](#) for more information.

## Telecommunications Legislation Becomes Law

[House Bill 2253](#) unanimously passed the legislature and was signed into law by Governor Inslee on March 31, 2014. The new law results in changes to [RCW 19.28.191](#), Certificate of competency – Eligibility for examination – Rules, and [RCW 19.28.400](#), Telecommunications definitions.

Effective June 12, 2014, the legislature created an open window of opportunity in RCW 19.28.191 for individuals who have unsupervised telecommunications experience to apply one hour of every two hours of that work experience towards eligibility for examination for an (06) limited energy systems certificate of competency. By that time, a special open window affidavit form will be available on our website. Employers are required by [WAC 296-46B-942](#) (8) (d) to provide the necessary documentation and signed affidavit of experience to a worker within twenty days upon request.

To be eligible for the open window opportunity:

- All experience must have been gained while working with in Washington State while employed by an (01) general or (06) limited energy system electrical contractor.
- Applicants must possess an [electrical trainee certificate](#) before applying.

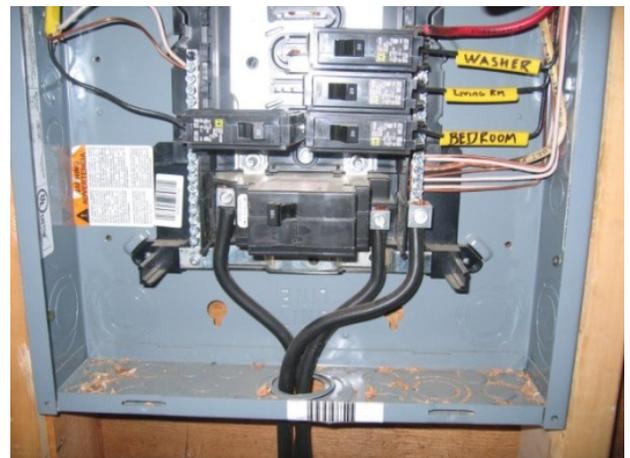
The legislature also added language to RCW 19.28.400 (13) that expands the (09) telecommunications scope of work. Effective immediately, 09 contactors and their workers will be able to install cabling and equipment as part of a limited energy power distribution system providing operational power to a “telecommunications device”. Prior to the legislation, limited energy power distribution was not part of the (09) Telecommunications scope.

A “telecommunications device” is not defined in statute or rule. With the rapid growth of technology and the development of new limited energy products, a clear definition of a telecommunication device is needed to clarify what is and what is not a “telecommunications device”. Telecommunications systems do not include horizontal cabling used for fire protection signaling systems, intrusion alarms, access control systems, patient monitoring systems, energy management control systems, industrial and automation control systems, HVAC/refrigeration control systems, lighting or lighting control systems, and stand-alone amplified sound or public address systems.

Until a definition of a “telecommunications device” is developed through stakeholder driven rulemaking , the (09) telecommunications scope of work will include all structured cabling systems, connecting hardware, telecommunications equipment, premises switching equipment providing operational power to the “telecommunications device” , infrared, fiber optic, radio-frequency, power distribution associated with telecommunications systems, and other limited-energy interconnections associated with telecommunications systems or appliances. In other words, if the system is not specifically excluded above and encompasses a form of information generation, processing, or transporting of signals conveyed electronically or optically, including voice, data, video, or audio the work is within the (09) telecommunications scope of work.

**Ugly Installation:** Pictured is a service panel found by an L&I inspector. This installation does not conform to several NEC requirements. Notice the unfused single service conductors running through the wall and entering the enclosure with no raceway or connector, the lack of a main bonding jumper and grounding electrode system. Also, notice the grounded conductors and equipment grounding conductors terminated together in the same hole on the neutral bus.

**Answer to Question of the Month:** NEC 210.12 (A) All 120 volt, 1Ø, 15- and 20-ampere branch circuits supplying outlets or devices installed in kitchens, family rooms, dining rooms, living rooms, parlors, libraries, dens, bedrooms, sunrooms, recreation rooms, closets, hallways, laundry areas, or similar rooms or areas shall be AFCI protected.



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

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

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