



SPECIAL EDITION

● New 2017 National Electrical Code® and Other Possible WAC Changes

The 2017 edition of the National Electrical Code® (NEC®) was adopted by the National Fire Protection Association in August 2016 and published editions will soon be available. The [NFPA](#) also provides free access on their website. The upcoming rule development process will allow Washington's electrical stakeholders to make recommendations to the department regarding adoption of specific sections of the 2017 NEC® as well as other sections of the Washington Administrative Code (WAC). The department will evaluate proposals and determine the extent of stakeholder support and economic impacts. This rule development process will include possible modification to all sections of [WAC 296-46B](#), excluding the fee schedules of WAC 296-46B-906, 909, and 911.

● Keep Informed

There will not be a specific mailing list for this WAC revision process. Special WAC update postings will be maintained using the Electrical Program's [Electrical Email List](#), [Rule Development](#) page of our website, and [Electrical Currents](#) newsletter.

The best way to stay informed of the WAC process and other electrical issues is to join the *Electrical Email List* at: <http://www.lni.wa.gov/Main/Listservs/Electrical.asp>

● The Department Is Seeking Stakeholder Input for Proposed Rule Changes

Any stakeholder in the electrical industry may make proposals for additions and/or revisions to the Washington Administrative Code WAC 296-46B – Electrical Safety Standards, Administration, and Installation electrical rules. Proposals from stakeholders may be submitted from October 1, 2016 through October 31, 2016. Proposal submission guidelines are detailed below.

Rules are developed to aid both stakeholders and the department in clarification or enforcement of the intent of the electrical statute. Technical changes require evidence of a specific problem and substantiation that the proposal will provide a solution for that problem.

The department is responsible for development of all rules. The department will act as the correlating body during the rule development process and may at any time promote rule change as necessary to accommodate statutory change or department policies or procedures.

A sample **Proposal Form for 2017 WAC 296-46B Rule Changes** is shown on page four of this edition. All proposals must be submitted using an electronic MS Word version of this form which is available on our Rule Development page at: www.lni.wa.gov/TradesLicensing/Electrical/LawRulePol/RuleDev/default.asp

Stakeholder proposals **must be received from 12:01 a.m. October 1, 2016 through 11:59 p.m. October 31, 2016. Any proposal received before or after these dates will be rejected. All proposals must be made electronically** using the form supplied by the department.

The submitter may submit a proposal(s) by:

- Sending the proposal(s) as an email attachment to ElectricalWAC@lni.wa.gov. Please do not attempt to submit early, as this email address will not function until October 1, 2016; or
- Mailing a compact disc containing the proposal(s) to Chief Electrical Inspector, P.O. Box 44460, Olympia, WA, 98504-4460 – must be received by the closing date.

Proposed revisions should include the relevant existing text and should use legislative format. Use underscore to denote wording to be inserted (e.g. inserted wording) and strike-through to denote wording to be deleted (e.g. ~~deleted wording~~).

Proposals not submitted according to these instructions will be rejected.

● **Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)**

The TAC process has proven to be very valuable in past years. The department will again appoint a General TAC made up of experts and interest group representatives to review and make recommendations on proposals from the electrical industry.

Persons interested in becoming TAC members must submit a letter of interest for specific positions to the Chief Electrical Inspector, by mail at P.O. Box 44460, Olympia, WA, 98504-4460 or by email to ElectricalWAC@lni.wa.gov to be received from October 1, 2016 through October 31, 2016. The letter should show constituency support for the prospective member. Include an email address and daytime phone number for the applicant. All applications will be evaluated to determine that the applicant meets the requirements for the position.

In order to keep the size of the TAC to an efficient and effective number, the committee will be limited to 33 voting members. The TAC makeup will be based on an equitable distribution relative to proportion of involvement within the electrical industry in Washington. TAC membership provides an opportunity for everyone interested in the Electrical Program's WAC development to participate in the process.

If necessary, each successful candidate may have an alternate attend the TAC meeting. There will be no formal alternate assigned by the department. Any TAC member that is absent must notify the Chief Electrical Inspector of the alternate's name one week prior to the TAC meeting. Failure to make the required notification will result in the position being vacant during the meeting.

● **The TAC – Process**

The TAC will make recommendations on industry proposals and identify proposals that may have an economic impact on other specialties, small businesses, construction costs, or the cost of enforcement. Members who know they will be absent from a TAC meeting should make every effort to send an alternate. The TAC must review and evaluate proposals based on the need:

- o To address a critical life/safety need;
- o To address a specific state policy/statute;
- o To maintain a fair competitive environment;
- o To address a unique character of the State; or
- o To correct errors and omissions.

The TAC will operate on a majority basis. A majority vote in support of a motion, of members in attendance, will be considered as significant support for the motion made on a specific proposal. The TAC can propose amended language to a proposal. All voting members share an equal vote. The department will consider all TAC recommendations. Public testimony will not be received during the TAC meeting.

● **2017 WAC Revision Process – Proposed Sequence of Events**

- o **September 2016** – File CR 101 – pre-proposal statement of inquiry.
- o **October 1 through October 31, 2016** – Accept proposals from stakeholders to amend or add to the existing WAC.
- o **October 1 through October 31, 2016** – Accept applications for TAC.
- o **Mid December (possible 2nd day)** –TAC meeting.
- o **January 2017** – Electrical Board review and recommendation on proposals.
- o **Spring 2017** – File CR 102 –rule filing (opens the official required public comment period).
- o **Spring 2017** – Public hearing(s).
- o **July 1, 2017** – Effective rule.

● General TAC – Membership

Chairperson– Chief Electrical Inspector (non-voting)

2	Electrical Board Members (non-voting)	1	WA Manufacturing Business
1	Training School/Continuing Education Provider	1	Electrical Engineer
1	Electrical Apprenticeship Representative	1	Electrical Testing Laboratory
1	Electrical Manufacturer Representative	1	Utility
2	L&I Inspection (Supervisor & Inspector)	1	General Public Member
2	City Regulator (Supervisor & Inspector)	10	Electricians
1	Plumber (Contractor or Worker)	10	Electrical Contractors

Notes:

- o Contractor positions must be filled by a licensed electrical/telecommunications contractor or representative of an electrical contractors' association in Washington representing that specialty.
- o Electrician positions must be filled by a certified electrician who is not an owner in an electrical contracting business.
- o The AD HOC contractor and electrician positions must be filled by a specialty not otherwise represented on the TAC.
- o The plumbing position must be filled by a registered general or plumbing contractor or a representative of a plumber contractor's association in Washington or certified journeyman plumber.

Methodology for Determining the Number of Electrical Contractor and Electrician Members						
Active Licenses & Certificates	# of Contractors	% of All Licenses	# of TAC Members	# of Electricians	% of All Certificates	# of TAC Members
01	2,697	53.5%	5	14,480	59.7%	6
02	289	5.7%		1,826	7.5%	
03	119	2.4%		334	1.4%	
03A	50	1.0%		123	0.5%	
04	82	1.6%		195	0.8%	
06	557	11.0%	1	2,474	10.2%	1
06A	662	13.1%	1	2,992	12.3%	1
06B	10	0.2%		122	0.5%	
07	103	2.0%		1,069	4.4%	
07A	15	0.3%		61	0.3%	
07B	57	1.1%		230	0.9%	
07C	0	0.0%		19	0.1%	
07D	44	0.9%		189	0.8%	
07E	7	0.1%		81	0.3%	
09	321	6.4%		N/A	N/A	
10	28	0.6%		57	0.2%	
Ad Hoc Group	1,125	22.3%	3	4,306	17.8%	2
Total	5,041		10	24,252		10
Notes:	<10% of Licenses/Certificates joins the Ad Hoc group					
	The Ad Hoc group will be filled on an equitable basis with an emphasis on representation closely following the % of licenses, with an effort to fairly represent the different specialties.					
	Unfilled positions will remain vacant.					

PROPOSAL FORM for 2017 WAC 296-46B Rule Changes

Email to: <mailto:ElectricalWAC@lni.wa.gov>

as an attachment

Mail CD to: Chief Electrical Inspector
Department of Labor & Industries
Electrical Section
PO Box 44460
Olympia, WA 98504-4460

FOR L&I USE ONLY

Specific Rule #:

Date Received:

NOTES:

1. All proposals must be **received from 12:01 a.m. October 1 through 11:59 p.m. October 31, 2016.**
2. Limit each proposal to a single rule section. Use a separate copy for each proposal.
3. **ENTER TEXT ONLY IN THE UN-SHADED SPACES ON THIS DOCUMENT – SAVE AS A NEW FILENAME BEFORE RETURNING**

Date submitted:

Name:

Representing:

Telephone:

Mailing Address:

Email Address:

1. Proposal: Include new or revised wording, or identification of wording to be deleted. Proposed text should be in legislative format. Use underscore to denote wording to be inserted (e.g. inserted wording) and strike-through to denote wording to be deleted (e.g. ~~deleted wording~~).

2. Statement of Problem & Substantiation for Proposal: Note: State the problem that will be resolved by your proposal and substantiation for your proposal.

3. Check one:

This proposal is original material

This proposal is not original material

(END OF PROPOSAL)