



ELECTRICAL CURRENTS

Newsletter from the Office of the Chief Electrical Inspector

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● Schedule For Stakeholder Meetings

We have scheduled the stakeholder meetings for the fall and winter. Stakeholder meetings are important for both the department and the industry. Meetings are from 6 PM - 9 PM. This year we plan to spend equal time on local office issues, electrical program information, listening to your comments and answering your questions. Please take the time to attend the next meeting closest to you. (Additional meetings from Dec 2007 – May 2008 in Tukwila, Bremerton, Port Angeles, Vancouver, Moses Lake, Longview, Walla Walla, Bellingham, and Yakima will be announced when locations are reserved.)

Early Meeting Locations

Sep 24	East Wenatchee Douglas Co. PUD No.1, 1151 Valley Mall Parkway	Oct 17	Tumwater L&I Bldg. Auditorium, 7273 Linderson Way SW
Sep 25	Spokane Spokane CC, Lair Building, Sasquatch Room	Oct 18	Aberdeen L&I Bldg., 415 W. Wishkah, Suite 1B
Sep 26	Pullman City of Pullman offices, 325 SE Paradise St.	Oct 24	Everett Snohomish County PUD, 2320 California Street
Oct 10	Kennewick Benton PUD, 2721 West 10th	Nov 14	Tacoma The Orcas Room, 5 th floor, 950 Broadway Bldg.

Safety Tip of the Month!



Be sure to secure your extension ladder to the building and allow at least 3' to extend above the last point of contact.

● 2008 NEC “Code Update” Continuing Education Courses

Due to the later (December 2008) target date for the 2008 NEC adoption, the department **will not** accept any applications for 2008 NEC Code Update continuing education courses before July 2008, maybe later. The actual date will be announced in a future newsletter. If your organization has already scheduled 2008 NEC training from a national continuing education provider, then the course may be submitted for approval in the “Industry Related” category. There is no advantage to getting Code training far in advance of it’s applicability on the job site. Industry stakeholders may propose significant modifications during the rule development process.

● Coming WAC Rule Revisions – Proposed Adoption Of The 2008 NEC

We want our stakeholders to have the opportunity to review the 2008 NEC for potential problems prior to opening the rule revision process. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) typically publishes and begins distribution of a new Code edition (2008) in mid-September of the previous year (2007).

In November 2007 we will publish a Special Edition of this newsletter detailing all aspects of the revision process, including selection of the rules Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). The approximate timelines for rule revisions and proposed 2008 NEC adoption are as follows.

October 2007—File CR 101 – pre-proposal statement of inquiry

January 1, 2008—Revision submittal form will be posted on the Electrical Web site

January 1 – March 31, 2008—Receive revision proposals from the industry (91 days only – no early or late proposals will be accepted)

March 1 – 31, 2008—Accept applications for TAC membership

Sometime Between April 1 – June 30, 2008—Convene general TAC meeting(s) (as necessary)

July 2008—Review of rule proposals by the Electrical Board

August 2008—File CR 102 – rule filing (opens the public comment period)

September 2008—Public hearings

October 2008—File CR 103 – Rulemaking order (adoption)

December 2008—Rules effective – possible adoption of 2008 NEC

All official announcements in this process are posted first on the Electrical Listserv. Listserv members also receive automatic e-mailings of this newsletter on the first day of publication. Join the Listserv at:

<http://www.lni.wa.gov/Main/Listservs/Electrical.asp>

● WAC Rule Revisions In Progress – Temporary Fee Reductions

The electrical fees you pay comprise the dedicated electrical fund. This fund completely supports the electrical licensing, certification, and inspection programs. The existing 5% temporary fee reduction has been extended another year until December 31, 2008. These rule revisions keep the temporary reductions in WAC 296-46B-905 and -910 in place. This extension will become effective approximately November 1, 2007.

The electrical program is only allowed to spend a fixed amount allocated from this dedicated fund by the legislature to support all of our operations. Unlike a typical business, fee revenue in excess of the legislature's allocation cannot be used to improve services or create additional positions. It is appropriate that we try to maintain a "revenue neutral" fee structure to keep your costs down. We will honor this commitment to our customers and continue to advocate any fee reductions the electrical fund balance allows.

● Information About The Use Of Class B Inspection Labels (Including Schools)

In issues raised during our May electrical inspector training sessions, we were asked to address the use of Class B inspection labels for Class B eligible work done in schools (educational occupancies). Class B cannot be used on jobs where plan review is required. The previous versions of WAC 296-46B required plan review of all work in schools, either at the local office or formal review in Tumwater, depending on the scale of the project.

In the current rules (December 2006 printing) WAC 296-46B-901(15) language was restructured to clarify the threshold for small modifications to existing installations that **do not** require plan review. Some examples of these are:

- Net load reduction lighting efficiency retrofits.
- Low voltage systems.
- Branch circuit modifications involving load increases of < 5% on distribution equipment rated ≤ 400 amps and 250 volts (excluding all NEC 700 emergency system equipment).

If the work does not require plan review **and** is within the limitations of Class B work in WAC 296-46B-900(26), then Class B inspection labels may be used. Typical situations:

- A single-outlet extension, from an existing 20 amp, 120 volt circuit, is done in each of many classrooms. A Class B label is required for each classroom.
- For other than fire alarm systems, a single Class B label could be used for a limited energy system installation in an entire school.

For all eligible Class B work, if the contractor cannot complete the work in the 15 working days given to return their portion of the label to us, they should be prepared to pay a trip fee(s) for any additional random inspections done after the initial 15 days.

● New Web Page: "What You Should Know About Appliance Installation And Repair"

At the request of legitimate Appliance Repair (07D) specialty electrical contractors, we have created a page on our web site with the title (above) in this article heading. Initial installation of a household appliance is always the responsibility of the electrical contractor providing the new circuit (i.e. the circuit designer) for the appliance. Initial installation of hard-wired electrical appliances is not in the scope of the Appliance Repair (07D) specialty. Typically, appliance **replacement** and **repair** is under the control of the homeowner. We decided the most appropriate and effective place to locate the link to access the new page is on the existing "Homeowner Basics" page at:

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

● Electrical Question of the Month

This Month's Question: The total calculated service load for a 12-unit multifamily dwelling building is 137,500 VA. The contractor will feed each unit with a 120/208 volt single phase feeder originating from a three phase service. Using the standard calculation, what is the calculated load in amps on the service phase conductors? **A)** 1146 amps, **B)** 661 amps, **C)** 382 amps, **D)** 286 amps.

Last Month's Question: A Class B label can be used for replacing a 240v, 110A furnace. True/False? The answer is: **False** [WAC 296-46B-900(26)(a)(ii)(D)].