



● Focusing The Electrical Program During The Recession

The economic downturn in construction activity led to a significant drop in revenue for L&I's Electrical Program, forcing a reduction in the number of inspectors. On March 31st, the program will be eliminating 25 inspector positions across the state. With 20 percent fewer inspectors, we will not be able to continue to meet our goal of conducting all inspections within 24 hours. There may be slight delays in getting the inspections in some areas of the state. We know how important a timely inspection is to getting the project completed on time, and we will make every attempt to do all inspections as quickly as possible.

We will still be doing our best to improve public safety and will have more focus on the underground economy and anyone who creates an unlevel playing field for electrical contractors who follow the law.

The construction downturn means more people will choose to do their own electrical work and remodeling. All property owners need to know that an electrical permit and inspection is required for most new, remodeling, and maintenance electrical work to ensure the work conforms to state safety codes and to protect their ability to get insurance or to refinance or sell their property. L&I is increasing its outreach and education efforts to raise awareness of electrical safety and to improve compliance with the permit and inspection requirements.

A poor economy and high unemployment means more people are moving into the underground economy in search of ways to make money or cutting costs by bypassing permits and inspections. This puts the public at risk from unsafe electrical installations and takes work away from electrical contractors who follow the law. As a result, L&I is expanding its outreach and compliance efforts statewide with a focus on:

- Targeting unlicensed electrical contractors and uncertified electricians.
- Identifying electrical work that has not been permitted and inspected.

● Reciprocity And Temporary Electrician Certificates Phased Out

The Electrical Board, at their January 29th meeting, weighed all the pros and cons of reciprocity and temporary certification and made a nearly unanimous recommendation to withdraw from all reciprocal agreements and end the use of temporary certification. After the recommendation, L&I stopped issuing temporary electrician certificates on February 23rd and notified all reciprocal states that beginning March 31st, we will no longer honor requests for electrician certification reciprocity.

Over the years, L&I has removed all the obstacles to gaining electrician certification that existed when reciprocity began in the early 1990s. It used to take months to get an electrician certification in Washington when coming from out of state. Today, it is easy for a qualified candidate to have their certificate within a few days, even before moving to Washington.

Having all electrician candidates take the Washington exams will help ensure that the candidate has up to date knowledge of the electrical code and Washington's laws and rules. Taking the Washington exam requires little investment from the candidate (i.e. 4 hours and the \$75 exam fee). Exams are available worldwide through our exam administrator, PSI. PSI offers exams 5 days per week with immediate results and the ability to immediately schedule a follow-up exam if necessary. Certificates are issued within three days of examination completion. The only hurdle for a candidate will be taking and passing our electrician examination.

Safety Tip of the Month!

Injury statistics show that the use of ladders presents many hazards. Injuries involving ladders frequently cause permanent disability.

- Always, use the right ladder for the job.
- Get help with heavy or long ladders.
- Make certain your footing is good (e.g. avoid ice, mud, and other slippery conditions).
- Review the DOSH ladder bulletin at: <http://www.iapa.ca/pdf/FreeDownloads13-Ladders1.pdf>

● When Will I Get My inspection?

Requests for inspection must be made no later than: three (3) business days after completion of the electrical installation, one (1) business day after any part of the electrical installation has been energized, or before the installation is covered, whichever occurs first.

You may call any L&I office to request an inspection, but this may delay your inspection request. Requests made online before midnight will be available to the inspector the next morning. To request an electrical inspection online, go to:

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

Because of varying workloads, the response time for an inspection may vary. Most inspections are performed within 1 working day after the request is received. In some areas, inspections may be delayed because of the large geographical area covered by the inspector or short staffing. If any special arrangements are needed to arrange access to allow the inspector to make the inspection, you must contact your inspector between the hours of 8 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. prior to the inspection. Special arrangements could include: access to the site when no one is present, request for specific inspection days or times, or other needed arrangements.

Inspectors will not enter any work site, when minors are present, unless the owner or the owner's adult representative is present.

The electrical inspector may make an appointment, depending upon his/her workload. Keep in mind that appointments may be made for a.m. or p.m. only during normal working hours. Specific times are not set for inspections.

● Who Purchases The Electrical Work Permit?

The electrical contractor must purchase an electrical permit for his/her part of the electrical work. If the owner or another contractor does electrical work, each must purchase a separate electrical permit for the portion of the work they are doing. This may appear as if permits are being duplicated for the same work. That is not the case. Each installing entity is required to get a permit and inspection for their part of the electrical work. Without the separation of permits, it would be impossible to determine who is responsible for the work done.

Getting the permit: You may buy your permit at any L&I office or online using a credit card at:

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

● New, Rebuilt, Or Remanufactured Hot Tubs Must Have The Proper Label

RCW 19.28.010(3) says, "*Electrical equipment associated with spas, hot tubs, swimming pools, and hydro-massage bathtubs shall not be offered for sale or exchange unless the electrical equipment is certified as being in compliance with the applicable product safety standard by bearing the certification mark of an approved electrical products testing laboratory.*"

There is no distinction between new, rebuilt, or remanufactured equipment. In order to maintain the original listing of the equipment, only original equipment manufacturer parts or OEM recommended parts may be used during a repair, rebuild, or replacement. If non-OEM parts are used, the equipment must be field evaluated by an L&I approved electrical testing laboratory.

When rebuilding is allowed by accredited electrical testing laboratories the product includes the word "Rebuilt", "Remanufactured", or "Reconditioned" as part of the product listing mark. Though listed rebuilt swimming pool pumps or spa pumps are available as OEM parts, there are no complete spas, hot tubs, or hydro-massage bathtubs products identified with this rebuilt listing mark today.

● Electrical Question Of The Month

This Month's Question: A utility interactive inverter must mechanically disconnect the connected secondary power source when the primary power source becomes de-energized? **True** or **False**.

Last Month's Question: Where EMT is installed on the roof of an office building for the purposes of supplying power to an HVAC heat pump, is an equipment grounding conductor required to be provided within the raceway? **A)** Yes, **B)** No, **C)** It's allowed, but not required. The answer is: **A)** [WAC 296-46B-358(2)].