



ELECTRICAL CURRENTS

Newsletter from the Office of the Chief Electrical Inspector

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Vol. 12 No. 10

October 2009

● Revised WAC-296-46B Effective October 31, 2009

Public hearings on the WAC proposals were held in Tumwater during the last week of August. The majority of the comments were supportive in nature. Important changes include:

- Permit and licensing fees increase 5.20%
- Reciprocal and temporary electrician language has been removed
- Amends continuing education requirements

Safety Tip of the Month!

Focus your mind on driving when behind the wheel. There is nothing more important!

Remember to increase your following distance in poor weather. This simple adjustment helps you maneuver and stop safely when you need to.

Printed copies of the revised WAC rules are at the printer will be available for purchase shortly at a service location near you. The final revised rules are also available electronically at:

<http://lni.wa.gov/TradesLicensing/Electrical/LawRulePol/LawsRules/default.asp>

● First Aid Classes Reduced To Four Hours of CEU Credit

The Washington State Electrical Board recently recommended that continuing education credit for first aid courses be limited to a maximum of four hours.

Providers of first aid continuing education courses for Washington electricians and administrators will be required to submit their courses to the department for approval. First aid training materials must be part of the curriculum of a nationally recognized first aid training organization. First aid course instructors are not required to be approved by the department.

Course completion certificates or first aid cards will not be accepted for proof of course completion for those completed after October 30th. Any course taken after October 30th must be pre-approved in order for you to receive credit. Course providers will be required to use the electronic Trades Education Roster Recording System (TERRS) to enter continuing education credit for their students.

A list of approved continuing education courses and the forms for submitting a course are found at:

<http://lni.wa.gov/TradesLicensing/Electrical/LicenseExamEd/Education/ContinueEd/default.asp>

● Continuing Education Reciprocal Agreements End November 30, 2009

At their April 30th meeting, the Electrical Board weighed the pros and cons of continuing education reciprocity and made a unanimous decision to abolish continuing education reciprocity with all states. Credit will be given for all eligible reciprocal continuing education classes completed prior to November 30, 2009. After this date, credit will only be allowed for Washington approved courses. Some of the reasons the board felt this decision is now appropriate include:

- Over the past fifteen years, electrician continuing education delivery and content has changed dramatically. The advent of correspondence and internet delivered continuing education classes has reduced the need for reciprocity and required that specific review criteria be set in place for these types of classes. Several states, including Washington, have already placed specific individual and specific limitations on the delivery of these types of classes.
- Because of severe budget reductions and staff layoffs, Washington is implementing every process improvement possible to save staffing time and resources. Washington continuing education providers have been required, for several years, to electronically enter class rosters directly into Washington's electrician certification database. This process completely automates our certification renewal process for electricians.

The Board will allow classes (and instructors) to be held in other states to submit an application for approval as a Washington course. You can find a complete list of currently approved courses and forms for submitting new course applications and instructor candidates at:

<http://lni.wa.gov/TradesLicensing/Electrical/LicenseExamEd/Education/ContinueEd/default.asp>

● Permit Fees For Completing Projects Started By Others.

The economic downturn has caused many projects to halt construction prior to the final inspection. In many instances the property has changed hands and new electrical contractor is hired to finish the job. The new contractor must obtain a new electrical work permit to finish the electrical installation.

If service and cover inspection have been completed under a previous permit, the installation will be allowed to be permitted as "Other Inspections." The permit fee and description can be found in WAC 296-46B-906(11). The minimum portal to portal fee will cover one hour of time to finalize the inspection process. Permit applications for "Other Inspections" must have an accurate description of work.

Fees for additional time may be added to the permit if necessary. Any work not included on the original contractor's work must be described and permitted at the normal fees (e.g. new septic, feeder, or other item not on the original permit).

● HVAC Equipment Nameplates

HVAC installers and contractors please take notice. We want you to have the opportunity to avoid the expense of return trips to make corrections by being aware of the marking requirements that apply to HVAC equipment. Failure to complete the equipment nameplate information (i.e. heat strip and other marking) will result in electrical corrections to the electrical contractor for not meeting the marking requirements, NEC 424.28 and for not following the equipment manufacturer's instructions, NEC 110.3(B). Other corrections may be issued if the wiring to the equipment is not appropriately sized and protected.

The person installing the furnace equipment is initially responsible for marking the label accurately. However, the electrician connecting power to the furnace has the responsibility to not connect wiring to the equipment if the label is not properly marked.

Avoid delaying your jobs by fully and accurately completing the required information on the nameplate. Only connect the equipment if the equipment nameplate is completely filled out and accurate.

● "Normal" Electrical Inspection Of Equipment And Machinery

Successful "normal electrical inspection" of the electrical system of unlisted equipment or machinery requires all the equipment's electrical system components and materials to be listed and labeled and installed in conformance with the NEC. Complex installations may require drawings of the system and additional fees to cover inspection time.

The electrical system of unlisted equipment not constructed to the NEC must be proven to meet an appropriate electrical safety standard by having the equipment field evaluated by an approved testing laboratory or by engineering review (for industrial utilization equipment only).

More information can be found in related article published in the November 2007 *Electrical Currents*:

<http://lni.wa.gov/TradesLicensing/Electrical/files/currents/elc0711.pdf>

● Labor & Industries Longview Office Has Moved To Kelso

The Longview office of the Department of Labor & Industries (L&I) has relocated to 711 Vine St. in Kelso. Office hours and telephone numbers will remain the same.

L&I is moving because of a state goal to use space in state-owned buildings wherever possible. With the expiration of the Longview office lease, L&I was able to move to a space in Kelso previously occupied by another state agency.

● Electrical Question of the Month

This Month's Question: In a dwelling unit, what combination of dedicated circuits would be allowed to supply receptacles that supply three 120 volt ½ horsepower garage door openers? **A)** One 15 amp and one 20 amp circuit, **B)** Three 15 amp circuits, **C)** One 20 amp circuit, **D)** Just add them the same circuit as the other garage outlets.

September's Question: Are main breakers still required for temporary power service panels?

A) Always, **B)** Never, **C)** Only if there are more than six service disconnects

The answer is: **C)** Only if there are more than six service disconnects. [NEC 408.36, Exception #1]