



● New Law Requires Electricians And Trainees To Carry Photo Identification

Governor Gregoire signed [SHB 1055](#) into law in April, 2009. This new law became effective July 26th and amends the identification requirements for electricians and trainees in chapter 19.28 RCW. After July 26, 2009, all electricians and electrical trainees must be in possession of their electrical certificate and a government-issued photo identification at all times when working as an electrician or trainee.

You must present your electrician or training certification and other means of identification when asked by an L&I or city/county inspector or the owner or owner's representative of the electrical system where the work is being performed. All inspectors and electrical system owners are authorized to request identification of anyone doing electrical work. If you do not comply with the request for identification you are subject to civil penalties.

Printed copies of the current version of [Chapter 19.28 RCW](#) effective July 26, 2009 will soon be available from your local L&I service location.

● New Exams For Electricians And Administrators Are Coming Soon

Early in 2010, electrical examinations will be based upon the 2008 National Electrical Code, WAC 296-46B, and 19.28 RCW. After the implementation date, all applicants will take the updated examinations. This applies for all candidates, even if they started the examination process before the implementation date.

Questions on the updated examinations are based on the fundamentals of the National Electric Code and the electrical laws and rules of Washington. All of the questions reflect current code terminology and definitions. The examination content is unchanged. You can find the examination content at:

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

The PSI exam delivery platform now has enhanced security features that will help insure the integrity of the examination process. Duplication of exams will be eliminated by randomly generating the questions for each exam. A photographic record of each exam candidate will be maintained in the PSI database for future identity verification.

The effective date for the new electrical examinations and locations of the PSI testing facilities will be announced in the next edition of the *Electrical Currents*.

Be the first to know of actions and opportunities relevant to the electrical trade:.

Join the LNI-Electrical electronic mailing list at: <http://lni.wa.gov/Main/Listservs/Electrical.asp>.

● Bedroom Circuits In Dwellings Require Arc-Fault Circuit Protection

Everyone should be familiar with the NEC requirement for all 120 volt, 15 and 20 amp outlets in a dwelling to be protected with arc-fault circuit interrupters (AFCI). WAC 296-46B-210(4) amends the broader AFCI requirements of the 2008 NEC by only requiring AFCI protection for outlets in dwelling unit bedroom spaces.

Do not confuse an outlet with a receptacle. While a receptacle is an outlet, an outlet isn't necessarily a receptacle. The NEC defines an outlet as "a point on the electrical circuit at which current is taken to supply utilization equipment." Examples of bedroom outlets could include 120 volt, 15 and 20 amp receptacles, light fixtures, fans, motorized blinds, exhaust fans, heating and cooling equipment, etc.

AFCI protection is not required for smoke or fire alarm outlets. AFCI protection is also not required for replacement outlets or for existing extended circuits if the original circuit was installed before December 1, 2005.

Safety Tip of the Month!

Standing water, ice or snow may conceal hidden hazards.

Help avoid slips, trips and falls by wearing proper footwear and proceeding with caution at all times. Trust your instincts and training, if it is unsafe, find a safe route to get there or don't go!

● Look Up A Contractor, Electrician, Plumber or Elevator Professionals

[Look Up a Contractor, Electrician, Plumber Or Elevator Professional](#) offers new a feature. A “hover over” function has been added to provide a more complete description of the status shown. Here is the list of the status descriptions that will appear when you hover over the “status”:

Active –Meets current requirements.

Expired – Licensee has failed to renew.

Suspended – Business or person that has been suspended by the department due to not meeting current licensing requirements.

Inactive for Lack of CEU's – Individual has paid renewal fee but has not met continuing education requirements to satisfy renewal.

Relicensed –Contractor has relicensed under another name, structure, or specialty.

Out of Business – Company that has changed status of license to Out of Business. (This status may also be used for businesses or people who have other active licenses in place of this record).

Superseded – Individual license has been replaced with a new higher level license.

Temporary – Individual has been granted an active license on a temporary basis.

Retest –Person who is currently expired, and is in process of retesting to re-establish certification.

Inactive – Indicates name change of an individual or business

● 2008 NEC Change Affects The Use Of Service Entrance Cable Type SE And USE In Interior Installations

The 2007 Committee Report on Proposals shows that Code Making Panel 7 intended to limit the final ampacity of types SE and USE cables, for most interior installations, to that of 60 °C rated conductors.

As a result, the words “*excluding 334.80*” were removed from the text of Article 338.10(B)(4)(a) in the 2008 NEC. This made all the requirements in Article 334, Part II (including the temperature limitations in NEC 334.80) apply to type SE and USE cables installed inside a building.

However, when these cables are used as the main power feeder to a dwelling unit NEC 310.15(B)(6) applies. For a main power feeder, you should use the ampacity allowed in Table 310.15(B)(6). The main power feeder is defined as service-entrance, service-lateral, or feeder conductors serving as the main power feeder to each dwelling unit when those conductors are installed in a raceway or cable. These cables will carry the full load of the dwelling unit. When used as a main power feeder, the NEC allows cables to be used at a higher ampacity because of the diversity normally found in dwelling units.

Table 310.15(B)(6) cannot be used for ampacity ratings for other feeders or branch circuits. When the table ratings of 310.15(B)(6) are used, you should not impose the temperature limitations of 334.80 on type SE or USE cables that carry the full load of a dwelling unit.

● Minimum Circuit Ampacity

Minimum circuit ampacity is the ampacity of a conductor after all correction factors have been applied. The NEC typically allows the use of the next highest rated overcurrent device if the ampacity of the conductor falls between standard ratings. The rating of circuit's overcurrent device does not determine the minimum ampacity of a circuit unless it is less than the ampacity of the conductor.

Always ensure that the ampacity of the equipment supply conductors are equal to or higher than the minimum circuit ampacity shown on the equipment nameplate.

● Electrical Question of the Month

What is the ampacity of a #6 AWG Copper Type SE cable installed indoors in an 86 °F environment? A) 40 amps, B) 50 amps, C) 65 amps, D) 55 amps.

October'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.**

The correct answer is: **B) Three 15 amp circuits**