



● This Month's Question of the Month

A panelboard containing the interconnected electric power production source (IEEPS) interconnection point has a 60 ampere main breaker. A 60 ampere IEPPS source breaker is located next to the main breaker. The minimum rating of the panelboard is **A) 60 amperes B) 70 amperes C) 100 amperes D) 120 amperes**. See the correct answer on page 2.

● 2010 Legislative Activity

Two bills were proposed this legislative session that directly impact the Electrical Program.

HB 2555 passed both the House and Senate and allows the Electrical Program to issue subpoenas when requested information is not provided. HB 2555 will provide another tool to help us combat the underground economy and level the competitive playing field for legitimate electrical contractors.

HB 2546 passed both the House and Senate and raises the requirements for trainees' classroom training to 48 hour per renewal period. This requirement is to be phased in. To renew on or after July 1, 2011, trainees must have 32 hours of classroom training. To renew on or after July 1, 2013, they must have 48 hours. This bill will improve the trainees' educational process and knowledge – they will be better electricians.

● Time Sensitive and Critical Inspections

In some situations, the timing of the electrical inspection is critical to the customer's needs. Because of our limited inspection staff, we need your help in coordinating the inspection timelines. Let the inspector or supervisor know in advance when you have a critical need. As with your project, we must plan ahead. Do not commit to your customer that the inspector will arrive at a specific time without first coordinating with the inspector or the inspector's supervisor. Without prior coordination, we may have a prior commitment that will make us unavailable to do your inspection when you need it done.

We are committed to working with you to make the inspection process as timely as possible. It is to everyone's advantage to communicate needs and availability. You, your customers, and the inspectors want the inspection process to go as smoothly as possible. We will do our best to be available for your critical inspection needs.

● HVAC Marking Requirements

We continue to have to write many corrections because the HVAC installing electrician fails to do the field marking required on furnaces with electric strip heating modules.

NEC 424.28(A) says, "**Marking Required.** Each unit of fixed electric space-heating equipment shall be provided with a nameplate giving the identifying name and the normal rating in volts and watts or in volts and amperes" and "Electric space-heating equipment intended for use on alternating current only or direct current only shall be marked to so indicate. The marking of equipment consisting of motors over 1/8 hp and other loads shall specify the rating of the motor in volts, amperes, and frequency, and the heating load in volts and watts or in volts and amperes." Part (B) of the article requires the label to be located so it is visible or easily accessible after the installation is complete.

You can avoid the expense and time required for reinspections by identifying the heating modules installed on the label provided by the furnace manufacturer. This marking is the responsibility of the HVAC installing electrician. It is critical for both the electrician providing the circuit wiring and overcurrent protection and the inspector making the inspection to have this information before they can begin their work.

Safety Tip of the Month!

Protect you, your family, and your investment – Make certain you hire a legitimate electrical contractor who:

- Uses certified electricians; and
- Gets the work inspected.

Check your contractor's and electrician's status at:

<https://fortress.wa.gov/lni/bbip/Search.aspx>

● **Fighting the Underground Economy**

Operating outside the requirements for licensing, certification, and permitting is very tempting to some individuals and contractors working in today's economy. The underground economy and companies attempting to operate with an unfair competitive advantage take work away from legitimate contractors and individual electricians who take pride in their work and the electrical industry.

L&I is actively doing everything possible to reduce these impacts. As a result our electrical inspectors' efforts, assisted by the E-CORE team, we have had another successful year working proactively with the industry and combating companies and individuals not playing by the rules. For the 2009, calendar year the electrical program issued 9,114 electrical violations. 70% or about 6,400 were issued for unlicensed contracting, uncertified electricians, doing work with no permit, or a related issue. All these violations are considered to be a part of the underground economy.

No matter what you do, inspector, contractor, electrician, regulator, or citizen, we encourage you to do your part in reducing the negative effects of the people who choose to violate the electrical laws and compete unfairly and in many cases unsafely with the legitimate electrical industry. We welcome your referrals about this type of unfair and illegal activity. If you know or suspect this type of violation, we encourage you to notify your local L&I electrical inspection office or a member of our compliance investigative team. Contact numbers for our offices can be found at <http://www.lni.wa.gov/Main/ContactInfo/OfficeLocations/default.asp> or you can call the investigative team at (360) 902-5249.

Please do your part by helping provide a level competitive environment for legitimate contractors so they can provide safe electrical installations for their customers.

● **Testing Laboratories and Engineer Evaluators**

We have recently approved a new testing laboratory, Communication Certification Laboratory (CCL), and engineer evaluator, Picatti Brothers, Inc. Their contact information along with the other approved laboratories and engineers can be found at:

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

Plan ahead and if you have equipment that is not properly labeled, make contact with one of our approved laboratories or engineers to get the correct evaluation and approval before requesting an inspection, resulting in an electrical correction. Don't hold up your job's progress.

● **Inspector Safety**

The permit holder must make the electrical inspector aware of any potential physical or health hazards prior to the inspection being performed. Inspectors are faced with many potential hazards (e.g. loose dogs, hazardous chemicals, structural damage, open floor holes, etc.) when making inspections.

The permit holder must have all hazard(s) clearly marked or make the inspector or supervisor aware of the hazard. It is your responsibility to make the inspector aware of all potential hazards prior to the inspection. Mark the outside of the jobsite, make a comment about the hazard on the on-line inspection request form, or otherwise directly notify the inspector of the hazard.

● **Last Month's Question of the Month:** How much money can you save by renewing your journeyman or specialty electrician certificate using the online web process? \$6.80

● **Answer to This Month's Question of the Month:**

D) 120 amperes, see NEC 705.12(D)(7).