



● This Month's Question of the Month

Conductors installed on the outside of buildings where AC systems operate at less than 50 volts are required to be grounded when they are run as _____ conductors. A) overhead, B) underground, C) IGS, D) all of the above – See the correct answer on page 2.

Safety Tip of the Month!

Stay in control!

Do not use a trigger hold button on a power tool, ever.

● Note From The Chief

Your opportunity to submit WAC rule proposals is quickly approaching. The proposal period is from September 7th through October 8th. For details, go to the *What's New* link, then the *Electrical Rule Development* link on the electrical Web site at:

<http://www.lni.wa.gov/tradeslicensing/electrical/>

The program continues to try to reduce the negative impacts of the underground economy and contractors who attempt to gain a competitive advantage by not following the law. In July, 269 or 86% of the citations and warnings issued were for no electrical contractor license, no electrician certificate, failure to buy and electrical permit, or an associated issue. All these violations negatively impacted contractors who follow the law and potentially were installed in an unsafe manner that would place the consumer at risk of fire or shock hazards.

Help us protect the general public and your business. Work with our ECORE compliance team and inspectors to ensure installations are made according to code by qualified contractors and electricians. The ECORE team finds contractors and electricians who do not follow the law and compete with an unfair advantage. If you want to do your part and protect your interests by referring illegal activity, you may contact the ECORE team at:

Tony Bierward	(360) 902-4987	(360) 471-0588 (cell)	Southwest WA
Phil Jordan	(509) 324-2542	(360) 471-0691 (cell)	Spokane – Eastern WA
Jack Oxford	(206) 835-1130	(360) 471-0746 (cell)	King County and NW WA

● New Electrical Fees

Effective October 1, 2010, Electrical permit and licensing fees will be increasing. We recently completed the public comment and hearings that are required before making changes to the WAC. Very few comments were received. There were more comments in support of the increase than against it. While we recognize that any increase in these tough economic times is difficult, we believe this increase is necessary to maintain the level of service we are now providing.

As you know, we have reduced our staffing by over 30% in the past year and made other cost saving changes. The staff reductions have made it much more difficult to cover the state's inspection workload effectively. In remote areas, especially, we are unable to deliver inspections as quickly as in the past. A further reduction in our ability to respond quickly to inspection requests would have an unacceptable impact on the ability of our customers to get their projects completed. Hopefully, this increase will allow us to continue to provide the level of service that our customers need. The new fees are available on the electrical Web site at:

<http://www.lni.wa.gov/rules/AO10/21/1021Proposal.pdf>

● Electrical Permit Refund Requests – When Are They Allowed?

Make certain that you are buying your electrical permit from the correct jurisdiction. All electrical inspection authorities are routinely asked to refund permit fees for permits that were purchased from the wrong jurisdiction. WAC 296-46B-901(12) limits refunds for electrical permits. Refunds from L&I are not allowed for:

- Expired electrical permits
- Electrical permits where the electrical installation has begun; or
- Any electrical permit where an electrical inspection or electrical inspection request has been made.

Don't spend your time and money buying permits that are unnecessary. Before buying a permit, make certain that you will actually do the work and that you buy the permit from the jurisdiction where the work will be done.

● Fire System Certification Requirements

It has come to L&I's attention that some local fire jurisdictions are requiring NICET II certification for designing, installing, testing, and maintaining fire detection and sprinkler systems. The electrician's law, RCW 19.28.211(4) specifically gives an appropriately certified electrician the right to work within their defined scope without additional proof of competency, permit, or fee. Local jurisdictions cannot add requirements for electrical work.

Local jurisdictions may have additional requirements for any work that is not electrical in nature (e.g. electrical – installing or removing devices/wiring/equipment, connecting or disconnecting wiring, etc.).

● Fee Training Series – Temporary Services, Concert And Stage Productions, Irrigation Systems

This is the fourth in a series of articles on selecting the appropriate permit fees for your work. This article will cover WAC 296-46B-906(3), Temporary construction services stage or concert productions and (4) Irrigation machines, pumps, and equipment.

Temporary systems – There are restrictions on when an electrical installation is considered to be temporary. WAC 296-46B-590 restricts temporary construction installations to being used only for construction purposes. The temporary construction service must be disconnected when the permanent service is connected.

Fees are calculated based upon the service or feeder size. For the first service or feeder, you should use the Service/Feeder column in WAC 296-46B-906(3) to calculate the permit cost for the first service/feeder. For each additional feeder, use the Additional Feeder column. For example: If your temporary system has a 200 ampere feeder and two 100 ampere feeders, the total permit fee is \$113.60 (i.e. 200 ampere feeder is \$64.40 plus 2 – 100 ampere feeders at \$24.60 each). All branch circuits are included in the service/feeder fee.

If your temporary stage or concert inspection is outside normal business hours, a portal-to-portal fee of \$76.70 per hour will be assessed. Notice of the off-hours inspection request must be made in time to allow the supervisor time to schedule the inspection or a callback minimum of three hours will be assessed. The callback minimum is included in the portal-to-portal rate. To avoid the callback minimum, you must request your off-hours inspection no later than one working day prior to the day you need the inspection. The final fee is the normal fee, the portal-to-portal fee, or if applicable, the callback minimum, whichever is greater.

Using the example above, for an evening concert inspection that takes two hours, portal-to-portal and you requested the inspection more than one working day prior to the inspection, the fee would be \$153.40 (i.e. 2 hours portal-to-portal – 2 X \$76.70), not the \$113.60 calculated fee. If you request the inspection less than one working day prior to the inspection, the fee would be \$230.10 (i.e. 3 hours callback minimum – 3 X \$76.70) even though the portal-to-portal time was only two hours.

Irrigation machines, pumps, and equipment – You should use paragraph (4) to calculate the permit fees for irrigation machines that use sprinkler towers. The service or feeder(s) supplying the tower is calculated using paragraph (2) Commercial/Industrial as described in the August *Electrical Currents*. In addition to the service/feeder(s) fee, each tower is charged separately. If the towers are inspected at the same time as the service/feeder(s), the fee is \$5.50 per tower. If a tower(s) is inspected separately from the service/feeder(s), the fee for 1-6 towers is \$76.70 and each additional tower is \$5.50.

For example: You install a 200 ampere feeder from an existing service. There is a sub-feeder supplying a 40 ampere pump and the irrigation system consists of fifteen towers. If the complete installation is inspected at the same time, the total fee is \$233.80 (i.e. 200 ampere feeder - \$100.70 plus 40 ampere feeder - \$50.60) plus 15 towers at \$5.50 each - \$82.50).

If the towers are inspected separately from the feeders, the total fee is \$277.50 (i.e. 200 ampere feeder - \$100.70 plus 40 ampere pump feeder - \$50.60 plus separate inspection of 1-6 towers at \$76.70 plus 9 additional towers at \$5.50 each - \$49.50).

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

A) overhead (see NEC 250.20).