

Ron Fuller, Chief Electrical Inspector

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## Question of the Month

What is the maximum rating for a motor branch-circuit protective device that can be used to protect a #12 AWG copper motor control circuit running to an external pressure switch? -See the correct answer on page 2.

## Note From The Chief

The *Electrical Currents* newsletter was first published in January of 1998 to provide code guidance and to promote installation and inspection consistency statewide. It is also a valuable source of important information regarding issues relevant to electrical contractors and individuals doing electrical work in the State of Washington. Here is an excerpt from the first article in the first newsletter in January of 1998: *"In response to requests from electricians, electrical contractors, engineers, and our own electrical inspectors we have initiated "ELECTRICAL CURRENTS" as a forum for the code interpretations that are requested from the Chief Electrical Inspector. We hope that the publication of this information will result in fewer electrical corrections and improve consistency in the enforcement of the NEC and Electrical Installation Laws of Washington."*

From time to time, I receive questions regarding interpretation of codes and policies. Legislative change in 1997, made the Chief, subject to the review of the Director of the Department of Labor & Industries, responsible for providing the final interpretation of adopted state electrical standards, rules, and policies for the department and its inspectors. Prior to the 1997 change, the Electrical Board made those types of final determination.

I use the *Electrical Currents* newsletter as one forum to inform customers of potential code concerns, interpretations, and policy. You can download all of the previous editions of the [Electrical Currents](#) newsletter from our website in searchable PDF format and search for code interpretations, policy, etc.

Encourage others you know in the electrical industry, along with property owners, to join the [Electrical E-mail List](#) so they can stay informed on what is happening with the Electrical Program.

## Where to Affix Class B Labels

Users of Class B labels often ask questions about the proper location on the jobsite to affix the label. WAC 296-46B-908(4)(a) states: The certified electrician/telecommunications worker performing the installation must affix a Class B installation label on the cover of the panelboard or overcurrent device supplying power to the circuit or equipment prior to beginning the work. There are many types of jobsites. In some cases, Class B eligible work is started before any panelboards are installed. Some panelboard covers have no additional room to affix a Class B label. Installers are concerned about posting the label in a manner that is acceptable to the Department and protecting it from damage or removal during ongoing construction.

You must fill the label out completely and affix it in a conspicuous location on the jobsite before beginning the wiring installation. This can be done in a variety of ways. You must post the label where it will not be covered. The attachment method may have to be temporary. For example, it might be attached to framing member while the cable is being installed, then attached to a cable(s) with a zip lock bag or document protector, then transferred to an enclosure or piece of equipment when it is installed. Posting the label in a job trailer, keeping it in a folder or file cabinet, or in a vehicle is not an acceptable method. It must be affixed to a part of the building or electrical installation in a location where the inspector will be able to find it before the electrical installation is begun.

## Public Hearing Announcement

The Department will hold a public hearing to receive information and comments about proposed changes to the electrical fees in Chapter 296-46B WAC. The meeting will be held on April 10, 2012 at 9 a.m. at the Department of Labor & Industries building, 7273 Linderson Way SW, Tumwater, WA. For more information, please visit the [Rule Development](#) page on our website.

## Safety Tip of the Month!

"When in doubt, lock it out" is a poor policy. A better policy is, when working on a potentially energized circuit or piece of equipment, always lock it out. A de-energized circuit rarely shocks anyone.

## Save a phone call by looking up permit and inspection information online

You can look up information about your permits and inspections online. On the [Look Up a Permit or Inspection](#) page on our website, you will see two options for getting permit information. Public information is available to everyone. Secure information is only available to the permit holder. Contractors may log into their Secure Access Washington (SAW) account to view information about their permits. Permit purchasers (i.e. contractors and property owners) may view information about a specific permit by using the authorization code received when the permit was purchased. You may look up permits using a permit number, or by entering applicant or site information.

Electrical inspectors normally download their workload for the day by 8:30 a.m. After 8:30 a.m., on the morning the inspection is requested, you may check the status of your inspection request online to see if an inspector has downloaded your job into the daily itinerary. The *Requests* box shows the date of the inspection request and the request status. If the inspection request has not been downloaded by an inspector, the status column will show *Pending*. If an inspector has downloaded your inspection request into the daily itinerary, the status column will show *Request Taken*.

Inspectors normally upload their inspection results by 4 p.m. If the inspector is working in an area with no cell phone coverage, the day's inspection information may not be uploaded until the next morning. If you check your inspection after the inspector has uploaded, you will be able to view results of the inspection in the "Inspections" and "Details" boxes. If you log into the permit to view secure information, you will also be able to view the details of any corrections issued by clicking on the number under the box "Corrections Written". See example of permit information screen below:

Requests			
Created	Requested	Reason	Status
2/9/2012	2/13/2012		Pending
1/13/2012	1/14/2012		Request Taken

Inspections				
Inspected	Inspector	Corrections Written	Corrections Completed	Comments
1/17/2012	ULMER, DONALD	0	0	

Details			
Inspected	Inspection	Result	Comment
1/17/2012	Cover,Conduit Only,Underground	AC - Approved Complete	well

## Ugly Installations

If viewing this document online, you may click on the picture to open a larger image in another window.

Violations: NEC 334.(B)(4) and 110.11 NM cable not permitted in wet location; NEC 334.15(B) Protection from physical damage; NEC 334.30 Securing and supporting; NEC 300.15 Box required for splice; NEC 110.14(B) Improper splices; NEC 250.8 Improper grounding connection; 110.12(B) Damaged cable sheath; WAC 296-46B-110(2) Wiring exposed to water damage.



**Answer to Question of the Month:** 60 amps – NEC 430.72(B)(2)

This document may contain hyperlinks to internet web pages. To access this PDF document online, go to: <http://www.lni.wa.gov/TradesLicensing/Electrical/WhatsNew/Currents>

Electrical Section Internet Address: <http://www.ElectricalProgram.Lni.wa.gov/>

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