

Question of the Month

What is the minimum number of wires required within electrical metallic tubing installed on the outside of a building to supply an HVAC unit rated at 208V three-phase? - See correct answer on Page 2.

Note From The Chief

Sadly, this is my last **Note From The Chief**. I am retiring from state service at the end of the year. During my twenty-two years with L&I, thirteen as Chief Electrical Inspector, I have had the wonderful opportunity to work with some of the best professionals in the electrical and construction industry. The Electrical Program has rewarded our customers and me by steadily improving and providing better and better service.

I am very proud of the many accomplishments we have made over the years and am grateful to everyone I have worked with for your insights and support. You have helped guide the Electrical Program and me over these many years. I am very thankful to all of you.

Your support in legislation, rule making, and combating the underground economy has been invaluable. Together we have made great strides in simplifying the Electrical Program's permitting, inspection, and licensing processes. Electrical contractors now purchase ninety-nine percent of their permits online. Since I became Chief, our licensing turn-around time has gone from weeks/months to four days – with no additional staff – even though the number of licenses has increased from 19,000 to 55,000 with the inclusion of companies and individuals who were previously working unlicensed. We now have inexpensive random inspection Class B permits. We created a master electrician certificate that incorporates administrator and electrician status into one certificate. We consolidated three electrical rules into one, saving hundreds of pages of rulemaking. We controlled our fee increases to be lower than the allowed annual cost of living index...and the list goes on.

I am certain to miss my work, colleagues, and this organization; but I feel ready and comfortable to hand guidance of the program to the remaining professionals in the Electrical Program who have played such a big part of our successes.

Thanks again for all your support during our many years working together. I will miss you after I leave L&I.

Continuing Education Requirements for Electrician Certificate Renewal

If you are an Administrator, Master Electrician, or Electrician, you are required to take twenty-four hours of continuing education classes in the three years between your certification renewals. Eight hours must be on changes in the currently adopted, or any more recently published National Electrical Code. Four hours must be on the currently adopted [Chapter 19.28 RCW](#) and/or [Chapter 296-46B WAC](#). The remaining twelve hours of continuing education credit may be your choice of currently approved classes. You can find approved classes listed on the [Continuing Education](#) page of our website. Approved first aid classes are limited to four hours of credit toward renewal of your certificate.

Do not wait until the last minute. You must complete the required training before your certificate expires. If you have not satisfied the training requirements, you may still renew your certificate by paying the appropriate fee; but your certificate will be in inactive status. In inactive status, you may not perform any work requiring a valid certificate until your continuing education training is completed and your certificate has been re-activated.

Safety Tip of the Month!

Standing water, ice, or snow may conceal hidden hazards.

Avoid slips, trips and falls by wearing proper footwear and proceeding with caution at all times.

Trust your instincts and training. If your path is unsafe, find a safe route to get there or do not go!

A class is not completed until the roster is submitted. The department will not grant credit for the class until the course sponsor's online attendance/completion roster is submitted and shows that you successfully completed the class. Class providers are required by [WAC 296-46B-970](#) to complete the online attendance/completion roster within seven days after a student completes the class.

Basic Trainee Education Requirements

Electrical training certificates are valid for two years. Trainees must take thirty-two hours of basic trainee classroom education before their certificate may be renewed. Beginning July 1, 2013, trainees must complete forty-eight hours of basic trainee classroom education before their renewal date. These classes are different from the continuing education classes required for electrician certificate renewal. You can find approved trainee classes on the [Basic Classroom Instruction](#) page of our website. Do not wait until the last minute. Until the roster is completed, the class is not complete. You may not perform electrical work after your renewal date if you have not been given credit for the required classroom training and renewed your certificate.

Public Hearing for Comments on Proposed Electrical Rules

The Department will hold a public hearing to receive comments about proposed rule changes to chapter 296-46B WAC. The hearing will be held at 9 a.m. on Monday, December 10, 2012, at the [L&I building](#), 7273 Linderson Way SW, Room S119, Tumwater, WA. For more information, visit the [Rule Development](#) page of our website.

Requirements For Contractor Installing Service Laterals/Drops For Developers Or Utilities

RCW 19.28.091(1) provides for exemption from the permitting, inspection, licensing, and certification requirements for service lateral installations, owned and controlled by the electrical utility, if the entity doing the work is employed by the utility. The firm/contractor and utility must have a contract in place (not implied) prior to performing the installation. Inspectors are finding general contractors installing service risers in violation of the Electrical Law.

A utility may establish ownership using a formal contract with a subcontractor. Utilities usually establish control in the formalized design and installation requirements published by the utility. If the agreement between the utility and the developer is in place prior to beginning the work, the developer and/or the developer's sub-contractor may install the service lateral without having an electrical contractor's license, certified electricians, or electrical permit. The utility work must be ahead of the utility's service point and the work restricted to utility distribution system.

Even if the lateral is exempt, the riser portion of all underground conduit runs attached to any structure must either be installed by the owner (as allowed in the owner exemption) or a licensed electrical contractor. The electrical utility never owns or controls conduit risers in the concrete footing or installed on the outside of a building.

Some general contractors may not be aware of these requirements. It is the responsibility of each installer to determine if they are working in an exempt situation. Until February 1, 2013, if a general contractor is found to be illegally installing a riser or service lateral conduit, the department will issue a warning for first offenses. The department will issue citations for repeat offenses and for all violations after February 1. See the April 2004 and March 2006 *Electrical Currents*, for more information.

Ugly Installations

Online readers - click on the picture to open a larger image.

Violations: Too many corrections to list. The inspector should write only one correction for WAC 296-46B-906(7)(b) - Trip fee for requesting inspection when not ready for inspection.

Answer to Question of the Month: Four - WAC 296-46B-358(2) now requires an equipment grounding conductor in all EMT installed in wet locations.



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