

Question of the Month

No parts of a pendant, lighting track, ceiling suspended paddle fan, or hanging type fixture can be located within a zone of how many feet horizontally and vertically from the top of a bathtub rim or shower stall threshold?

- A) 1', 6' B) 1 ½', 7' C) 2', 7 ½' D) 3', 8'

Note From the Chief

The electrician examination pass rate report is discussed at each meeting of the Governor's Electrical Board. The results of this report indicate a need for candidates for electrician examinations to be more prepared.

Examinations consist of a National Electrical Code and theory section and a Washington State laws and rules section. Electrician candidates had an overall 55% first time pass rate. Candidates for the 01 general journey level exam had a first time pass rate of 73% for the NEC and theory section, and 66% for the laws and rules section. Our primary concern is specialty electrician candidates. Specialty electrician candidates had a very low pass rate of 29% for the NEC and theory section and 50% for the laws and rules section. All specialty contractors should make a better effort to ensure the candidate receives appropriate training. It is both the individual's and the contractor's responsibility to ensure that the individual gets the training necessary to become a quality electrician.

Examination questions were developed and chosen with participation of electrical industry stakeholders representing all specialties. The examinations are very challenging, and for good reason. Industry stakeholders demand that the standards be kept at a high level to ensure that those who obtain electrical certification have demonstrated adequate knowledge of the National Electrical Code, electrical theory, and the electrical laws and rules to ensure that electrical installations are performed by qualified individuals.

Quality electricians will improve the safety of electrical installations for consumers and will save the contractors they work for time and money by doing better work that does not require call backs for repairs.

Product Safety Alert – Fluke Meter Recalls

In cooperation with the Consumer Products Safety Commission, Fluke issued recalls for five of its products. Go to <http://www.fluke.com/fluke/usen/support/safety/> for the Fluke recalls, details about the items involved, and the specific follow-up actions for each. In all cases, users are directed to stop using the product immediately.

Legislative Updates

Senate Bill [5077](#) making technical corrections to gender-based terms was signed by the Governor and becomes effective on July 28, 2013. This legislation will require replacement of the term "journeyman" where it exists in RCW 19.28 with the term "journey level." The RCW 19.28 terms "journey level" and "journeyperson" are synonymous with the term "journeyman" for the purposes of enforcing the electrical laws and rules of the state of Washington.

The Senate budget proposal contains a provision to transfer 3.4 million dollars from the Electrical License Fund to the General Fund. The electrical program relies on this fund to provide the services that consumers, contractors, and electricians have paid for, and a reduction in the fund will have a significant impact on the department's ability to provide these services. The Governor's budget proposal and the proposal from the House of Representatives do not

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Safety Tip of the Month!

Electrical safety is a major concern at all construction sites. Electrical accidents injure and kill workers each year. Make sure all electricians understand and follow electrical safety procedures, especially those new to the trade. Use proper safety and personal protective equipment at all times to help prevent these accidents.

include the transfer of funds. The Legislature will reconvene a special session starting May 13 to develop a final budget for the 2013 – 15 biennium.

Electrical Board Openings

There will be three vacant seats on the Electrical Board in July. Bruce Turner, Rocky Sharp, and Don Guillot have served the board faithfully and I would like to thank them for all their hard work and dedication to the electrical industry. The three available positions are the licensed professional electrical engineer seat, the electrical contractor's association seat, and the outside line worker's seat.

Anyone interested in applying for one of these openings must submit an application using the form on the Governor's website at: <http://www.governor.wa.gov/boards/application/default.aspx>. Application must be made using the Governor's form. To be considered for these openings, your application must be received by May 31, 2013. Send your resume and any additional information you would like considered in a separate email to the Boards and Commissions mailbox at: GovernorBoardsandCommissions@gov.wa.gov. Recommendation letters should be sent to the Governor's office. If you have questions about the positions or the Electrical Board, contact Elissa Zyski at 360-902-5259.

Displaying Certificates

The requirement in [WAC 296-46B-940\(3\)](#) and [WAC 296-46B-942\(1\)](#) for wearing and visibly displaying a valid certificate while engaged in the electrical construction trade went into effect on March 1, 2013. You must display your original certificate, not a copy. Visibly displaying certification allows the public, customers, and other workers to know that properly certified persons are performing electrical work. The requirement acts as a deterrent for contractors who knowingly work trainees unsupervised and will help fight the underground economy and level the playing field for those who comply with the law.

The certificate may be worn inside the outer layer of clothing when outer protective clothing (e.g. rain gear when outside in the rain, arc flash, welding gear, etc.), is required. The certificate must be worn inside the protective clothing so that when the protective clothing is removed, the certificate is visible. A cold weather jacket or similar apparel is not protective clothing. The certificate may be worn inside the outer layer of clothing when working in an attic or crawl space or when operating equipment (e.g. drill motor, conduit threading machine, etc.) where wearing the certificate may pose an unsafe condition for the individual.

L&I received feedback regarding concerns some had about specific address information printed on the certificates. As a result of those comments, changes were made so that newly issued certificates no longer display a street address.

Training requirements for new applicants

Effective July 1, 2013, in accordance with Senate Bill 6133 passed by the legislature during the 2012 session, all applicants for master, journey level, or specialty electrician examinations must demonstrate completion of in-class education hours based upon the number of hours of work experience required to qualify for the examination as follows:

- Twenty-four hours where 2,000 or more; but less than 4,000 hours of work experience is required.
- Forty-eight hours where 4,000 or more; but less than 6,000 hours of work experience is required.
- Seventy-two hours where 6,000 or more; but less than 8,000 hours of work experience is required.
- Ninety-six hours where 8,000 or more hours of work experience is required.

This change will require all applicants for examinations to demonstrate that they have completed all of the required in-class education. In-class education means approved classroom training covering the current [19.28 RCW](#) and [WAC 296-46B](#), the national electrical code, or electrical theory; or equivalent classroom training taken as part of an approved apprenticeship program under chapter [49.04](#) RCW or an approved electrical training program under RCW [19.28.191](#)(1)(h). If your training was obtained out of state, contact electrical licensing and certification at 360-902-5269 with your detailed training history for assistance in qualifying for an examination.

Answer to Question of the Month: NEC 410.10(D) – D) 3', 8'

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

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