

Welcome New Chief Electrical Inspector Wayne Molesworth

Wayne assumes his duties July 1, 2020 replacing Stephen Thornton, who retired on June 30. Wayne's diverse work history, education and experiences have prepared him to perform the responsibilities of this position. He has been a Journey Level Electrician for the past 38 years. During this time, Wayne worked in many facets of the industry from residential to heavy industrial applications. Wayne has been with L&I since 1992, first as an Electrical Inspector for 16 years, then as an Electrical Inspection Supervisor for 2 years for Spokane and Pullman offices. After 5 years as a DOSH Compliance Manager, Wayne served in a variety of roles, including Special Projects Manager, Elevator Program Operations Manager, and interim Elevator Program Chief.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank Stephen Thornton for his dedication to L&I and the Electrical program. He is looking forward to retirement and is excited to settle into his new home in Wyoming and start enjoying the next chapter in his life with family and friends.

Safety Tip of the Month

Personal Protective Equipment and Knowledge Saves Lives

Whenever you enter a jobsite, you should always ask yourself:

- What am I required to do to protect others and myself from COVID-19 exposure?
- Am I wearing my hardhat, safety glasses, hearing protection, appropriate clothing, and safety shoes or boots?
- Do I know what the potential hazards are and how to recognize them?
- Should I re-assess the potential hazards as I enter different areas or situations on this jobsite?
- Where are the nearest exits, first aid kit, and fire extinguisher?

Adoption of 2020 NEC and Revised WAC 296-46B Delayed Until October 29, 2020

Due to the impact of COVID19 on businesses and consumers in Washington, we are delaying the effective date of the 2020 National Electrical Code (NEC) and the [recently adopted changes to WAC 296-46B](#) until October 29, 2020. During their April meeting, the Electrical Board recommended that any delay follow a common sense approach similar to that used when the Governor delayed adoption of state building codes until November 1, 2020. Watch the Rule Development tab of our [Electrical Laws and Rules](#) web page and future editions of this newsletter for more information.

When Will Exam Questions be Updated to the 2020 NEC?

Candidates will have plenty of notice. We plan to update all open-book exam questions in the coming year and keep everybody informed of what is happening through the [Electrical Currents](#) newsletter and the [PSI website](#).

Until then, candidates should continue to use the 2017 NEC. Typically, basic code requirements and electrical theory fundamentals found in exam questions are general in nature and do not change much when a new version of the NEC is adopted. The same principles apply to the WAC/RCW section of exams. The [recently adopted changes to WAC 296-46B](#) that are delayed until October 29, 2020 do not affect questions on current exams. You can find information about the exams by visiting the [Electrical Examination](#) page of our website.

Temporary Allowance for Virtual Basic Trainee Classes

Due impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on availability of basic classroom training for electrical trainees, approved classroom training providers may temporarily provide their classes through internet-based instruction platforms under these conditions:

1. Trainees and instructors must continuously interact in real time by live audio and video during the entire period of instruction and by live video during competency examinations; and

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2. Providers must:

- a. Allow department oversight by sending an invitation to ElectricalProgram@lni.wa.gov for every internet trainee class. Invitations must include: a hyperlink and any password needed to join the class, L&I issued course approval number, class agenda (name of class and instructor, date of class, starting time, ending time, breaks, etc.); and
- b. Limit class size to fifteen students or less; and
- c. Verify student identity using government issued photo identification.

This temporary allowance will be in effect until normal classroom education can safely resume in consultation with the Electrical Board and industry stakeholders.

Trainees Working While in Inactive Status - Deadline Extended Until September 1, 2020

The COVID-19 pandemic has reduced availability of required classroom education for electrical trainees. Temporary measures are in place to increase availability of education during recovery. Until September 1, 2020, trainees having certificates that expired on or after March 13, 2020, who have paid a renewal fee to renew them into inactive (“T”) status, may continue working in the trade while completing their classroom education.

Providing an allowance to work while in inactive status until September 1, 2020 is not a holiday for inactive trainees to put off required training. If not completed by the deadline, inactive trainees cannot lawfully work in the electrical trade without a properly renewed (active) training certificate.

Trainees should not wait until the last minute to complete educational requirements! You can download a list of [approved basic trainee classes](#) at the [Basic Classroom Instruction & Continuing Education](#) page of our website.

Affidavits: Trainees should submit affidavits of experience within 30 days of expiration of their training certificate to avoid a late fee. At the latest, trainees have 180 days after their certificate expires to submit affidavits for hours worked in the previous two years before expiration. Affidavits submitted beyond 180 days of expiration are untimely and not eligible for consideration. Avoid losing your hours by submitting them on time!

Trainees – To Renew After October 28, 2020 Trainees Must Complete Classroom Education

One of the changes adopted in the previous WAC 296-46B revisions was a provision eliminating the “inactive” status for electrical trainees who pay their renewal fee but have not completed their required classroom education. Currently, if a trainee does not have all of the required basic classroom education completed, they can pay the renewal fee and renew their certificate into inactive “T” status. Many trainees wait until the last minute to complete their classroom education and sometimes, to avoid paying the double fee, renew their certificates without having completed this step. The provision to eliminate the inactive status for trainees was to be effective July 1, 2020, but due to the delay in the effective date of the revised rules and the 2020 NEC, we are delaying this provision as well.

L&I Office Closures – L&I regional offices remain closed to public visits until further notice. Most of our services are available online. A great way to find what you want is to search with your browser (e.g., “L&I renew electrical certificate” or “L&I purchase electrical permit”). Local L&I offices can help you by phone from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays (except state holidays). Please call your closest [regional office](#), or you can call the Office of Information and Assistance at 360-902-5800.

Ugly Picture of the Month: *If viewing this document online, click on the picture to open a larger image.* We thought you might enjoy this snowy pic on one of those blazing hot days we will probably have this month. A tree fell across this service drop and destroyed the meter base due to the less than adequate mast support. Check out [WAC 296-46B-230\(4\)](#) for illustrated mast support requirements.



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