

Question of the Month – Once you pass an exam and receive your administrator, master, or electrician certificate, will you ever have to retest in order to renew? *See correct answer on Page 2*

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

Due to the impact of COVID-19 on businesses and consumers in Washington, the 2020 National Electrical Code (NEC) and the recently adopted changes to WAC 296-46B do not become effective until October 29, 2020. Watch future editions of this newsletter and the Rule Development tab of our [Electrical Laws and Rules](#) web page for more information.

Safety Tip of the Month

Beat the heat – How to avoid heat related illness:

- Stay hydrated with water and avoid sugary beverages.
- Stay cool by seeking shade or an air-conditioned area.
- Wear lightweight, light colored, loose fitting clothes.

Continuing Education Providers – Say Goodbye to the 2017 NEC

Upon publication of the 2020 NEC in August of last year, we began approving 2020 NEC update continuing education and basic classroom education classes. On October 29, 2020, the 2020 NEC will become effective in Washington. At that time, all classes based on the 2017 NEC will be revoked and may not be offered for instruction. This has no effect on credit earned for those completing a 2017 code update course before October 29, 2020.

Rules in [WAC 296-46B-970\(4\)\(b\)](#) specify the edition of the NEC to be used for code update classes and requires that code update classes must be based on the currently adopted NEC. A new application must be submitted for each 2020 NEC code update class. Applications must be submitted at least thirty calendar days prior to offering or instructing a class. You can find application forms for classes and instructors by visiting the [Basic Classroom Instruction & Continuing Education](#) page of our website.

Rule Petition Seeks to Pave the Way for Reciprocity with Oregon

The L&I electrical program has been in discussion with officials from Oregon regarding Journey Level electrician certificate reciprocity. There are some differences in the rules between the two states, which make things complicated for electricians to qualify for reciprocity. We have received a petition from stakeholders to amend [WAC 296-46B-940](#) to correct these differences. Oregon is undergoing rulemaking to amend their rules as well. Watch for rulemaking information by visiting the Rule Development tab of our [Electrical Laws and Rules](#) webpage. Updates regarding reciprocity with Oregon will be announced in future editions of this newsletter. You can join the electrical email list to receive the Electrical Currents newsletter by visiting the [Email Updates](#) page of our website.

Temporary Allowance for Virtual Basic Trainee Classes

Due to 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
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.

Temporary Allowance Extended for Trainees to Work While Completing Classroom Training

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 October 28, 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.

After October 28, 2020:

1. All trainees in inactive (“T”) status will move to expired status because of rule revisions that become effective on October 29, 2020.
2. Trainees that expired on or after March 13, 2020, who renewed into inactive (“T”) status, may work while in expired status for 90 days after October 28, 2020 while completing their required classroom training.
3. Until a date to be determined after the Governor declares the state is moving into Phase 4, trainees expiring after October 28, 2020 may work while in expired status for 90 days after their expiration date while completing their required classroom training.

If required training is not completed within the additional time allowed, 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!

L&I Office Closures – Most L&I regional offices remain closed to public visits until further notice. Some offices are taking appointments for visits depending on the county. 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.* The disconnect pictured was supplying refrigeration equipment. Condensation caused the brown ice dam to build up resulting in a mess, and interruption of power. Make sure when you are installing wiring between spaces that differ in temperature, you apply NEC 300.7 and seal the raceway to prevent circulation of warm air to a colder section causing condensation. An explosion proof seal is not required for this purpose.

Answer to Question of the Month: Perhaps. Before every birthday, make sure to check expiration dates on all of your certificates. If you do not renew before an expiration date, you must pay double fees to renew. To renew after 90 days of your expiration date, laws require you to re-take and pass an examination.



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