

Question of the Month – To get credit for experience worked, how long after a trainee’s certificate expiration date must an affidavit of experience be submitted to the department. *See correct answer on Page 2*

Electrical Permit Fees

Permit fees are calculated using fee line items described in Sections (1) through (6) of [WAC 296-46B-906](#).

- Permit fees must support all inspections necessary to complete the inspection process, including all inspections made to verify that code violations are corrected.
- When permit fees do not support completion of the inspection process, progress inspection fees outlined in WAC 296-46B-906(8) (\$46.80 for each half hour) must be assessed in addition to those fees.
- When trip fees are charged in accordance with WAC 296-46B-906(7), those fees apply in addition to permit and progress inspection fees.

Code violations should be rarely found, especially on simple installations. Return trips are expensive for everyone. Before you request an inspection, verify that your installation meets code and ensure inspectors have access so they can approve your work!

You can download a copy of the permit fee schedule with explanatory notes by visiting the [Permit Fees](#) page of our website.

Class B Random Inspection Process Saves Time and Money

If you are a licensed electrical contractor and you are not using the Class B random inspection process for your minor electrical work, you should consider it. The Class B random inspection process is described in [WAC 296-46B-908](#). It is allowed for work that requires minimal electrical circuit modifications and has limited exposure hazards. To use the Class B process the scope of work must be as described in WAC 296-46B-908(10).

Class B labels are sold in books of twenty and currently cost about \$13 each compared to \$62 for a regular permit for added or altered residential circuits. Before beginning the work, the label(s) must be validated online by entering the jobsite information and who will be doing the work. Then, post the label or label number on the job site in accordance with the instructions.

You can purchase a book of Class B labels and have them delivered to you by contacting your [local L&I office](#).

Reciprocity Agreement Signed with Oregon for Journey-Level Electrician Certification

The Oregon Building Codes Division and the Washington State Department of Labor & Industries (L&I) have signed a reciprocal agreement allowing general journey level electricians certified in one state to apply for a certificate in the other state without having to take an examination under certain conditions.

You can get details about the agreement and the application process by visiting the [Journey Level Electrician](#) tab of our Electrical Licensing web page.

Safety Tip of the Month

Never leave energized conductors or equipment parts exposed. A missing cover on an energized electrical panel on a construction site can lead to tragedy. According to recent OSHA statistics, electrocution is the third leading cause of worker fatalities. Do not allow a serious unsafe condition such as exposed electrical wiring to ruin yours or someone else’s life on your jobsite.

2020 NEC 230.71 Maximum Number of Disconnects – Exemption for Listed Power Outlets and Metering Centers

Power outlets such as temporary construction services, recreational vehicle and mobile home services and pedestals, and marina power outlets are certified according to UL 231 Standard for Power Outlets. Electrical contractors have significant numbers of temporary services that will remain serviceable for many years that otherwise would have to be disposed of due to new requirements in 2020 NEC 230.71 for maximum number of disconnects. The department is hereby issuing a policy that will exempt power outlets listed under UL 231, where used as service equipment, from the requirements of 2020 NEC 230.71. This policy will be in place until further notice and give time for requirements in UL 231 to be updated and will give manufacturers time to revise their design and begin production and supply of the revised equipment.

Manufacturers need additional time to produce and distribute metering centers containing two to six service disconnects in the same enclosure in compliance with NEC 230.71. The department will delay the requirements of 2020 NEC 230.71 for metering centers until July 1, 2021.

Temporary Allowance Extended for Trainees to Work While Completing Classroom Training

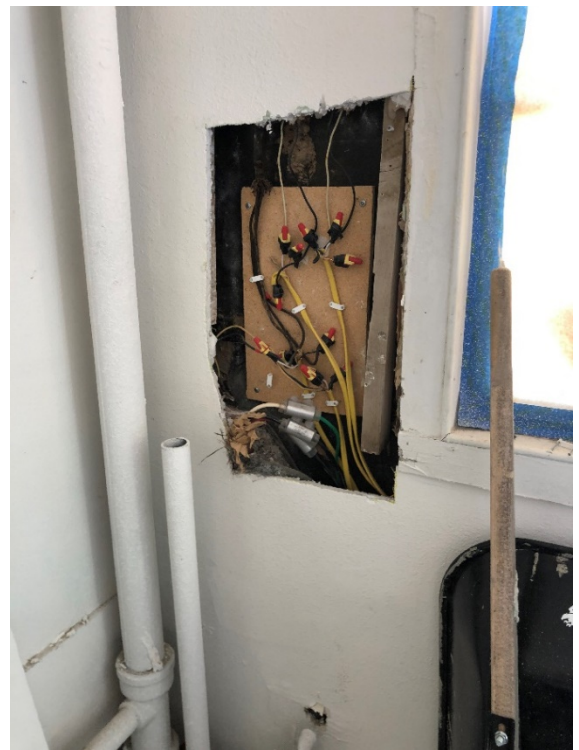
The COVID-19 pandemic has reduced availability of required classroom education for electrical trainees. Temporary measures are in place to increase availability of education during recovery. Trainees having certificates that expired on or after March 13, 2020, who have paid a renewal fee to renew them into inactive (“T”) status, may continue working in the trade while completing their classroom education until January 26, 2021.

On October 29, 2020 the new [2020 WAC 296-46B](#) takes effect, and with it, trainees cannot renew their certificates if they have not completed their required classroom education. If not renewed by the expiration date, a late renewal fee is required. Trainees expiring on or after October 29, 2020 may continue to work 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. This policy will remain until a date to be determined after the Governor declares the state is moving into Phase 4 of the recovery.

If you have a training certificate, now is the time to schedule your classroom education. 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.

Ugly Picture of the Month: *If viewing this document online, click on the picture to open a larger image.* The splices in the picture were concealed behind newly installed sheetrock. An unlicensed electrical contractor performed a panel change working under the homeowner’s permit. The panel was moved to a different location. The observant electrical inspector asked them to remove the sheetrock and discovered this hazardous installation.

Answer to Question of the Month: 180 days. [WAC 296-46B-942](#)(8)(d): Within one-hundred eighty days after the expiration date of an electrical training certificate, the individual, if not enrolled in a department approved apprenticeship program, must submit a completed, signed, and notarized [affidavit](#)(s) of experience for all hours of experience gained since the individual’s last training certificate was effective. Affidavits received more than 30 days after expiration of the certificate will require an additional fee to process. Those received more than 180 days after expiration will be denied. Avoid losing your experience hours. Turn in your affidavits of experience on time.



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<https://lni.wa.gov/licensing-permits/electrical/electrical-currents-newsletter/>

Electrical Section Internet Address: <https://www.lni.wa.gov/> - Select Licensing & Permits, then Electrical

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