

ELECTRICAL CURRENTS

A Newsletter from the Office of L&I Chief Electrical Inspector Wayne Molesworth

July 2022

Question of the Month

What is the penalty for the first-time offense of causing or failing to correct a serious violation? (A serious violation is, among other things, one that creates a hazard of fire or danger to life safety).

See the correct answer on Page 2.

What is the Big Deal About July 1, 2023?

On that date, a law passed in 2018 goes into effect. It requires:

- Trainees to be registered in apprenticeship programs when performing work limited to 01 journey level electricians.
- Employers to become apprenticeship training agents to employ apprentices.
- Trainees to complete an apprenticeship program to qualify for an 01 journey level exam.
- There are no changes for contractors performing only specialty work defined in WAC [296-46B-920\(2\)](#). Trainees doing only specialty work are not required to be registered apprentices.

A few things to consider now:

- **Apply for the 01 exam as soon as you have hours and education.** If you have not completed an apprenticeship program, make sure our electrical licensing section receives your application and supporting documentation before July 1, 2023. Before that date, applicants can qualify for examination without completing a formal apprenticeship program. Once a person applies and is approved for an exam, they are forever qualified to reapply and be approved, even if requirements to qualify change.
- **Do you have to start over in an apprenticeship program?** No. Apprenticeships programs can grant advanced standing based on experience hours approved by our electrical licensing section. Until July 1, 2023, apprenticeship programs can consider 01 industrial/commercial hours of experience and hours worked in the following specialty categories—02, 03, 04, 06, 06A, and 07 as well as approved training school and military experience. Anyone can view your hours by using our [Verify](#) tool.

Trainees considering becoming apprentices can claim credit for hours of experience by submitting one or more [Affidavit of Experience for Washington Electrical Trainees](#) (F500-149-000). See the form for information about fees and where to mail it.

- **Don't Wait.** Get all your documentation in as soon as you are able to ensure you get all your credit.
- **Good Cause.** From July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2025 there is a "good cause" provision in the law. It allows rules that may provide exceptions from apprenticeship completion requirements depending on circumstances. We are looking for ways to maximize this provision for everyone's benefit. L&I will file a CR-101 to begin formal rulemaking to define the "good cause" provision. Stay tuned, more to come in later editions of this newsletter.

You can stay up to date with the changes by checking out the website.

<https://lni.wa.gov/licensing-permits/electrical/electrical-licensing-exams-education/electrical-apprenticeship>

Safety Tip of the Month

A fall from a ladder could kill you or disable you permanently.

- Always use the right ladder for the job. A chair is not a ladder!
- Get help with heavy or long ladders.
- Make certain your footing is solid.

Review the OSHA ladder bulletin at:

<https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3625.pdf>

This document may contain hyperlinks to internet web pages.

Access this PDF document online at:

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

Electrical Section Internet Address: <https://www.lni.wa.gov/> -

Select Licensing & Permits, then Electrical



How to Avoid Employing People with Expired Certificates

Right now there are expired electricians and trainees working for unknowing electrical contractors. This can lead to trouble for everybody. It is not lawful to employ electricians and trainees while their certificates are expired or inactive. It is easy to check status by using our [Verify](#) tool. It displays certificate details, including:

- Expiration date and status
- Hours of education (both CEU and trainee basic classroom instruction)
- Lapses under Past and Related Licenses header
- Hours of experience
- Violations

As an employer, you may want to consider using a calendaring program to set a reminder 90 days prior to your employees' expiration date. If someone is looking for an approved class to fulfill their education requirements, you can refer them to the [Basic Classroom Instruction & Continuing Education](#) page on our website.

Why are My Affidavits Not Approved?

From the expiration date their training certificate, trainees who are not registered apprentices have 180 days to turn in affidavits for the previous 2 years. Affidavits received by L&I after the deadline are not approvable. There is no one with the authority to make an exception. Here are some other common reasons affidavits are denied:

- No update fee – see affidavit form for instructions
- Affidavit has errors, alterations or omissions
- The employer's permit history and payroll records do not support the amount or type of experience claimed.
- Claiming hours for periods when a training certificate has lapsed or expired.

For receipt of delivery, use certified mail. Find the mailing address and instructions on the form: [Affidavit of Experience for Washington Electrical Trainees](#) (F500-149-000). Learn more about [reporting hours of experience](#).

Want to be an Electrical Inspector?

Do you enjoy a challenge? Do you want to be home in the evenings? Have you ever thought about becoming an Electrical Inspector for L&I? It may be the right time for you because most regions of the state have openings. If you enjoy serving customers and interacting with many people everyday, this is the job for you. We offer a work/life balance that is difficult to find anywhere else. The electrical program ensures electrical safety in Washington and helps businesses by fighting underground electrical economy. Inspectors see a wide variety of interesting and complex electrical installations every day.

Find an application for an opening near you:

<https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/washington?keywords=L%26I%20electrical> .

For questions, please contact: Jobs@Lni.wa.gov.

Answer to Question of the Month: \$1000 - [WAC 296-46B-915](#)(13) specifies the penalty amounts for this violation. Second offense is \$3000 and the third offense is \$5000. Check out [WAC 296-46B-990](#)(3) to see what is defined as a serious violation. An act of serious noncompliance may also result in suspension or revocation of an electrical contractor's license or an electrician's certificate.

Picture of the Month: *If viewing this document online, Click on the picture to open a larger image.* The owner of this service didn't understand why it could not be reenergized until the inspector explained the problem of insects and birds making homes in the equipment.



This document may contain hyperlinks to internet web pages.

Access this PDF document online at: <https://lni.wa.gov/licensing-permits/electrical/electrical-currents-newsletter/>

Electrical Section website: www.lni.wa.gov/ - Select Licensing & Permits, then Electrical

This document is available in alternative formats to accommodate persons with disabilities. For assistance, call 1-800-547-8367. (TDD/TTY users, please call 360-902-5797.) Labor & Industries is an Equal Opportunity employer.