

ELECTRICAL CURRENTS

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

January 2024

Question of the Month:

Are line set covers used for mini-split HVAC systems a listed electrical raceway?

See the answer at the bottom of this page.

Inspector Training—No Electrical Inspections on January 9 and February 7, 2024

We regret the inconvenience this causes, but a statewide approach to training, improves consistency and is the most efficient way to educate our staff. The 2023 NEC tentatively becomes effective April 1, 2024. It is never too early to become familiar with it. Find a 2023 code update class [here](#).

Installing Type TC and MC for Mini-Split HVAC Systems

Manufacturers commonly specify Type TC or Type MC cable for wiring between outdoor and indoor mini-split HVAC equipment.

- Type MC: Install in accordance with NEC 330.
- Type TC: WAC [296-46B-336](#) allows the use of Type TC cable in any location allowed for nonmetallic sheathed cable in NEC 334 when installation requirements in NEC 336, 334, and WAC [296-46B-334](#) are met.
- Type TC-ER-JP (joist pull) must be used where pulled through building framing. For exposed runs, the cable must be marked Type TC-ER. You can find more information about cable markings in NEMA's [Technical Services Department Bulletin](#).

Exposed cables must be installed and protected from physical damage in accordance with NEC It is never appropriate to use mechanical piping such as mini-split line sets to support Type TC or Type MC cable.

How to get a reprint of your certificate

To locate your certificate number, use our [Verify](#) tool if you need to. Have your credit card ready or have a check in hand. Review the steps below before clicking on [CHANGE, RENEW OR REPLACE](#).

- 1- Enter info requested – you will know it all.
- 2- Proceed until you reach the **Manage Your License** screen.
- 3- Review your address, phone number and email. Select the **Update** link to make changes.
- 4- Select the **Track Progress and Renew** link if you need to renew, or
- 5- Select **Reprint** to order a replacement. (Allowed 30 days after last print)

Your receipt acts as your license or certificate until your new one arrives by mail within 4-5 weeks

Answer to the Question of the Month: No. Wiring routed within line set covers must be properly supported and protected from physical damage by a raceway, barrier, or separation achieved by independent supports for wiring and mechanical lines within the line set cover.

This document may contain hyperlinks to internet web pages.

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Select Licensing & Permits, then Electrical

Safety Tip of the Month

According the National Fire Protection Association's (NFPA) [Carbon Monoxide Safety](#) publication:

- A person can be poisoned by a small amount of carbon monoxide (CO) over a longer period of time or by a large amount of CO over a shorter amount of time.
- In 2010, U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated 80,100 nonfire CO incidents in which carbon monoxide was found, or an average of nine calls per hour.

2023 Rulemaking Update - Code Adoption and Fee Increase

1. Code Adoption

Rulemaking to adopt the 2023 NEC and to make other rule changes is underway. The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) provided advice regarding outside and department rule proposals during their July 11, 2023 meeting. The [Electrical Board](#) provided advice during their October 26, 2023 meeting.

On December 5, a CR-102 was filed that includes proposed rules language, a preliminary cost benefit analysis, and notice of the public hearing and comment period. Details of the filing are available on our [Rule Development](#) webpage.

How you can participate

A public hearing on the proposed rules will take place **Jan. 9, 2024, at 9 a.m.** at: [L&I headquarters, 7273 Linderson Way S.W., Tumwater, WA](#). Learn more about how you can participate on our [Rule Development](#) page

Here is what happens next:

- February 2024: The final rules (CR-103) are expected to be filed with the state Office of the Code Reviser.
- April 1, 2024: The new rules and adoption of the 2023 NEC are expected to take effect.
- Exams will continue to be based on the 2020 NEC until early 2025, exact date TBD.

See the [April 2023 Special Edition Electrical Currents Newsletter](#) for more details about the entire process.

The updated WAC and 2023 NEC will apply to installations when issue dates of electrical permits are on and after adoption dates. There are 2 exceptions:

(a) New one- and two-family dwellings, or multifamily dwellings where the issue date of building permits for the premises is before the adoption date; or

(b) New installations where plan review is required by WAC [296-46B-900](#) when plans are received and accepted for review before the adoption date.

2. Fee Increase

We are proposing a 6.40% fee increase to support operating expenses for electrical inspections and other electrical public safety activities. The increase is the Office of Financial Management's maximum allowable fiscal growth factor rate for fiscal year 2025. Our current fee levels are not adequate to cover current Program expenses. A fee increase is necessary to ensure the Programs' revenues match expenditures.

A public hearing on the proposed rules will take place **Jan. 26, 2024, at 9 a.m.** at: [L&I headquarters, 7273 Linderson Way S.W., Tumwater, WA](#). Learn more about how you can participate on our [Rule Development](#) page.

Here is what happens next:

- March 2024: The new fee rules are adopted.
- July 1, 2024: New fees tentatively become effective.
- Fees for permit and permit fee line items will increase on the effective date.

Picture of the Month: The cover for this mini-split HVAC line set has expanded and contracted in the elements. You can see the conductors exposed at the bottom of the channel. Line set covers are not an approved raceway for conductors.



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