

ELECTRICAL CURRENTS

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

January 2025

Question of the Month - In the 2023 NEC what is the load calculation requirement for EV charging equipment?

See Page 2 for the answer.

Inspector Training—No Electrical Inspections Wednesday, February 12, 2025

A statewide approach to training improves consistency and is the most efficient way to educate our staff. We regret the inconvenience this causes, please plan accordingly.

Electrical Program is Considering a Proposed Increase to Electrical Fees

The department is considering increasing fees by 6.41% for the Electrical Program to support increased expenses associated with inspections and licensing. This is the Office of Financial Management's (OFM) maximum allowable fiscal growth rate for fiscal year (FY) 2026. Each November, OFM's Expenditure Limit Committee adjusts the limit for the previous and current fiscal year for fiscal growth factors, and projects a limit for the following two years. The fiscal growth factor of 6.41% is based upon OFM's projections and is subject to revision.

The last fiscal growth factor increase took effect on July 1, 2024. A fee increase enables the program to continue providing quality and timely services to assure safe electrical installations and inspection in homes, businesses, industry and institutions to protect people and property from electrical hazards.

Watch for more information about this rule making in the coming months. You can find more information about these and other rule making activities on the [Rule Development](#) tab of our web page.

Can Construction Contractors Install, Remove or Replace PV panels?

The short answer is no. Photovoltaic (PV) panels, often referred to as solar panels, generate electricity and are part of the electrical construction trade regulated by the electrical laws—RCW 19.28.

Individuals and contractors performing installations or maintenance of PV systems must be [licensed electrical contractors](#) and employ properly [certified electricians](#), unless exempt pursuant to RCW [19.28.091](#) or [261](#). For building integrated PV panels that function as windows or roofing materials, see WAC [296-46B-690](#).

"Electrical construction trade" activities are described by the definition in RCW [19.28.006\(7\)](#) which includes, but is not limited to, installing or maintaining electrical wires and equipment that are used for light, heat, or power and installing and maintaining remote control, signaling, power limited, or communication circuits or systems. Find the definition of the term "installation" in WAC [296-46B-100](#).

Safety Tip of the Month

As an electrical professional, be alert for electrical hazards on the jobsite that may injure or kill unsuspecting coworkers. Never leave an energized electrical panel without a cover. Make sure receptacles used for temporary power are GFCI protected, and be on the lookout for improper temporary wiring splices and damaged cords or tools.

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Working clearances for transformers

Transformers that have no operable parts are not considered “*equipment likely to require examination, adjustment, servicing, or maintenance while energized*”. What is the minimum working clearance?

There is not a set minimum distance. Installers must provide adequate clearance to access, repair, or service interior parts of transformers once

If you have any doubt, working clearances in compliance with NEC 110.26, 110.32, and 110.34 will always be considered adequate. If you are still not sure, check with your local electrical inspector.

NFPA seeks feedback on proposed reorganization of the 2029 National Electrical Code

December 19, 2024 –The [National Fire Protection Association](#)® (NFPA®) today announced that the National Electrical Code® (NEC) Correlating Committee is seeking feedback on its proposed reorganization of the 2029 edition of [NFPA 70®](#), [National Electrical Code](#)®. The NEC is the most widely used installation safety code in the U.S. and utilized globally to safeguard people and property from electrical hazards.

The NEC Correlating Committee is seeking feedback on the [proposed reorganization of the 2029 NEC](#). Restructuring the existing document, according to NFPA, will enhance the ease of learning, understanding, and applying NEC requirements in today’s rapidly advancing energy landscape.

As is the case each time the NEC is revised, stakeholders will have the opportunity to participate in the 2029 NEC revision process and are encouraged to submit public inputs and comments for consideration by the NEC Code-Making Panels.

To learn more about the revised organizational structure of the 2029 NEC, visit [nfpa.org/NEC_reorg](#) and download the free PDF to review the proposed changes. Submit feedback to the NEC restructure team before July 1, 2025, at NECrestructure@nfpa.org.

For the full article of this release and other announcements about NFPA initiatives, research, and resources, please visit the [NFPA press room](#).

Answer to Question of the Month: NEC 220.57 requires EVSE loads to be calculated at either 7200 watts or the nameplate rating whichever is greater. 625.42 provides additional guidance that EVSE are continuous loads, and must be able to supply the load, with provisions for energy management systems and adjustable settings.

Find the definition of term “EVSE” in NEC Article 100.

Picture of the Month: *If viewing this document online, click on the picture to open a larger image.* This disconnect was reconnected during a panel replacement. Immediate concerns are unclosed openings, corrosion/debris in electrical equipment, identification of conductors and foil wrapped ruptured fuses.



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