

# ELECTRICAL CURRENTS

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

June 2025

## Question of the Month

What is the minimum number of wires required within electrical metallic tubing installed on the outside of a building to supply an HVAC unit rated at 208V threephase? – See correct answer on page 2.

## Electrical Fee Increase – Effective July 1, 2025

For a few months, we have been updating you about changes in our fee schedule. A fee increase allows the program to continue providing services to help assure safe electrical installations to protect people and property from electrical hazards.

To keep up with higher costs associated with inspection and licensing services, we have adopted rules to increase electrical fees based on the Office of Financial Management (OFM) 6.41% [fiscal growth factor](#) projections. We are currently updating all of our forms and webpages. Fees are always up to date for our online services. If you need to use a form, up to date forms found on our [website](#) and dispose of any stock of printed forms.

Documents cannot be processed until correct fees are paid. Incorrect fees result in delays and added work for all of us.

Find [fees effective July 1, 2025](#).

## Legislative Update

The legislature passed two bills in the 2025 session affecting electrical laws:

- [SB 5265](#) - Electrical inspector experience requirements have been expanded to include 4 years of journey level certification/license from a state that has a reciprocal agreement with Washington for journey level electricians. We are party to a reciprocal agreement with Oregon, no other states. The bill becomes effective on July 27, 2025. After this date, L&I and city jurisdictions can hire eligible Oregon electricians as electrical inspectors.
- [SSB 5528](#) - Concerning the installation of electric vehicle supply equipment on public works projects. Installations under contract before January 1, 2026 are not affected by this bill. The bill requires additional certification for electric vehicle supply equipment installers through the electric vehicle infrastructure training program (EVITP). Registered apprentices supervised by appropriately certified electricians are not subject to this requirement.

## Have You Heard About Changes Coming in the 2026 NEC?

The second draft of the 2026 NEC and public comment is found under the “Next Edition” tab at <https://www.nfpa.org/codes-and-standards/nfpa-70-standard-development/70>.

Take a look at the second draft so you know what is coming before publication of the 2026 NEC in the fall of 2025.

## Safety Tip of the Month

♪ School's out for summer ♪  
Pay attention! Put the phone down and be alert for children, pedestrians, skateboarders, and cyclists.

Summer brings many new safety concerns for drivers and pedestrians.

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## Exception to 2023 NEC 230.71(B)(4) Requirements for Metering Centers

Manufacturing capacity continues to improve, but has not reached a level where it can support the market with equipment that meets new requirements. Until July 1, 2026, requirements for separate compartments for service disconnects do not apply to metering centers with 2 – 6 service disconnects that comply with all of the following:

1. Voltage to ground is 150 volts or less.
2. Equipment must comply with 2023 NEC 230.62(C) to ensure there are no hazards from live parts on the line side of service disconnects. Barriers and insulation must be factory installed by the original equipment manufacturer, field -installed using the manufacturer's instructions and accessories, or field evaluated by an accredited electrical product testing laboratory.

We will only extend this allowance if manufacturing capacity does not improve. More information to come in future editions of this newsletter.

## New Rule Making Proposals

L&I is proposing changes to the electrical rules. We filed a [CR-101](#) on May 6, 2025.

- Amending [WAC 296-46B-010, General](#). We are proposing an adoption date for the 2026 NEC. Before the adoption stakeholders will have the opportunity to submit proposals to amend the 2026 NEC before it become effective.
- Amending [WAC 296-46B-334, Nonmetallic-sheathed cable](#). This change would allow calculating minimum conductor sizes at a higher temperature rating allowing more options for installations.
- Amending [WAC 296-46B-942, Training certificate required](#). Clarifying deadlines for affidavits of experience for hours worked as an electrical trainee not registered in an approved apprenticeship program.

Here's what's next:

- By July 2025, we will post a draft version of the proposed rules on our website for your review and comment.
- Sept 2: The proposed rules (CR-102) are expected to be filed with the state Office of the Code Reviser.
- Oct. 7: A public hearing on the proposed rules is tentatively scheduled.
- Nov. 18: The final rules (CR-103), if adopted, is expected to be filed with the state Office of the Code Reviser.
- Dec. 19: The rule changes would take effect.

All are welcome to participate in this process. You can find more information about this rulemaking at L&I's [Rulemaking Activity page](#) or on the [Electrical Program's rulemaking page](#).

## Answer to Question of the Month: Answer: Four

WAC [296-46B-358\(2\)](#) requires an equipment grounding conductor in all EMT installed in wet locations.

## Picture of the Month:

The owner is converting their garage into living space. When they took the sheeting off the walls, they found open wiring that was done with out a permit or inspection. Before the inspection process for the remodel is complete, this hazard must be corrected.



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