

ELECTRICAL CURRENTS

A Newsletter from the Office of L&I Chief Electrical Inspector Wayne Molesworth November 2025

Questions of the Month: Which of the following statements correctly describes the requirements for electrical equipment exposed to water under WAC 296-46B?

- A. All electrical equipment must be reconditioned by a certified electrician.
- B. Only sealed devices and controllers must be replaced after water exposure.
- C. Breakers, fuses, receptacles, and sealed devices must be replaced; other equipment must be replaced or reconditioned by the original manufacturer or approved representative.
- D. Electrical wiring and appliances can be reused if inspected by the local authority having jurisdiction.

Rulemaking Update

Proposed rules apply to: 2026 NEC adoption, NM-B temperature rating, clarifying deadlines for trainees to report hours of work experience

The agency filed a [CR-102 Proposed Rulemaking](#) on Sept. 2, 2025. A public hearing was held on October, 7th, 2025. The final rules are scheduled to be filed with the office of the code revisor on November 18, 2025. If adopted, the rules would take effect Dec. 19, 2025.

Review the [draft proposed rules](#). Learn more: [L&I rulemaking](#) or the [Electrical Laws, Rules and Policies page](#).

Licensing and Certification is Required for Class A Basic Electrical Work

Rules define the term "[Class A basic electrical work](#)" identifies work that is exempt from permitting and inspection. Other considerations:

- Even though Class A work does not require permits and inspections, if you are not the property owner, only licensed electrical contractors employing certified electricians can perform Class A basic electrical work.
- Nothing in [RCW 19.28.041](#) or [.161](#) provides an exemption from licensing and certification requirements for performing Class A basic electrical work.

If you have questions about electrical licensing and certification requirements, contact your local [field office](#).

VEI Inspections: Are You Ready Now?

The [Virtual Electrical Inspection](#) (VEI) program offers convenient options for [eligible installations](#).

There are now two ways to get a VEI inspection:

- Join the [Ready Now](#) queue inspected in the order received. Be ready for an inspector to contact you within a few minutes.
- Schedule a [fixed appointment](#) for a set date and time.

Whichever one you choose, make sure you have all panels, boxes, and equipment open and ready for inspection.

Safety Tip of the Month

Electricians face daily risks—shock, burns, arc flash. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) like insulated gloves, flame-resistant clothing, and safety glasses is your shield. Inspect gear before use and replace anything damaged. PPE isn't just compliance—it's defense.

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Select Licensing & Permits, then Electrical



Trainees: What Happens if you do not Have Enough Hours to Apply for the (01) General Journey Level Electrician Exam Before July 1, 2026?

To qualify for the (01) journey level exam, under the [3,000 hour provision](#), all affidavits, exam applications, and supporting documents must be received **before** July 1, 2026. After that date, unless you are qualifying for a specialty electrician exam, applicants must complete a registered apprenticeship to qualify for the (01) exam.

What happens to your experience if you must join an registered apprenticeship?

When a trainee enters an electrical apprenticeship—either by applying directly or through an employer who becomes a training agent—they may receive credit for previous work experience. Apprenticeship programs have a process to evaluate this experience and may award advanced standing if it has already been approved by the electrical program. If the trainee holds a 4,000-hour specialty electrician certification, the apprenticeship program must grant them 4,000 hours of credit on the job training credit towards the term of their apprenticeship.

The 4,000-hour specialties are described in WAC 296-46b-945, [Table 1](#). Additionally, apprenticeships may evaluate industrial/commercial (01) experience for advanced standing, potentially reducing the time required to complete a registered apprenticeship

Divisional Name Change Announcement

L&I includes many divisions. For several years, the electrical program was part of Field Service and Public Safety. Following a recent internal reorganization, we are now part of a newly formed division: Customer Service, Compliance, and Public Safety.

Become an Electrical Construction Inspector

Explore current openings for Inspector 1 positions at careers.wa.gov. After successfully completing a two-year training period, you'll be promoted to Inspector 2.

How to Qualify:

- Meet the minimum requirements listed in the job posting.
- Score at least 70% on an open-book assessment within two weeks of the posting's close.
- The assessment covers the 2020 NEC, electrical theory, wiring diagrams, and Washington laws and rules.

No computers or cell phones are allowed during the test.

For questions or to schedule your assessment: Email: electricalassessment@lni.wa.gov

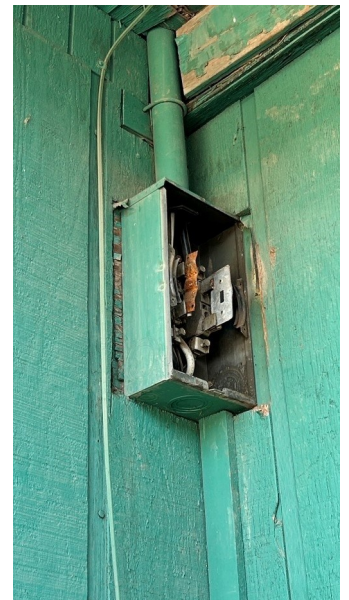
Assessment Locations & Schedule:

- 1st Tuesday of each month: 7273 Linderson Way SW, Tumwater
- 2nd Tuesday of each month: 12806 Gateway Drive S, Tukwila
- 3rd Tuesday of each month: 901 N Monroe Street, Suite 100, Spokane

Answer to Question of the Month: The correct answer is C.

Devices like breakers, fuses, and sealed equipment must be replaced. Other equipment may be replaced or reconditioned, but only by the original manufacturer or its approved representative. Learn more about floods and natural disasters on our [website](#).

Picture of the Month: An inspector found someone stealing power. I wonder what the ampacity of that switch cover?



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