

ELECTRICAL CURRENTS



Question of the Month –

Which specialties under WAC [296-46B-920](#) may install a new septic pump controller with overcurrent protection and disconnects, along with ultraviolet water treatment equipment and sand filters, on an existing branch circuit in a single-family dwelling?

Deadline Approaching for Trainees to Qualify for the (01) General Journey Level Exam

July 1, 2026, marks the expiration of RCW [19.28.195](#), a law that allows temporary exceptions for trainees who want to qualify for the (01) general journey level electrical exam without registering as an apprentice. After this date, no one can qualify for the (01) exam based on hours of experience and basic classroom instruction alone.

Deadline: Trainees may qualify for the (01) journey level examination without completing the work experience and education requirements of a registered Washington general journey level (01) apprenticeship program if the department receives *all* the following documentation before July 2, 2026:

- [Work experience](#) totaling 8,000 hours (minimum 4,000 hours of new commercial/industrial experience)
- At least 96 hours of [basic classroom instruction](#)
- A complete [exam application and fee](#)

Trainees qualifying under the exception must provide all the required documentation to the Department *before* the deadline. Documents arriving after the deadline cannot be considered to qualify for exam. Late and incomplete submissions will be denied.

After July 1, 2026, anyone who has not met all requirements above must complete the work experience and education requirements of a registered Washington general journey level (01) apprenticeship program to qualify for the (01) general journey level exam.

Trainees and employers should review their records now, ensure all documentation is complete, and submit any outstanding items as soon as possible to avoid missing the deadline.

After July 1, 2026, Exceptions End - Apprenticeship Registration Required for Trainees Not Performing Work Included in a Specialty.

Any exceptions provided for trainees end on July 1, 2026, when RCW [19.28.195](#) expires. Trainees not performing work included in a [specialty](#) must be registered in an apprenticeship program approved under chapter [49.04](#) or an equivalent Oregon or Montana approved apprenticeship program. Learn more: www.lni.wa.gov/ElectricalApprenticeship.

Working Clearances for Transformers: No Fixed Minimum

Transformers are not considered equipment that requires examination or maintenance while energized, so there is no fixed minimum working-clearance distance provided conductor terminations, taps, and other service points are accessible without removing adjacent equipment or parts of the building.

Safety Tip of the Month

Spring rain increases the danger of electrical shock, equipment failure, and unexpected energization. Wet surfaces conduct electricity, turning tools, cords, and panels into high-risk contact points.

Keep equipment dry, use proper grounding and GFCI protection, and stop work immediately if moisture reaches energized parts. Stay vigilant around all wet conditions.

Rulemaking Updates

2026 National Electric Code Amendments and WAC Rule Update.

Thank you to everyone who submitted rule proposals or applied to join the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). The time to submit proposals and applications is now closed. We are currently making TAC selections, and you may find rule proposals posted [here](#) very soon. Find the details of this process in the [January 2026 Special Edition](#) of this newsletter.

Here is what is coming next:

- April 1, 2026 – TAC meeting at L&I Headquarters Tumwater
- August 2026 — Public hearing tentatively scheduled. During the public hearing in August, all stakeholders will have opportunities to provide written comments and offer public testimony.

Learn more on our [rulemaking page](#).

Proposed Fee Increases for Electrical and Related Programs

The Washington State Department of Labor & Industries (L&I) proposes a 6.51% fee increase for programs involving the trades. See the details in last month's [Electrical Currents Newsletter](#).

A public hearing on the proposed rules will take place **9 a.m. on March 12** at [L&I headquarters, 7273 Linderson Way S.W., Tumwater, WA](#). Besides attending in-person, you can also join by:

Zoom: Click [here](#) to join the meeting Passcode: J^7TYS7*

Telephone: 253-215-8782 **Meeting ID:** 838 1709 2455 **Passcode:** 96881303

The hearing will continue until all oral comments are received.

You can provide testimony and written comments during the hearing, or send written comments by **5 p.m. on Thursday, March 12** to: **Meagan Edwards** Email: CSCPSRules@Lni.wa.gov Fax: 360-704-1980

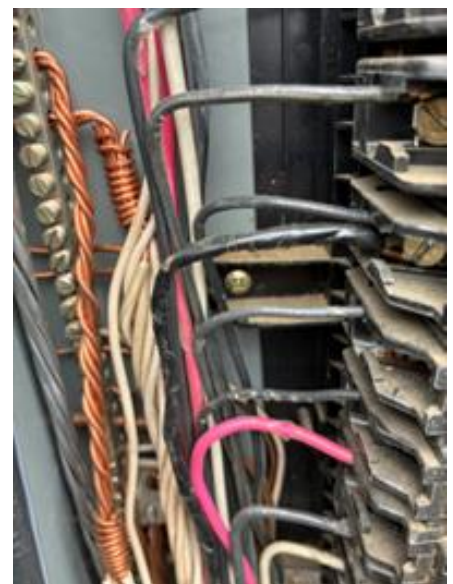
Mail: Department of Labor & Industries
Field Services & Public Safety Division
P.O. Box 44400
Olympia, WA 98504-4400

We welcome your participation in this process. If you need additional information or have questions, please contact Meagan Edwards at 360-522-0125, or CSCPSRules@Lni.wa.gov.

Answer to the Question of the Month – The 02, 03 and 03A specialties.

- WAC 296-46B-920(2)(a)(i) authorizes the **02 Residential** specialty to perform this work, including wiring for ancillary structures on the same property, such as septic pump systems.
- WAC 296-46B-920(2)(c) authorizes the **03A Domestic Well** specialty to extend an existing branch circuit—installed by others—to motor-control circuits and pumps up to 7½ horsepower serving residential water or sewage-disposal systems.
- WAC 296-46B-920(2)(b) authorizes the **03 Domestic Pump** specialty to perform all work allowed under 03A.

Picture of the Month – An electrical inspector found this installation while performing an inspection for a new feeder in a home. Do you know where in the code it does not allow you to put more than one grounded conductor under a single termination?



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