

ELECTRICAL CURRENTS



Question of the Month – We are taking a break from questions and pictures this month.

Wayne Molesworth Retiring

Chief Electrical Inspector Wayne Molesworth will retire on June 30 after more than 34 years of dedicated service to the state of Washington and L&I's Electrical Program. Wayne shared that he is grateful for the many people who supported, mentored, and worked alongside him throughout his career and the partnership and collaboration with the electrical industry. He reflected on how meaningful the agency's mission has been to him and how the people he worked with made leaving the job harder than he expected.

Wayne noted that the work was not always easy, but the dedication of his colleagues and dedication to excellence of the electrical industry, kept him motivated. He recalled a moment when someone reminded him that hope is not a course of action, and that progress comes from making things happen. As he steps into retirement, he said he will continue to draw on the knowledge and encouragement he gained from those around him. He emphasized that this moment is not about his retirement, but about the people who helped him reach it.

Wayne plans to travel, spend time with his children and grandchildren, revive his golfing habit, enjoy some fishing, and spend time with Nita, his wife of 46 years. He may even keep his fingers in the electrical industry.

Thank you, Wayne, for your exceptional work, leadership, and commitment to the state of Washington—and especially to the Electrical Program. Your impact will be felt for years to come.

Randy Barnes Selected as the New Chief Electrical Inspector

Randy Barnes has been selected as the new chief of L&I's Electrical Program. He has more than 36 years of experience in the electrical construction industry. His career began as an electrical material handler and progressed through the trade as an apprentice, journey-level electrician, supervisor, and project manager/estimator in the private sector.

During his 10 years with L&I, Randy has taken on several key roles, including electrical inspector, supervisor, and technical specialist. His broad industry knowledge, leadership experience, and long-standing commitment to L&I make him exceptionally well suited for this position.

Randy started his new position as the Chief on June 1, 2026, to support a smooth transition working with Wayne until the end of the month. Welcome to your new role Randy!

Electrical Program Fee Increase

A 6.51% fee increase takes effect on July 1, 2026. It applies to all fees received on or after that date. Fees for online services are always current. When using electrical forms that require fees, check the bottom of the page for the date of 7-2026 to ensure the fees are current. Learn more on our [rule development](#) page.

Safety Tip of the Month
As summer begins, electricians should stay alert to heat stress, dehydration, and sun exposure. Drink water often, take shade breaks, and watch for dizziness or fatigue in yourself and coworkers. Keep tools cool, inspect cords softened by heat, and stay focused when working outdoors.



Grace Period for Trainees is Ending on July 1, 2026

Deadline for qualifying for exam under the grace period: Before July 2, 2026, the following must be received by L&I: The applicant's [completed exam application and fee](#), outstanding [documentation of work experience](#), and evidence they completed 96 hours of [basic classroom instruction](#).

The [law that created a grace period](#) allowing certain trainees to continue working and gaining hours of (01) experience without being registered in an apprenticeship program is no longer in effect after July 1, 2026.

After that date, all trainees must be registered in (01) general journey level electrician apprenticeship programs if they are performing (01) type work – work not included in a [specialty](#). Trainees are not required to be registered apprentices to work in a specialty.

For trainees qualifying under the grace period, L&I cannot approve applications for (01) exams received after July 1, 2026. It is the last day the law allows trainees to qualify for an (01) exam without completing the work and education requirements of an approved registered apprenticeship program.

GFCI Protection Requirements Delayed

Appliance manufacturers and standards organizations need more time to ensure compatibility with new GFCI protection requirements. For this reason, we are delaying enforcement of the following until December 31, 2026:

1. 2023 NEC 210.8(A) and (B) for 250-volt receptacles for electric ranges, wall mounted ovens and counter mounted cooking equipment.
2. 2023 NEC 210.8(D)(8), (9), and (10) for 250-volt electric ranges, wall mounted ovens and counter mounted cooking equipment.
3. 2023 NEC 210.08(F) Exception 2 for listed HVAC equipment expires on December 31, 2026, unless extended by proposed rule.

Electrical Vehicle Supply & Competency Exams Rules Update

Version 3, a preliminary draft of the proposed rules, will be posted on our [Electrical Rule Development webpage](#) soon. We expect to file the CR-102 Proposed Rules in July of 2026, followed by a formal public comment period and a public hearing. Version 3 amends Version 2 by including the Version 1 proposal to amend WAC [296-46B-960](#) by extending exam approvals from one year to two years and reducing the maximum waiting period between exam attempts to 60 days.

Version 3 also includes the Version 2 proposed repeal of rules for special accommodation for those with disabilities and limited English proficiency under WAC [296-46B-960](#)(4) and (5). Requirements and allowances for special accommodation are regulated under federal regulations. Federal regulations are supreme, they cannot be amended by state rules.

Septic Alarm Circuits for On-Site Sewage Disposal Systems.

On-site sewage disposal systems are defined under RCW [70A.105.020](#). When they include pumps, they must have audible and visual alarms designed to alert residents of a malfunction. The alarm must be placed on a circuit independent of the pump circuit to prevent it from losing power if the pump circuit trips.

For the purposes of this article and WAC [296-46B-501\(8\)](#), the alarm circuit is independent from the pump circuit when supplied by either of the following:

1. Independently operable branch circuit overcurrent devices, one for the alarm, another for the pump. Alarms are commonly powered from a nearby circuit. Pumps are usually supplied by an individual branch circuit to comply with NEC 210.23(B)(2).
2. Independently operable supplementary overcurrent protective devices located in an industrial control panel used for the system. The NEC definition of "Overcurrent Protective Device, Supplementary" applies accordingly.

NEC requirements for GFCI protection for outdoor outlets for dwellings apply. The term "outlet" is defined by the NEC.

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