

ELECTRICAL CURRENTS



Question of the Month – True or False: Under [electrical laws](#), once an inspector approves an installation, are contractors and installers liable or responsible for the installation?

A Note from the Chief Electrical Inspector - We Need Your Help with Virtual Inspection Workload

Whenever you can, plan for inspections earlier in the day.

[Virtual Electrical Inspections](#) (VEI) are more popular than ever, but high late day demand is causing long wait times.

One-day projects usually need afternoon inspections. Not every project does. Mornings are a great time for ongoing progress inspections. Wait times are usually short or nonexistent during that time.

Too many are waiting until the end of the day to jump into the “Ready Now” queue. When we first started the queue, the longest wait time was about 15 minutes. Now, you might wait 45 minutes or longer for an inspection. The afternoon rush starts at about noon and never lets up. We can all benefit by increasing the number of morning inspections.

Rule Making Update

We are proposing changes to state electrical rules before the 2026 National Electrical Code (NEC) becomes effective on December 31, 2026.

A public hearing on the [proposed rules](#) will take place **Sept. 14, at 9 a.m.**

Location: [L&I headquarters, 7273 Linderson Way S.W., Tumwater, WA.](#) The hearing will continue until all comments are received. Besides in-person, you can also join by:

Zoom meeting: Click [here](#) to join the meeting, Passcode: ElectCA1

Or calling: 253-215-8782 Meeting ID: 860 7077 3859 Passcode: 432966118

You can provide testimony and written comments during the hearing, or send written comments by **5 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 14** to: Meagan Edwards - Email: CSCPRules@lni.wa.gov - Phone: 360-522-0125 - Fax: 360-704-1980

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

If you require communication or accommodation arrangements, please contact Meagan Edwards, by Aug. 31, 2026.

About the rulemaking

The department reviewed the existing rules and the 2026 NEC to update rules for consistency with the latest national standards. A Technical Advisory Committee consisting of stakeholders and the Electrical Board reviewed proposals and provided advice. This rulemaking proposes changes that were identified during the formal review process. You can review the proposed rules [here](#).

L&I filed a [CR-102](#) Proposal on Aug. 4. If adopted, the rule changes would take effect on December 31, 2026.

Safety Tip of the Month

Using an incorrectly rated multi-meter can cause the tool to explode in your hands during a voltage spike. Always verify your meter is CAT III or CAT IV rated for the specific environment you are testing. Inspect the test leads for cracks, exposed copper, or loose probes before every use. Never switch meter functions while the leads are actively connected to a live circuit.

Year in Review

In the year ending on June 30, 2026, the electrical program delivered:

257,111 total inspections, 55,884 of them done through our [Virtual Electrical Inspection](#) program.

82% of inspections completed within 24 hours of request

92% of inspections completed within 48 hours of request

58,153 corrections written - 53% for serious safety concerns

1.62 million miles driven

171,419 permits sold – 92.6% are contractor permits 98.6% of permits purchased online

74.9% of inspection requests made online

4,806 pages reviewed by plans examiners - 100% of plans were submitted online

20,031 licenses and certificates processed - 92% online

6,664 new trainee certificates issued – 91.4% online

5 million hours of experience reviewed by the technical review team – approximately 86.5% approved, remaining hours were not approved because the applicant had all hours needed to qualify for exam or were denied for cause.

This is just a snap shot of all the hard work that the electrical program staff did last year.

Last Year's Most Issued Corrections

2,210 - No access for inspection - RCW 19.28.101

1,544 - GFCI protection in dwellings - NEC 210.8(A)

1530 - Notifying the department work was ready for inspection when it was not ready - WAC 296-46B-906(7)(B)

1,009 - Not following the manufacturer's instructions - NEC 110.3(B)

749 - Circuit directory or circuit description - NEC 408.4(A)

571 - Visible for inspection - WAC 296-46B-010(4)

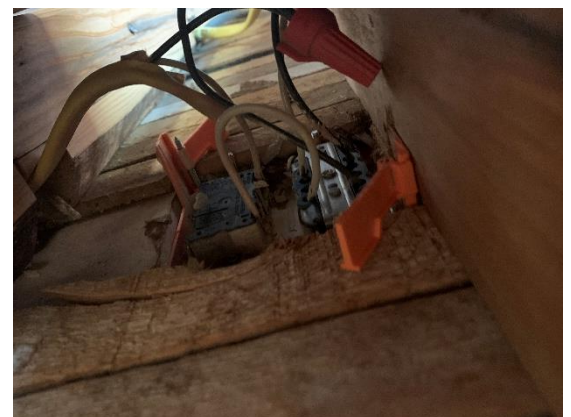
419 - No grounding electrode conductor installed - NEC 250.24(A)

Answer to the Question of the month:

False - Under [state laws](#), passing an inspection does nothing to lessen the responsibility or liability of any person that made the installation. Inspectors assume no responsibility because they are not present for every step of the installation and have no control of what happens after inspection approval.

Picture of the Month: During a cover inspection for a remodel in home the inspector took a look through an opening in the wall and found this installation. There are many code violations.

- No Junction Box (NEC 300.15)
- Open Splices / Exposed Wiring (NEC 300.11 & 314.25)
- Improper Device Mounting (NEC 314.20)
- Lack of Cable Clamps / Strain Relief (NEC 314.17)
- Concealed Junctions / Accessibility (NEC 314.29)



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