

Information Packet

Public Hearing: Electrical Rules

Date: January 4, 2023
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Location: Department of Labor & Industries
7273 Linderson Way SW
Tumwater, Washington 98501

Zoom Meeting

Please click the link below to join the meeting:

<https://lni-wa-gov.zoom.us/j/87951302240?pwd=MFpPVjhnWHVFS2p1YjRpdlZhZkMwQT09>

Passcode: Hearing!1

To join by phone:
1-253-215-8782
Meeting ID: 879 5130 2240
Passcode: 434720791

The [Washington State Department of Labor & Industries](#) (L&I) will hold a public hearing on the proposed amendments to the electrical rules under [WAC 296-46B-945, Qualifying for master, journey level, specialty electrician examinations](#). The purpose of the hearing is to receive public comment on the proposed amendments.

This rulemaking proposes amendments to the qualifications for journey level electrician examinations under WAC 296-46B-945. Rules are required to implement Substitute Senate Bill 6126 (SSB 6126) (Chapter 249, Laws of 2018). SSB 6126 enacted apprenticeship requirements for journey level electrician examination candidates that take effect July 1, 2023.

SSB 6126 gives L&I the authority, until July 1, 2025, to permit applicants that have obtained experience and training equivalent to a journey level apprenticeship program to take the examination, if the applicant has “good cause” for not completing the minimum hours of work applicable on July 1, 2023 (RCW 19.28.195). L&I is authorized to exercise this discretion until July 1, 2025.

Under the proposed rules, L&I is exercising the discretion provided in the law to allow temporary alternative pathways to qualify for the 01 journey level electrician examination through a “good cause” exemption.

The proposed amendments:

- Remove language that applies to qualifying for 01 journey level electrician examination with on-the-job-training that becomes obsolete on July 1, 2023, due to passage of SSB 6126.
- Provide exceptions to apprenticeship completion requirements to qualify for 01 journey level electrician examination for “good cause” until July 1, 2025. Due to the universal effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, “good cause” will be granted until July 1, 2025 to journey level examination candidates who meet the experience identified under the exceptions. The proposed changes for the exceptions include:
 - Modifying the requirements to qualify for the 01 journey level electrician examination for apprentices registered in chapter 49.04 RCW programs. Allows apprentices to qualify for

- examination before completing an apprenticeship program once they complete the education and work experience required of the apprenticeship program.
- Recognizing examination based state-licensed electricians from other jurisdictions that require 8,000 hours of experience (4,000 hours must be new commercial or industrial installations) to qualify for the 01 journey level electrician examination.
 - Recognizing individuals with 8,000 hours of electrical experience gained in a construction battalion while serving in the armed forces of the United States to qualify for the 01 journey level electrician examination.
 - Recognizing individuals from other jurisdictions that have 16,000 hours working in the electrical construction trade (4,000 hours must be commercial or industrial installations) to qualify for the 01 journey level electrician examination. Individuals under this provision include those who work in states that have no licensing requirements for electricians or states where licensing is not examination based.
 - Recognizing individuals with 4,000 hours performing industrial or commercial installations accrued prior to July 1, 2023. The individual can continue accruing remaining specialty experience and qualify for the journey level electrician examination without joining an apprenticeship program.
- Include how L&I will approve qualified hours gained by applicants for the journey level examination under the good cause exemptions.
 - Modify rules for general housekeeping, such as reference corrections, renumbering, formatting, replacing written numbers with numerals, etc.

You can review the proposed rules [here](#) or by clicking on the program's "[Laws, Rules, and Policies](#)" page.

If you require communication or accommodation arrangements, please contact Alicia Curry at 360-584-4146, before December 16, 2022.

Please send written comments as follows:

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 Olympia, Washington 98504-4400

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Submit written comments by 5 p.m. on January 4, 2023.

Details of specific proposed amendments will be published in Washington State Register 22-23 on December 7, 2022. The tentative adoption date for these rules is January 31, 2023, and the tentative effective date is July 1, 2023.