

The Electrical Subcommittee report to WSATC – January 2023

The subcommittee has convened twice following the October 2022 WSATC meeting. Participation continues to be strong in the group, and the members collaborate very well with one another. With the WSATC's approval of the section VIII (Work Processes) revision to the Minimum Guideline Standards at the October meeting, the subcommittee's focus has been on the upcoming implementation of SSB 6126.

New Co Chairs Selected:

At the subcommittee's November meeting, Co-chairs Clay Tschillard and Halene Sigmund informed the group that they would be stepping down as co-chairs due to new responsibilities. The group unanimously elected Pat Martin (CITC of WA) and Rob Bartel (NW WA Electrical JATC) to serve as co-chairs moving forward.

July 1, 2023, SSB 6126 Effective: The implementation of SSB 6126 will have direct impact on electrical apprenticeship program's ability and requirement to grant hours of previous experience (OJT). The biggest item of discussion and concern has been the statutory requirement to grant all 4000 hours of previous experience to all specialty certificate holders, when that specialty certificate requires at least 4000 hours of experience to qualify for examination. Although this requirement limits a committee's evaluation of credit in some circumstances, programs are prepared to adjust and align practices with the law.

The subcommittee also has been in discussion on how much impact this practice will have on programs and what percentage of incoming apprentices have previous experience and apply to have that experience recognized. The results varied greatly, with some programs not seeing a large change, while a few others seeing up to 50% of the incoming apprentices applying with previous experience.

Additionally, many of the members of this subcommittee actively participate in Labor & Industries' 6126 Implementation subcommittee which has been meeting regularly over the past few years and is made up of Electrical Industry stakeholders.

Electrical Apprenticeship Misinformation: As the rules governing SSB 6126's implementation have been under development, many of the members of the WSATC electrical subcommittee have been actively participating in Department's

rulemaking comment and development process. One common problem the group has identified is the large amount of myth and disinformation regarding the application, association, and participation in a registered electrical apprenticeship program. Although tremendous amounts of outreach have been performed by the Apprenticeship and Electrical licensing sections of L & I, it is clear that more is necessary.

The WSATC Electrical subcommittee would like to formally request the WSATC to direct the Department to schedule and host multiple information sessions to be conducted prior to July 1, 2023 and attended by WSATC approved electrical apprenticeship program representatives. We would request that the Department schedule at least two in person events to be scheduled in conjunction with the April 2023 WSATC meeting, and another date/time of convenience. Additionally, we would request the Department to schedule and host two virtual sessions to ensure access to information.

Labor & Industries CR 105, WAC 296-05-015(11)(a) Representatives from L&I presented proposed language to align WAC 296-05 with the requirements of RCW 19.28. The language was well received by the group and appears to present a simple fix to clearly express requirements. The subcommittee appreciates the extensive work done by the Department and supports the revision.

Respectfully submitted by:

Pat Martin and Rob Bartel, Co-Chairs, Electrical Standards Subcommittee