

Question of the Month – When codes change and an effective date is set, when do your jobs have to comply with the new requirements? See *correct answer on Page 2*.

You Can Help Write the Electrical Rules - WAC 296-46B Updates

See the [August 2018 Special Edition](#) newsletter for details about how you can be involved in the rulemaking process. You can submit a proposal or apply to serve on the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC).

From September 5, through October 19, 2018, we will be accepting rule change proposals and applications for membership on the TAC committee. Complete details are in the August Special Edition newsletter.

We are updating the rules because of the passage of two laws affecting electrical stakeholders. They are:

- [Substitute Senate Bill 6126](#) requires completion of an apprenticeship to qualify for the journey-level electrician exam beginning July 1, 2023.
- [Engrossed Substitute House Bill 1952](#) allows city electrical inspection jurisdictions to enforce electrical licensing, certification, and trainee supervision laws.

As a required part of the rulemaking process, L&I will file a preproposal (CR101), with the state Office of the Code Reviser this month. There will be opportunities to provide written comments or present testimony at public hearings. See the [Rule Development](#) page of our website for additional information about how to participate in the process, and to download the proposal form for 2019 WAC 296-46B rule changes.

If you need additional information or have any questions, please contact Alicia Curry, at 360-902-6244 or Alicia.Curry@Lni.wa.gov.

Safety Tip of the Month

Back-to-school season is here again! Be on the lookout for children not only in school zones, but also in residential areas, playgrounds, and parks. Children are unpredictable and often take risks, ignore hazards, and fail to look both ways before crossing the street.

Give them a brake.



No Trespassing Signs? Really? Let us Know We Have Access

This happens too often. Someone requests an electrical inspection and when we arrive, we see something like this. An inspector took these pictures when he arrived at the site to do the inspection. He probably could have issued a trip fee and walked away, but he took the time to make a phone call instead. The customer assured him that a dog was not waiting to attack and there would be no armed response. Please help us serve you better by communicating any special access instructions to us in the comments field of your inspection request.



Here's What We Accomplished in Fiscal Year 2018

Increased demand for permits, inspections, plan review, and licensing reflect Washington's healthy construction economy. Here is what happened in FY18 (July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018), which demonstrates the amount of work performed by our dedicated staff:

- 147,186 electrical permits sold, 94% were purchased online.
- 246,628 electrical inspection requests were made, 83% were requested online.
- Over 2.4 million miles were driven with 12 at-fault accidents, mostly minor fender-benders.

This document may contain hyperlinks to internet web pages. To access this PDF document online, go to:

<http://www.ElectricalCurrents.lni.wa.gov>

- System improvements now provide near real-time inspection results. Most customers received an email message with their inspection results immediately after the inspection.
- Inspectors issued 46,232 corrections for serious code violations. These represent about half of total corrections and are violations that could result in disconnection of power if not corrected. By far, property owner permits are most likely to receive serious corrections. Inspectors issued at least one serious correction for 50% of property owner inspections, compared to 15% for electrical contractor inspections.
- Our inspection response times improved significantly. For FY18, we responded to approximately 82% of inspections within 24 hours of the date requested and 93% within 48 hours. While this is an improvement over last year, this means that 17,508 times, customers had to wait more than 48 hours for inspection. Number of inspectors, workload, and inspections in remote areas of the state affect response times. Filling vacant positions and getting new inspectors trained and working efficiently will be key to improving our response times.
- Speaking of training, since our formal inspector training program was established in 2013, over 100 inspectors have completed basic inspector training. Over half of our 133 inspectors have less than 5 years' experience with the department. All new inspectors must complete a two-year training program.
- Our team of dedicated plans examiners reviewed over 6,300 pages of drawings for educational, institutional, or health care facilities to ensure the design for these facilities meets the minimum requirements for electrical safety. The average backlog for a set of plans awaiting review in FY18 was 2.1 weeks. An electronic plan review system is coming soon.
- Typically, 20% of contractors receive 80% of corrections. The correction reduction initiative helped contractors identified as having the most corrections per inspection the prior fiscal year realize a 29.2% decrease in the number of corrections they received. Each month, contractors in this group get a list of their corrections and are encouraged to use the information to help their electricians make safer installations.
- 5,066 citations were issued for the focused underground economy violations of the electrical laws. These violations include failing to obtain electrical permits, unlicensed electrical contractors, uncertified electricians, and failing to properly supervise trainees. This is an increase from the previous year's 3,557 citations. It is mostly due to the E-CORE team finding many non-compliant jobs involving out-of-state unlicensed contractors and electricians performing work at large retail chains. Many of these jobs were taken over and completed by licensed electrical contractors.
- The licensing section processed 27,939 licenses (contractor, electrician, and trainee applications, and renewals). Almost 100% of these were processed the same day they were received.

Our auditors reviewed 1,753,678 electrical trainee and out-of-state hours to qualify for electrical certification examinations. Of those, 1,137,872 were denied. These numbers are very close to the totals from the last fiscal year. Reasons for denial include not able to verify out-of-state experience, no active training certificates, lack of proper supervision (sometimes no certified electricians on staff), not able to verify employment (no legal employment records), no electrical permits to verify work performed, and lack of valid contractor licensing.

Ugly Picture: *If viewing this document online, click on the picture to open a larger image.* Property owners may perform any electrical work on property they own. This is an example of the many dangerous wiring hazards our inspectors discover on permits purchased by property owners. Sliding a plumbing elbow over service entrance conductors can easily damage them causing the isolated ungrounded metal elbow to be energized, creating a potential shock and fire hazard.



Answer to Question of the Month: The date the permit was purchased determines what code requirements apply. For example, last month's article discussed a new requirement for PV rapid shutdown inside the array boundary, which will be effective January 1, 2019. L&I will enforce this requirement on all jobs where the customer purchases the permit on or after that date.

This document may contain hyperlinks to internet web pages. To access this PDF document online, go to:

<http://www.ElectricalCurrents.lni.wa.gov>

Electrical Section Internet Address: <http://www.ElectricalProgram.Lni.wa.gov/>

This document is available in alternative formats to accommodate persons with disabilities. For assistance, call 1-800-547-8367. (TDD/TTY users, please call 360-902-5797.) Labor & Industries is an Equal Opportunity employer.