



Question of the Month – After validated online, how long is a Class B label good for? *See correct answer on Page 2.*

Public Hearing – WAC 296-46B Revisions

L&I will hold a public hearing on the proposed changes to the electrical rules in [WAC 296-46B](#). The purpose of the hearing is to receive public comment on the proposed changes. You can review the proposed rules and other rulemaking documents (including how to submit written comments) by visiting the [Rule Development](#) page of our website. Anyone can give the department comments on the proposed rules. Hearing details:

Date: June 5, 2019
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Location: Department of Labor & Industries
7273 Linderson Way SW, Room S119
Tumwater, WA 98501

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

You Can Comment Now on Several Proposed Changes to the 2017 and 2020 NEC

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) is considering changes to the National Electrical Code (NEC) through nine Tentative Interim Amendments (TIAs). You can review and comment on these proposals by visiting the [NFPA 70](#) page of their website. The comment period for these proposals closes June 27, 2019. Some of the changes being considered are:

- Limiting the use of nonmetallic-sheathed cable in NEC 334.10 to four stories in multi-family dwellings and other structures of Types III, IV, or V construction. This proposal is due to changes to the International Building Code allowing new categories of type IV buildings (mass timber) to include buildings up to eighteen stories.
- Changing the measurement method for GFCI requirements in NEC 210.8, which would require GFCI protection for receptacles within six feet of a sink even if located behind a cabinet door, such as a receptacle for a garbage disposal in the cabinet under the sink.
- Adding wording to require performance testing of arc energy reduction protection systems in NEC 240.67(C) and 240.87(C) using primary current injection testing or another approved method.
- Restore language in NEC 210.52(C)(2) of the 2020 edition stating a peninsular countertop is measured from the connected perpendicular wall.

Electric Vehicle (EV) Power Charging Equipment with Adjustable Load Ratings

Installers and inspectors have asked how to determine the rating of the service, feeder, or branch circuit supplying EV charging equipment with adjustable current rating settings. A change proposed in the 2020 NEC will help to clarify this question. The language in the proposed 2020 NEC 625.42 permits adjustable settings on fixed-in-place equipment only. Adjustments must be in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Electric vehicle supply equipment with restricted access to an ampere adjusting means will be permitted to have ampere ratings that are equal to the adjusted current setting. Sizing the service and feeder to match the adjusted amperage will be permitted. Restricted access can be accomplished by a cover or door that requires the use of a tool to open, locked doors accessible only to qualified personnel or password protected commissioning software accessible only to qualified personnel.

Safety Tip of the Month

♪ School's out for summer ♪

Pay attention! Put the phone down and be alert for children, pedestrians, skateboarders, and cyclists. Summer brings many new safety concerns for drivers and pedestrians.

The department will allow adjustable charging equipment to comply with the above requirements until the 2020 NEC is effective. At that time, requirements will be as published in the 2020 NEC.

Hazardous Conditions at the Inspection Site

Electrical inspectors are required to follow the same workplace safety rules as everyone else. Sometimes, a jobsite contains health or safety hazards that are not obvious. The presence of asbestos, dangerous chemicals, structural damage to the building, fall protection hazards, or even loose pets may catch an inspector unaware and have the potential to delay your inspection. Please help us by making the inspector aware of any potential hazards on your jobsite. You can do this by clearly identifying the hazard(s) at the jobsite, providing a comment about the hazard(s) in the inspection request, or notifying the inspector directly of the hazard(s) before the inspection.

How to Avoid Employing Expired or Inactive Certificate Holders

It is unlawful to employ someone to perform electrical work with an expired or inactive certificate. Often, forgetting or waiting to renew because they have not completed continuing education or basic classroom training is the cause. Checking expiration dates of the certificates your electricians display on their person is one way to keep track of things. Another way is to use the [Verify a Contractor, Tradesperson or Business](#) page of our website. You may want to consider using a calendaring program to set a reminder 90 days prior to everybody's expiration date to alert you when certificates are eligible to be renewed.

Renewal reminders go out 90 days before certificates expire. Applicants can renew at that time if they have fulfilled their educational requirements. If someone is looking for an approved class to fulfill their education requirements, refer them to the [Electrical Workers' Educational Requirements](#) page of our website.

Don't be an Absentee Administrator

"Absentee Administrator" is a term used to describe a person who chooses to assign themselves as the administrator or master electrician for an electrical contractor, but is not actually involved in the day-to-day electrical activities of the company. The electrical laws and rules deal with this kind of violation very seriously. In addition to monetary penalties for contractors who employ absentee administrators, penalties begin at \$1,000 for absentee administrators or master electricians.

[RCW 19.28.061](#) states that the person designated as the master electrician or administrator for an electrical contractor must be a member of the firm or a full-time supervisory employee. He/she must be available during working hours to carry out the duties of an administrator. For further clarification of the terms "member of the firm" and "full time supervisory employee" see [WAC 296-46B-930](#).

The contractor must name all members of the firm on the electrical contractor's license. Partners must be on file with the department of licensing and corporate officers or members of an LLC or INC must be on file with the Secretary of State.

When determining the full-time supervisory employment status of the assigned person, the department will consider whether the individual is on the contractor's full-time payroll; receives a regular salary or wage similar to other supervisory employees; has supervisory responsibility for work performed by the contractor; is available during normal business hours, and carries out the duties shown in RCW 19.28.

Ugly Picture of the Month: *If viewing this document online, click on the picture to open a larger image.* Human creativity is pretty amazing. When faced with the problem of a wire too small for the provided lug, here is one property owner's noncompliant solution.

Answer to Question of the Month: All Class B work must be completed within fifteen days after the label is validated. If the work is not completed within that time, another Class B may be posted. Except that, in a one-or two-family residential structure, a label is valid for ninety days after the label is validated, so long as all work described on the label is performed by the purchaser.



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

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

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