

Question of the Month – According to 2018 [NFPA 70E](#) Standard for Electrical Safety in the Workplace, what are the 4 conditions where work on energized electrical conductors and circuit parts is permitted? *See correct answer on Page 2.*

Correction to September's QOM Answer

There was a typo in the answer to September's question of the month. The correct answer should have been three instead of two. An island countertop surface of 32 ft² would require three receptacle outlets per 2020 NEC 210.52(C)(2). Remember, a receptacle outlet, according to NEC 100 is defined as an outlet where one or more receptacles are installed.

Safety Tip of the Month

Be safe – be seen. Daylight is getting very limited this time of year. High visibility clothing is your best bet for safe working or outdoor activities in low light conditions. Always wear reflective clothing or accessories so that others can see you. Wearing reflective clothing reduces the possibility of injury from a motor vehicle or other mobile equipment.

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

Visit the Electrical Program [Rule Development](#) page of our website 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).

Until November 15, 2019, we will be accepting rule change proposals and applications for membership on the TAC. Complete details were published in the [October 2019 Special Edition](#) newsletter.

The reason we are opening the rules for revision is because the [2020 National Electrical Code \(NEC\)](#), which will be effective in Washington July 1, 2020, was published in September 2019. Due to changes in the NEC, some sections of the WAC rules must be revised. We are accepting proposals to amend the rules based on new NEC requirements as well as giving interested parties the opportunity to propose any rule changes to improve safety or usability of the rules.

As part of the rulemaking process, L&I filed a preproposal (CR101) with the state Office of the Code Reviser last 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 2020 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.

Make Sure Your Work is Inspected

It is important to make sure your electrical work is inspected. To fulfill our mandate of keeping Washington safe, we ensure that all appropriate inspections are made. An inspection request must be made within three business days of fully completing the job or within one business day after energizing any work – see WAC 296-46B-901(9)(a). A progress inspection must also be made before covering any portion of the installation. We have been finding many expired permits where an inspection request has never been made. The permit purchaser has the responsibility of ensuring the work is properly completed and that an inspection takes place. Failing to request an inspection puts the permit purchaser and consumers at risk. We have been working to ensure that all inspections are requested and made.

If the permit purchaser lets the permit expire without the appropriate inspection, a new permit must be purchased and an inspection requested. In addition, the permit purchaser is likely to receive an electrical citation(s) for failing to request the inspection. Be proactive and avoid these problems by verifying the inspection status of your permits before compliance action is necessary.

Most permits need at least a progress inspection shortly after the permit is purchased. It is the permit purchaser's obligation to ensure inspections are requested.

Inspection history and information is available for every permit by visiting the [Look Up a Permit or Inspection](#) page of our website and looking up your permit information.

Your Permit May Require Additional Progress Inspection Fees

Permit fees are specified in [WAC 296-46B-906](#). According to this rule, the total fee must not be less than the number of progress inspection (one-half hour) units times the progress inspection fee rate from subsection (8) – currently, \$46.80. If more than one inspection is required for your permit, for example, a wall cover or ditch inspection plus a final inspection, and your original permit fee is less than \$46.80 times the number of inspection trips, you may receive a notice of additional fees due.

Example: Installation of residential circuits supplying underground yard lighting and an irrigation pump will usually require two inspection trips (one for ditch cover, and one for inspection of the completed circuits. The residential circuit permit fee is \$62.00, which does not cover the cost of two inspection trips. In this case, an additional fee of \$46.80 will be required. A way to avoid this is to have the installation completed at the time of the ditch inspection. Any permit where the fee is less than \$93.60 (\$46.80 X 2) will only cover one inspection trip, and additional inspection trips will require additional progress inspection fees.

Is That Plastic Cut-in Box Approved to Support Your Luminaire?

Not all round cut-in boxes are intended to support luminaires. According to Underwriter's Laboratories guide information for nonmetallic outlet boxes, a nonmetallic box intended for support of a fixture/luminaire weighing 50 lbs. or less is marked "FOR FIXTURE/LUMINAIRE SUPPORT" on the carton. Nonmetallic boxes and plaster rings have not been investigated for support of a ceiling fixture/luminaire unless marked for use in ceilings, walls, and with the weight of the product to be supported.

Answer to Question of the Month: [2018 NFPA 70E](#) 130.2(A)(1) through (A)(4) Energized work shall be permitted:

- (1) Where the employer can demonstrate that de-energizing introduces additional hazards or increased risk.
- (2) Where the employer can demonstrate that the task to be performed is infeasible in a de-energized state due to equipment design or operational limitations. (e.g., voltage and ampere testing is not feasible in a de-energized state)
- (3) ...on parts that operate at less than 50 volts where it is determined that there will be no increased exposure to electrical burns or to explosion due to electric arcs.
- (4) Normal operation of electric equipment shall be permitted where a normal operating condition exists.

Ugly Picture of the Month:

If viewing this document online, click on the picture to open a larger image.

Here is a safety device that caused a safety hazard. Multiple exit signs had to be replaced due to overheating caused by incorrect lamps. Make sure to check the label on your exit signs and luminaires and use the correct size lamp.



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