

Question of the Month – According to the 2020 National Electrical Code (NEC) is a main-lug service panelboard consisting of up to six service disconnecting means in the same enclosure permitted? *See correct answer on Page 2.*

WAC 296-46B Rulemaking Update

The process of revising the electrical rules is underway. A Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), made up of a broad cross section of representatives from the electrical industry reviewed the proposals and provided advice to the department at their meeting on December 11, 2019 in Tacoma. We have compiled all of the proposals the department will present to the Electrical Board in a [First Draft](#) of WAC 296-46B. A copy of the First Draft is available by visiting the Rule Development section of our [Electrical Laws and Rules](#) webpage. The department will receive the advice of the Electrical Board regarding the First Draft at their January 30th [meeting](#) in Tumwater.

Before adoption of any rules, there will be formal opportunities to provide written comments or present testimony at a public hearing. Watch for updates in future editions of this newsletter and at the Rule Development section of our [Electrical Laws and Rules](#) webpage. For complete details about the process, see the [October 2019 Electrical Currents](#) Newsletter Special Edition. If you need additional information or have any questions, you may contact Alicia Curry at 360-902-6244 or Alicia.Curry@lni.wa.gov.

No L&I Electrical Inspections on January 8 – Statewide Electrical Inspector Training

Training for all electrical inspectors is happening on January 7 – 9, 2020. To relieve some of the impact, January 8 will be the only day attended by all L&I inspectors, no inspections will be performed that day. On January 7 and 9, inspectors will be available but at reduced capacity. We regret the inconvenience this causes, but we have found that a statewide approach improves consistency and is the most efficient use of our training budget. Please let your customers know and plan for inspections accordingly.

Electrical Contractors – Virtual Electrical Inspections Are Here

You can now request a [Virtual Electrical Inspection](#) (VEI) on the same day at least 30 minutes in advance of when you need it. VEI is a dependable inspection process allowing customers on the jobsite to interact with inspectors online using Skype on a mobile device. You can begin using VEI now for any electrical inspections that will take no longer than 15 minutes, and that do not involve service or final approvals. To use VEI, download the [Skype Application](#) and create a profile. On the jobsite, make sure you have at least a 4G, LTE, or Wi-Fi connection on your mobile device. Use Google Chrome to [schedule](#) your inspection on the day and time you want it. To learn more, search “virtual” at www.lni.wa.gov.

Big Changes Coming for Trainees and 01 Contractors – Apprenticeship Requirement

[Substitute Senate Bill 6126](#) passed by the legislature in 2018 affects those training to become 01 general journey level electricians and those who employ them.

- Effective July 1, 2023, to be eligible for the (01) general journey level electrician examination, applicants must have completed a recognized (01) electrical apprenticeship program approved by the Washington State Apprenticeship Training Council (WSATC) or out-of-state equivalent.
- After June 30, 2023, unless working in a specialty, trainees must be registered apprentices. Apprenticeship programs may credit certain properly documented electrical experience on record with the department such as, 4000 hours

Safety Tip of the Month

Standing water, ice, or snow may conceal hidden hazards. Avoid slips, trips, and falls by wearing proper footwear and proceeding with caution at all times. Trust your instincts and training. If your path is unsafe, find a safe route to get there or do not go!

required to obtain an electrical specialty certificate, military experience or completion of a two-year training school program. Students enrolled in a two-year program in the electrical construction trade are not required to be registered apprentices while gaining on-the-job training experience during an externship.

Want to Sponsor An Apprenticeship Program?

All sponsors for (01) general journey level electrician apprenticeship programs must adhere to Minimum Guideline Standards approved by the WSATC. You can request a copy by contacting apprentice@lni.wa.gov.

Registered apprenticeship programs start with the formation of an apprenticeship committee made up of industry members—both employers and employees.

The best way to get started is by contacting the apprenticeship customer service line at 360-902-5320. They will connect you with an apprenticeship consultant in your area. They are your best resource to help you identify which type of apprenticeship model best suits your company and then provide one-on-one consulting and on-site assistance to get your program up and running.

Invitation to a Stakeholder Meeting Near You

I am holding electrical stakeholder meetings across the state between January and May 2020. These meetings are an opportunity to talk in an informal setting. I want to hear how we can better serve you and help you stay informed of any regulations that might affect you and/or your business. Check the [schedule](#) and attend a meeting near you. Meetings are held from 6 to 8 p.m. at the locations listed below. Please note the [date changes](#) for the Tacoma and Silverdale meetings.

2020 Stakeholder Meetings 6 – 8 p.m.		
January 28 – Tumwater – L&I Building Auditorium - 7273 Linderson Way SW	January 29 – Aberdeen – L&I Building 415 W Wishkah St, Suite B, Rm 112	February 4 – Vancouver – L&I Building – 312 E Stonemill Dr. Suite 120, Room C49
February 5 – White Salmon – White Salmon Valley Library – 77 NE Wauna Ave	February 6 – Kelso – L&I Building, 711 Vine St. Room R11	February 25 – Tacoma – L&I Building 950 Broadway, Orcas Room, 5th floor
February 26 – Silverdale – L&I Building 10049 Kitsap Mall Blvd NW Suite 100	February 27 – Sequim – Clallam County PUD, 104 Hooker Rd, Lake Crescent Rm.	March 3 – Tukwila – L&I Building 12806 Gateway Dr. South, Rm C30
April 8 – Everett – Snohomish County PUD – 2320 California St, Commission Rm	April 9 – Mount Vernon – NW WA Research and Ext Center , 16650 SR 536	April 21 – Pateros – Howard’s on the River Event Center 233 Lakeshore Drive
April 22 – East Wenatchee – Douglas County PUD conference room, 1151 Valley Mall Parkway	April 23 – Moses Lake – L&I Building 3001 West Broadway Avenue	May 12 – Spokane – Spokane Falls Community College, 3410 W. Fort George Wright Drive, Bldg. 17, Sub Lounges
May 13 – Colville – Spokane Community College, 985 S Elm St., Classroom 132	Mid-May – Pullman – exact date and location yet to be determined	Late-May – Yakima – exact date and location yet to be determined
Late-May – Kennewick – exact date and location yet to be determined		

Answer to Question of the Month: No. No more “main lug” services. 2020 NEC 230.71(B) has been revised to require the two to six service disconnecting means to be in separate enclosures or panelboards with a main service disconnecting means in each enclosure, separate vertical sections of switchboards, or in equipment where each service disconnecting means is located in a separate compartment such as a motor control center.

Ugly Picture of the Month: We receive many questions from folks at our electrical program mailbox, ElectricalProgram@lni.wa.gov about how to become certified electricians. This one raises a few questions. You can find information about becoming an electrician by searching “electrician” at www.lni.wa.gov.

Hi so I've worked in the electrical industry for about the last 10 years although I don't have any actual licensing. I want to get licensed so that my resume looks more attractive and I can get more work. What would I need to do in order to get that license?

Is it possible simply take a test being that I have so much experience?

--

This document may contain hyperlinks to internet web pages. To access this PDF document online, go to: <https://lni.wa.gov/licensing-permits/electrical/electrical-currents-newsletter/>

Electrical Section Internet Address: <https://www.lni.wa.gov/> - Select Licensing & Permits, then Electrical
 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.