

Question of the Month – According to the 2020 National Electrical Code (NEC), ground-fault circuit-interrupter (GFCI) protection is required for: A) 250-volt, 30-ampere dryer receptacles; B) 250-volt, 50-ampere range receptacles within six feet of a sink; C) all 125-volt through 250-volt receptacles in a finished dwelling basement; D) all of the above. See correct answer on Page 2.

WAC 296-46B Rulemaking Update

The process of revising the electrical rules is underway. The electrical board reviewed the [First Draft](#) of WAC 296-46B and provided advice to the department at their meeting on January 30, 2020 in Tumwater. All of the proposals the department will move forward in the process will be compiled shortly in a Second Draft and will be posted on the Rule Development section of our [Electrical Laws and Rules](#) webpage.

The next step will be filing the CR-102 rulemaking proposal, which will open the formal public comment period and announce details for 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.

You can also discuss proposals with the chief electrical inspector by attending a stakeholder meeting near you (see article below). If you need additional information or have any questions, you may contact Alicia Curry at 360-902-6244 or Alicia.Curry@lni.wa.gov.

Legislative Update

If you are part of the electrical industry regulated by L&I, lawmakers are considering bills that may affect you. These bills are not sponsored by L&I. You can get information about these bills by clicking on the hyperlinked bill number below. Review the bills and comment if you desire. A comment button is located below the bill number on each webpage. You may also contact your legislator to share your opinion about any legislation by visiting the legislative website at: <http://www.leg.wa.gov/LIC/Pages/hotline.aspx>.

[House Bill 2330](#) – Requires various state agencies including L&I to issue a “recommended guidance statement” in lieu of formal enforcement actions or civil penalties for violations of laws and rules enforced by the agencies.

[Senate Bill 6409](#) – Exempts manufacturers’ authorized engineers or factory-trained service technicians from electrical contractor licensing and worker certification requirements while working within the confines of industrial equipment.

[Senate Bill 6327](#) – Requires the department to issue temporary permits in lieu of certificates of competency if an applicant holds a journey level or specialty electrician certificate from another state.

Electrical Contractors – Virtual Electrical Inspections Are Here

In a new service from L&I, you can now request a [Virtual Electrical Inspection](#) (VEI) on the same day at least 30 minutes in advance of when you need it.

Safety Tip of the Month

Portable generators are useful during power outages and on construction sites. Be aware of the dangers of improper use of portable generators. One of the most common dangers associated with portable generators is carbon monoxide poisoning. Make sure your generator is in a well-ventilated outdoor area. Never use a generator in an attached garage, even with the door open.

Place generators so that exhaust fumes will not enter the building through windows, doors, or other openings.

You can download a helpful generator safety publication from the National Fire Protection Association [here](#).

VEI is a dependable inspection process, allowing contractors on the jobsite to interact with inspectors online on a mobile device using Skype. Here are some important points to keep in mind:

- To use VEI, you will need to download the [Skype Application](#) and create a profile.
- Use VEI for any electrical inspections that will take no longer than 15 minutes, *and* that do not involve service or final approvals
- On the jobsite, make sure you have at least a 4G, LTE, or Wi-Fi connection on your mobile device.

“VEI benefits customers, who will have some predictability that an inspection will take place at a specific time,” said Steve Thornton, L&I Chief Electrical Inspector. “Besides saving time and money for contractors, virtual inspections will also lead to quicker follow-up inspections on corrections.”

Use Google Chrome to [schedule](#) your inspection for the day and time you want. You can learn more about VEI by visiting www.lni.wa.gov and search “Virtual.”

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.

2020 Stakeholder Meetings 6 – 8 p.m.		
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, 5 th 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 , 1151 Valley Mall Parkway	April 23 – Moses Lake – L&I Building 3001 West Broadway Avenue
May 11 – Kennewick – Benton PUD Auditorium – 2721 West 10th 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
May 14 – Pullman – Parks & Recreation, 190 SE Crestview, Room 218	Late-May – Yakima – exact date and location yet to be determined	

Answer to Question of the Month: D) All of the above. 2020 NEC 210.8(A) was revised to include GFCI protection for all of the above receptacles. GFCI protection rules were expanded to include all receptacles up to 250-volt in the specified areas.

Ugly Picture of the Month: *If viewing this document online, click on the picture to open a larger image.*

Don’t be like this guy. This dangerous act was performed along one of the busiest streets in town about six blocks from the L&I office. Fortunately for him, an L&I electrical inspector showed up before the guy fell off, and gave him some wise counsel on safe ladder use.



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