

Question of the Month – All examinations for a Washington electrician certificate of competency contain questions about basic electrical theory. What is the definition of electrical theory? *See correct answer on Page 2*

Rule Making Updates

WAC 296-46B-940 Reciprocal Agreements - L&I has adopted changes to rules for reciprocal agreements between Washington and other states in [WAC 296-46B-940](#). Visit the [Journey Level Electrician](#) tab of our Electrical Licensing webpage for more information about reciprocal agreements.

WAC 296-46B-995 Electrical Board – Appeal Rights and Hearings - On December 1, 2020, L&I filed a CR-101 to begin the rule making process for amending [WAC 296-46B-995](#) in response to a petition for rule making. The petition seeks to clarify, simplify, and make the procedures for appeals to the board easier to understand and navigate, as well as to help reduce confusion for those that appeal decisions to the board.

Watch for more information about this rule making in the coming months. More information about these and other rule making activities is available on the Rule Development tab of our [Electrical Laws, Rules, and Policies](#) web page.

Trainees – Do Not Lose Your Work Experience Hours – Submit Affidavits on Time

Please share this important message with all electrical trainees. To receive credit for experience worked in the electrical construction trade, trainees who are not registered apprentices must submit an affidavit of experience in a timely manner. Be aware of your certificate expiration date. Submit affidavits of experience within 30 days of the expiration date of your certificate to avoid a \$53.40 update fee. You must submit affidavits of experience from your employer(s) for the previous two years within 180 days of the expiration date of your certificate, unless you are registered in a department-approved apprenticeship program. This applies even if you cannot renew due to lack of basic classroom education (see article below). Upon request, employers are required to provide the previous period's affidavit of experience to the trainee within 20 days of request in accordance with [WAC 296-46B-942\(12\)](#). Affidavit of Experience forms are available by visiting the [Electrical Trainee](#) page of our website. There is also a handy [training log](#) on this web page to keep track of your experience.

When you renew, you must also have completed 48 hours of [basic classroom instruction](#) during the previous certificate period, or you cannot renew. You must still submit your affidavit of experience as described above though.

Temporary Allowance Extended for Trainees to Work While Completing Classroom Training

The COVID-19 pandemic has reduced availability of required classroom education for electrical trainees. Temporary measures are in place to increase availability of education during recovery. Trainees may lawfully work in the electrical trade without a properly renewed (active) training certificate under certain conditions.

Trainees having certificates with expiration dates on or after March 13, 2020, who have paid a renewal fee to renew them into inactive (“T”) status, may continue working in the trade while completing their classroom education until January 26, 2021.

Safety Tip of the Month

When working or playing outside in cold, wet, and/or windy conditions, remember:

- Dress in warm loose-fitting layers and stay dry. Wet clothing chills the body quickly.
- Excess sweating will cause your body to lose more heat, so remove extra layers of clothing whenever you feel too warm.
- Stay well hydrated. Drinking warm, non-caffeinated beverages helps warm you up and improves circulation to extremities.
- Do not ignore shivering. It is an important sign that your body is losing heat. Constant shivering is a sign that it is time to go inside and warm up.

Trainees expiring on or after October 29, 2020 may continue to work for 90 days after their expiration date in expired status while completing their required classroom training. If not renewed by the expiration date, a late renewal fee is required. This policy will remain until a date to be determined after the Governor declares the state is moving into Phase 4 of the recovery.

If you are a trainee, now is the time to schedule your classroom education. Trainees should not wait until the last minute to complete educational requirements! You can download a list of [approved basic trainee classes](#) at the [Basic Classroom Instruction & Continuing Education](#) page of our website.

Trainees and 01 Contractors – Apprenticeship Requirements are Coming Soon

[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 required to obtain an electrical specialty certificate, military experience, or completion of a two-year training school program. Students enrolled in a two-year training school 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.

Ugly Picture of the Month: *If viewing this document online, click on the picture to open a larger image.* An electrical inspector discovered this badly deteriorated service while inspecting another installation on the property. He checked and the exposed terminals were still energized. Look closely at the meter jaws and you can see a jumper wire installed to get some free power. The inspector had the power disconnected and may have saved someone’s life.

Answer to Question of the Month: [WAC 296-46B-970](#) – “Electrical theory” means basic principles of electricity such as: magnetism, ohm’s law, and circuit properties such as voltage, current, power, resistance, inductance, capacitance, reactance, impedance, etc., in series, parallel, and combination AC and DC circuits.

When preparing for an examination, make sure you are familiar with these principles and bring an electrical theory reference book with you for your open-book examination.



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