

Question of the Month – Which of the following is true about a simple series circuit with constant voltage: 1) Power decreases with decreases in resistance. 2) Power increases with increases in resistance. 3) Voltage increases with increases in power. 4) Current increases with decreases in resistance.

See correct answer on Page 2

Purchase Class B Labels (Permits) Online!

No more label books to keep track of, everything is electronic! Licensed electrical contractors having secure Electronic Permit and Inspection System (EPIS) accounts can now purchase 20 Class B permits online. Look for a new tab to “Purchase Class B Labels” under “Manage Class B Permits/Labels” in your EPIS account.

The process and requirements for validating and posting is unchanged (See [WAC 296-46B-908](#)). You will not receive a book of labels. Once purchased and validated, you can either print a label image to post on the jobsite or just post the label number there.

Updated Electrical Exam Questions – Tentative Target Date is July 1, 2021

Current exam questions come from the 2017 NEC and current laws and rules. By July 1, 2021, we hope to have the process of updating the exam questions to the 2020 codes, laws and rules completed. After that time, anyone taking any part of any exam should prepare to answer updated questions. Typically, exam questions are general in nature and do not change much. Watch for updates in future editions of this newsletter.

01 Electrical Contractors – Are You an Apprenticeship Training Agent Yet?

Since the passage of [Substitute Senate Bill 6126](#) in 2018, there have been 3 new apprenticeship programs established for (01) apprentices, bringing the number available to 11. Others are in the works.

Requirements brought on by this legislation affect every contractor with trainees that are training to become 01 general journey level electricians. Nothing changes for specialty contractors or trainees who work for them.

Beginning on July 1, 2023:

1. Contractors must have already joined a registered apprenticeship program as a training agent to employ trainees doing the work of 01 journey level electricians.
2. Trainees doing this kind of work must be registered apprentices in the same apprenticeship as their training agent (employer).
3. Trainees are not allowed to qualify for 01 examinations after that date without completing an apprenticeship.

Contractors: Find information about becoming a training agent at:

<https://lni.wa.gov/licensing-permits/apprenticeship/offer-a-registered-apprenticeship>.

Trainees: Learn about becoming an apprentice at:

<https://lni.wa.gov/licensing-permits/apprenticeship/become-an-apprentice>.

Learn about recognized 01 General Journey Level Apprenticeship Programs and counties where they operate:

1. [Area 1 Inside Electrical JATC](#) – Clark, Klickitat, Skamania, Cowlitz, and Pacific.
2. [Electrical Management Group of Washington](#) – Clark, Cowlitz, Wahkiakum, Pacific, Lewis.
3. [Construction Industry Training Council of Washington - Construction Electrician](#) – All counties in Washington.

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

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!

4. [Frontier Apprenticeship & Training](#) (Frontier Electric of Washington employees only) – Clark, Cowlitz, Lewis, Skamania.
5. [IBEW 48 NECA-IBEW Electrical JATC](#) – Clark, Cowlitz, Klickitat, Skamania, Wahkiakum.
6. [Inland Empire Electrical Training Trust](#) – Adams, Ferry, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens, Whitman.
7. [LU 112 - NECA Electrical Apprenticeship Committee](#) – Asotin, Benton, Columbia, Franklin, Garfield, Walla Walla, Yakima, Kittitas.
8. [Northwest Washington Electrical Industry Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee](#) – Chelan, Douglas, Grant, Island, Okanogan, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, Whatcom.
9. [Puget Sound Electrical Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee](#) – Jefferson, King, Kitsap, Clallam,
10. [Southwest Washington Electrical Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee](#) – Pacific, Lewis, Grays Harbor, Mason, Pierce, Thurston.
11. [Tradesmen Apprenticeship & Comprehensive Training](#) (Tradesmen Electric employees only) – Clark, Cowlitz, Lewis, Skamania.

Legislative Update

Lawmakers are considering one bill that affects the electrical program. [Substitute Senate Bill 5267](#) passed the Senate and is being considered in the House. The bill requires electrical work associated with flipping property to be done by licensed electrical contractors and certified electricians.

Generally, property owners are exempt from electrical licensing and certification laws in accordance with [RCW 19.28.261](#). This bill modifies that exemption for persons or companies that are in the business of obtaining, upgrading, and selling the property within twelve months of purchase. This change aligns electrical laws with existing laws that require property flippers to be registered construction contractors or hire one to superintend any construction work.

Review [Substitute Senate Bill 5267](#) and comment if you desire. A comment button is located below the bill number on the webpage linked above. You may also share your opinion by contacting your legislator through the legislative website at: <http://www.leg.wa.gov/LIC/Pages/hotline.aspx>.

Rule Making Updates

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.

Increase Electrical Fees? – Fees have remained unchanged for the last four years. To keep up with higher costs associated with inspection and licensing services, we are considering rule making to propose a fee increase equal to OFM's 5.79% [fiscal growth factor](#) projections.

A fee increase enables the program to continue providing quality and timely services to assure safe electrical installations and inspections in homes, businesses, industry, and institutions to protect people and property from electrical hazards.

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

Ugly Picture of the Month: Sorry, we are taking a break from ugliness this month. Watch for more next month!

Answer to Question of the Month: 4). According to Ohm's law, current increases with decreases in resistance. Basic electrical theory questions are on every open-book electrical examination. Knowledge of basic electrical theory is an important fundamental required for all electricians, even specialty electricians. Before attempting your exam, look up the definition of electrical theory in [WAC 296-46B-970](#), study these principles, and bring an electrical theory reference book with you to your open-book examination.

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