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Question of the Month

When the new apprenticeship law comes into effect in July 1, 2023, what is the effect on trainees learning to be specialty electricians and specialty electrical contractors that employ them?

See the correct answer on page 2

Temporary Allowances for Trainees Ending on March 31, 2022

In the November 2021 edition of this newsletter, we announced an end date for temporary allowances for trainees. After March 31, 2022:

- Education providers must cease virtual delivery of [basic classroom instruction](#) classes for trainees. All instruction after March 31, 2022 must be in person.
- Trainees expiring before April 1, 2022 may continue to work legally for 90 days from the date their certificate expires. Such trainees must complete 48 hours of basic classroom instruction and renew no later than 90 days after their expiration date.
- Trainees expiring on or after April 1, 2022 must complete 48 hours of basic classroom instruction and renew before their expiration date.

Do you Know About July 1, 2023 Apprenticeship Requirements?

If you are a trainee learning to become a 01 journey level electrician, or somebody who employs them, you must take action to be ready for apprenticeship requirements that go into effect on July 1, 2023.

Apprenticeship requirements enacted by the legislature in 2018 do not apply to anyone training to be a specialty electrician or specialty contractors who employ them.

To ensure that everyone knows about coming requirements:

- In 2018, we sent 28,000 letters about coming requirements to every active contractor, trainee, and trainee in inactive status.
- In 2019, trainees we began sending informational letters to trainees every time they applied, renewed or requested a reprint. So far, we have sent more than 31,000 letters.
- L&I inspectors have distributed about 20,000 green 5" x 7" cards on jobsites since June of 2019. One side of the card has information for trainees, the other for contractors.
- Fourteen editions of this newsletter have provided apprenticeship information to about 11,000 subscribers. More to come in future editions.
- Every Contractor, electrician, trainee, and administrator will soon receive another round of information about apprenticeship requirements.

Apprenticeship programs have capacity to support new registered apprentices and training agents. A training agent is someone who employs registered apprentices.

Find more information in the [February 2022](#) edition of this newsletter.

Safety Tip of the Month

Planning some projects this spring that require digging?

[Washington 811](#) has resources to help you find buried utilities.

Dial 811 or check out www.callbeforeyoudig.org.

Legislative Update – SB 5599

SB [5599](#) has passed out of the Senate and is now working its way through the House. This bill does not affect anyone who is training to become a specialty electrician. It is a housekeeping bill that amends July 1, 2023 apprenticeship completion requirements enacted by SSB [6126](#) for those qualifying for 01 journey level exams and the contractors that employ them.

Amendments ensure that no trainees have to start over and complete 8000 hours while in a 01 apprenticeship. This allows apprenticeships to consider advanced placement based on hours already on record for trainees. Other amendments ensure that military and out of state applicants have a clear path to qualifying for 01 journey level exams.

If you would like to comment on this bill, the legislature provides this link:

<https://app.leg.wa.gov/pbc/bill/5599>.

You may also share your opinions by contacting your legislator through the legislative website at:

<http://www.leg.wa.gov/LIC/Pages/hotline.aspx>.

Working on Energized Service Drops

Who can disconnect and/or reconnect a secondary service drop on the utility's side of the meter? Only individuals who meet the training and experience requirements in [WAC 296-45](#), *Electric Power Generation, Transmission, and Distribution*. These workers are considered "qualified electrical employees" and able to work on or with exposed energized lines or equipment operating at 50 volts or more.

Information on electrical safety-related work practices can be found in the [General Safety and Health Standards, WAC 296-24-965](#) and [NFPA 70E](#). These resources will give guidance to employers on allowing qualified electricians to work on energized utilization systems under limited circumstances. Work practices found in [WAC 296-45-065](#) are applicable to work performed on the utility side of the metered demarcation line.

The training that qualified electrical employees includes,

- Training necessary to work on energized primary and secondary conductors.
- Qualifying employees to take clearances (i.e. how to receive authorization to work) on the transmission and distribution lines or equipment to control the energy sources.

The training that certified electricians receive may not focus on working on energized lines and equipment, except for testing and special situations.

Ugly Picture of the Month: *If viewing this document online, click on the picture to open a larger image.* The owner of this service did not understand why it could not be re-energized. The inspector was able to explain the issues. The birds nest in the bottom had eggs in it.

Answer to Question of the Month

No effect. It only affects those learning to be general journey level (01) electricians and those that employ them. Find more information about apprenticeship requirements in the [February 2022](#) edition of this newsletter.



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