Question of the Month – *See correct answer on Page 2.*

An inspector writes you a correction on a job for violation of 2017 National Electrical Code (NEC®) 625.54 to provide GFCI protection for a 240-volt, single-phase, 50 ampere receptacle for an electric vehicle charger. You look in your copy of the 2017 NEC® and 625.54 is not there. How can this be? Is this a valid correction?

Legislative Update

If you are a part of the electrical or telecommunications industries regulated by L&I, lawmakers are considering several bills that may affect you. None of this legislation is sponsored by L&I.

Review the bills and comment if you desire. A comment button is located to the right of the bill number on each webpage hyperlinked below. 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](http://www.leg.wa.gov/LIC/Pages/hotline.aspx).

1. **House Bill 1430, Senate Bill 5304** – Requires the department of L&I to adopt the non-administrative portion of the electrical rules through a process in which the department, the Washington cities electrical committee, and the technical advisory committee have an equal vote in the adoption of the rules.
2. **Senate Bill 5211** – Removes the ability of the Electrical Board to hear appeals of decisions by the Office of Administrative Hearings. Decisions made by an administrative law judge would be a final order.
3. **House Bill 1855** – Requires business name and electrical contractor license number to be marked on vehicles while used in the electrical construction trade.
4. **House Bill 1871** – Effective January 1, 2022, requires electrical or plumbing certification for employees of state agencies while performing electrical or plumbing work on the premises of a state agency employer.

Attend a Stakeholder Meeting Near You

As announced in the January 2017 newsletter, I am holding 18 electrical stakeholder meetings in various locations across the state between January 24 and April 5, 2017. These meetings are an opportunity to talk in an informal setting. I want to hear how we can better serve you, our customers and help you stay informed of any changes that might affect you and/or your business. A link to meeting dates and locations is on our Electrical Calendar webpage and will be distributed on the program email list. If you are not on the email list, you may join at our [Electrical Email List](http://www.ElectricalProgram.Lni.wa.gov/) webpage.

Electrical Rulemaking Activities

The department is considering amendments to [WAC 296-46B](http://www.ElectricalCurrents.Lni.wa.gov) in two separate rulemaking activities. The adoption of the 2017 NEC® is underway. The process was detailed in the [August 2016 Special Edition](http://www.ElectricalCurrents.Lni.wa.gov) newsletter. The First Draft of the revised rules was presented to the Electrical Board at their January 26, 2017 meeting. The board voted unanimously to advise the department to move forward with proposals contained in the First Draft. A Second Draft will be published shortly and will be posted on the [Rule Development](http://www.ElectricalCurrents.Lni.wa.gov) page of our website. If you would like to give feedback to the department regarding any of the proposals, you may do so informally at one of the stakeholder meetings discussed above, or you may respond formally during the public comment period or by attending and commenting at the public hearing. Details about the public comment period and public hearing will also be posted on the Rule Development page.

Another rulemaking activity involves permanent adoption of rules regarding temporary electricians and allowing a path for Canadian Red Seal Endorsed electricians to qualify for the 01 general certificate of competency exam. This was the subject of emergency rulemaking which became effective November 21, 2016 and will remain in effect until March 21, 2017 if not extended. More information about this rulemaking process can be found on the Rule Development page.

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!
Electrical Board Openings
In July, there will be five seats on the Electrical Board that will be up for appointment by the Governor. Some of the seats are held by incumbents who are eligible for reappointment. The Board meets four times per year and serves a vital role in advising L&I on all matters pertaining to Washington’s electrical laws, rules, and policies. The role and membership of the Board is described in RCW 19.28.311. Seats that will be open for appointment or reappointment in July are: one representative of an electrical contractor association, one licensed professional electrical engineer who is also a registered communications distribution designer, one telecommunications worker, one outside line worker, and one certified electrician. You can submit an application or recommend an applicant using the forms on the Governor’s Boards & Commissions website. Application must be made using the Governor’s form. You may attach your resume and any additional information you would like considered at the bottom of the application before submitting. If you have any questions about completing the application, please contact Gov. Inslee’s Office by email or call 360-902-4111.

2017 NEC® Preview: 210.12(C) AFCI Protection in Guest Rooms and Guest Suites
A new provision was added to 2017 NEC® 210.12(C) to require all 120-volt, single-phase, 15- and 20-ampere branch circuits supplying outlets and devices installed in guest rooms and guest suites of hotels and motels to have arc-fault circuit interrupter (AFCI) protection by any of the means specified in 210.12(A)(1) through (6). This is a change from the previous edition in that 210.18 (210.17 in the new version) requires that guest rooms and guest suites that are provided with permanent provisions for cooking shall have branch circuits installed to meet the rules for dwelling units. That requirement is still there for 2017 but the new requirement clarifies that AFCI protection applies to all guest rooms and guest suites in hotels and motels whether they have permanent provisions for cooking or not.

Proper Supervision of Trainees
Appropriately certified electricians must supervise trainees learning the electrical trade. The department receives many questions about what proper supervision consists of. RCW 19.28.161(3) contains a definition of proper supervision: ...Supervision shall consist of a person being on the same job site and under the control of either a certified master journey level electrician, journey level electrician, master specialty electrician working in that electrician’s specialty, or specialty electrician working in that electrician’s specialty. The WAC 296-46B-100 definition of “supervision” clarifies that the trainee is not considered to be on the same job site if the supervising electrician and the trainee are working: (a) In separate buildings at a single address (e.g. a campus, multi-building industrial complex, multi-building apartment complex, etc.) except for a single family residence; or (b) On an outdoor project (e.g. irrigation system, farm, street lighting, traffic signalization, etc.) where the trainee is more than 1,000 feet from the supervising electrician or where the trainee is more than 200 feet from the supervising electrician and out of sight. When the electrical work is in the scope of the O3A, O6B, O7A, O7B, O7C, O7D, O7E, or 10 specialties, the individual must be supervised 100% of the time until they get the minimum 720 or 1,000 hours of experience and pass their examination. Appropriately certified electricians must supervise trainees performing all other types of work on each job site for a minimum of 75% of the time the trainee works. The contractor must provide a trainee working on multiple job sites in one day with supervision for 75% of the time on each job site during the day. If an inspector finds a trainee working without supervision, but who claims to have been supervised for the required 75% time, the inspector will give the trainee an electrical trainee supervision statement to document the supervision. The trainee and supervising electrician must fill out and sign the form. The trainee is responsible to return the completed form to the inspector within 24 hours.

Ugly Picture: If viewing this document online, click on the picture to open a larger image. Look closely. Have you ever been frustrated when an inspector writes you a correction to seal all unused openings in an electrical enclosure? Yeah, me neither.

Answer to Question of the Month: 625.54 was added to the 2017 NEC® effective December 21, 2016 by Tentative Interim Amendment (TIA) 17-2. A TIA is an amendment to the standard after publication to correct an error or adopt an emergency revision. In addition to TIAS, NFPA publishes Errata which correct errors in the standard after publication. To see current TIAS and Errata, visit the Current and Prior Editions tab of the NFPA 70 (NEC®) web page, then mark your copy of the 2017 NEC® to reflect the changes.