



● **This Month's Question of the Month** - Once a violation of the RCW or WAC becomes a final judgment, each subsequent violation within \_\_\_\_\_ becomes a second or additional offense. A) 1 year, B) 2 years, C) 3 years, D) 4 years – *See the correct answer on page 2.*

● **Note From The Chief**

Recently, a group of electrical contractors were sent a letter notifying them that they were selected to participate in this year's Correction Reduction Initiative. The selected contractors received more than the average number of corrections per inspection during the past year.

Last year's contractor group reduced their corrections per inspection by 26%. This improvement greatly reduced the number of repairs and re-inspections required for their work. That saved them and the program a significant amount of time and money.

Each month, participants in the initiative will receive a summary letter of their previous month's results and a report detailing the number of corrections they received on each jobsite. If you are in the initiative this year, use your reports to identify your most frequently issued corrections so you can reduce your costs and improve the overall quality of your jobs.

● **New Electrical Contractor License and Electrician Certificates Are Coming**

All our licenses and certificates have been redesigned. Electrical contractors and administrators will no longer receive a wallet size card. Electricians, master electricians, and trainees will no longer receive a wall certificate.

Electrician and trainee certificates will be made of material similar to a driver's license and be much more durable. Another feature will be a colored stripe that will indicate to consumers what the certificate is for. A green stripe will indicate that the holder is an 01 general journeyman or 01 general master electrician. A yellow stripe will indicate that the holder is a specialty electrician, specialty master electrician, or an electrical trainee authorized to work without supervision. A red stripe will indicate that the holder is a trainee that requires supervision.

The new certificates and cards will be issued beginning this month. The Electrical Program will not be re-issuing cards/licenses to those who have active licenses/certificates. The new licenses/certificates will be issued through standard renewal, a new license, or a request for a replacement card.

Electricians and trainees must have their certification wallet card with them when on the jobsite along with a separate form of government photo identification.

● **Electrical Board Recruitment – Applications Due Before September 15, 2011**

One Electrical Board position is vacant – Telecommunications Utility representative. The Governor is seeking applicants for this position. Candidates should work for and represent telecommunications utilities in Washington. The term will expire on July 7, 2014.

**Safety Tip of the Month!**

Electrical safety is everyone's responsibility.

Electrical safety should be observed every time you even think about touching something connected to an electrical circuit.

With the invention of electrical testers, circuits are easy to test and with circuit breakers and fuses, circuits can be shut off to avoid contact with electricity all together.

If at all possible, turn the circuit off before testing or working on it.

Applications should be submitted to the Governor. Supporting recommendations and information should also be mailed to the Governor's office. Board information and applications are available on the Governor's website at: <http://www.governor.wa.gov/boards/default.asp>

### ● **Pre-inspection Requirements For Wind and Photovoltaic Systems**

Before getting your wind or solar photovoltaic system inspected, you must prepare the documentation necessary for the inspector to be able to quickly evaluate your installation for code compliance. WAC 296-46B-445 and 690(3) have similar requirements.

A design review must be available to the inspector, on the jobsite, at the 1<sup>st</sup> inspection. It is helpful to contact the inspection office and provide the design review before requesting inspection. The design review must include copies of the equipment manufacturer's installation information, and a one-line diagram of the design and calculations used to determine voltage and current within the system. The diagram must show all equipment, devices, overcurrent protection, conductor sizing, grounding, ground fault protection, and all system interconnection points.

The design information will also be required before your installation qualifies for production incentives provided by The Renewable Energy Cost Recovery Program. Incentives start at \$0.15 - \$1.08/kWh for solar photovoltaic systems and \$0.12 - \$0.33/kWh for wind systems. Gathering the information required by the inspector before completing the job will help you successfully complete the inspection process and be prepared to get your installation certified for the production incentives. If you have questions about the production incentives, contact Phil Lou, Solar Energy Specialist with the WSU Energy Program at (360) 956-2132 or [loup@energy.wsu.edu](mailto:loup@energy.wsu.edu). For additional program details, see [WAC 458-20-273](#).

### ● **Work Outlook Is Improving**

The program has seen a growth in permit sales this past year. Of special interest is the growth in plan review workload – up about 50% over last year. Plan review work typically indicates increased electrical construction activity about 5-6 months after the review is completed.

So we can accommodate the current workload and be prepared for a continued increase in inspections, we are bringing back 6 non-permanent electrical inspectors, 1 plan reviewer, and 1 customer service specialist. In the last two years, the program laid off 52 inspection and technical staff and 8 customer service staff due to the recession. Bringing these staff back will enable us to more quickly respond to your needs for inspection, plan review, and licensing.

### ● **Provisional Permits Eliminate the Emergency**

In 2004, the provisional permit label was created to allow an electrical contractor to begin their electrical work immediately in an emergency situation when a permit is required. Provisional labels allow an electrical contractor to immediately have a valid permit when doing service or maintenance work where the exact nature of the repair is unknown until the electrician is on the job site. In L&I jurisdictions the provisional label is an inexpensive and acceptable substitute for a normal permit for two working days.

Use of the provisional label is similar to a Class B label. The electrician must fill the label out and post it on the jobsite prior to beginning the permitted work. The 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the label must be returned to the local L&I office and a regular permit purchased within 2 working days after beginning the permitted work. For more information, see WAC 296-46B-907.

- **Correction:** In the July 2011, Temporary Services article, the WAC reference should have been WAC 296-46B-901(15) instead of WAC 296-46B-902(15).

### ● **Answer to This Month's Question of the Month: C) 3 years – WAC 296-46B-915**

Electrical Section Internet Address: <http://www.Lni.wa.gov/TradesLicensing/electrical>

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