



● **This Month's Question of the Month** - Since Class 3 control circuits permit higher allowable levels of voltage and current, additional _____ are specified to provide protection against the electric shock hazard that could be encountered. A) circuits, B) safeguards, C) procedures, D) devices— *See the correct answer on page 2.*

● **Note From The Chief**

Take the Annual Permit test!

Do you run a large operation and employ your own electrical maintenance staff or contract your maintenance to a licensed electrical contractor?

Does your staff or electrical contractor maintain your facility's electrical system – alter new circuits, install new circuits or feeders from existing equipment, retrofit lighting systems? If you answered “yes” to either of those questions, an annual electrical permit could benefit your company.

One annual permit would cover your electrical maintenance and new wiring in your existing facility. You would no longer need to purchase individual permits or arrange individual inspections. Instead, you would have one permit that is valid for a year and regularly scheduled visits from our inspection staff to inspect your work.

To be eligible, the facility must employ full-time electrical maintenance staff or have a yearly maintenance contract with a licensed electrical contractor. An annual permit can be used for retrofit, replacement, maintenance, repair, upgrade, and alterations to electrical systems at a single plant or building location. The annual permit does not include new or increased services or new square footage.

If you are interested in getting an annual permit or have questions about them, contact your local electrical inspection supervisor. Contact information for all L&I offices is available at:

<http://www.lni.wa.gov/Main/ContactInfo/OfficeLocations/default.asp>

● **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.

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>

● **Stakeholder Meetings**

Because of our limited budget, the Electrical Program has not had formal customer stakeholder meetings across the state in several years. The budget is still very tight, but we cannot afford to lose the opportunity to communicate with our customers. It is important for you to stay up to date with changes that might affect you. Attending stakeholder meetings gives you an opportunity to get your questions

Safety Tip of the Month!

- Keep power cords clear of tools during use.
- Suspend power cords over aisles or work areas to eliminate stumbling or tripping hazards.
- Replace open front plugs with dead front plugs. Dead front plugs are sealed and present less danger of shock or short circuit.
- Do not carry electrical tools by the power cord.
- Do not tie power cords in tight knots. Knots can cause short circuits and shocks.

answered and give the program your input. The program will be conducting stakeholder meetings beginning this fall. Meetings will be held from 6:30 to 8:30 in the following locations:

October 4th – Spokane Labor and Industries, 901 N Monroe Street	November 2nd – Tukwila Labor and Industries, 12806 Gateway Dr S
October 5th – Kennewick Benton PUD Auditorium 2721 W 10th Avenue	February 7th – Vancouver Labor and Industries, 312 SE Stonemill Dr Suite 120
October 6th – Yakima Pacific Power Auditorium 500 Keys Road	February 8th – Tumwater L&I Auditorium, 7273 Linderson Way SW
October 18th – Mount Vernon – Padilla Bay Interpretive Center, 10441 Bay View-Edison Rd	February 21st – Port Angeles – Elwha Klallam Tribe Heritage Center, 401 E First Street
October 19th – Everett – Snohomish County PUD Auditorium, 2320 California Street	February 22nd – Tacoma – L&I Building, 950 Broadway, Orcas Room, 5 th floor

● **Wiring Requirements For Modular Office Furnishings Or Relocatable Wired Partitions**

When manufactured office partitions contain an electrical distribution system (including switches, receptacles, flexible cable assemblies with quick-connect electrical interconnections, or any branch circuit conductors connected to the premises wiring), all work on the electrical devices and conductors must be done by properly certified electricians and licensed electrical contractors.

Uncertified individuals may assemble the panels, work surfaces, cabinets, shelves, and structural elements of the partitions. Owners and their regularly employed staff may work without being certified electricians, but they should be qualified to work on electrical systems.

Except for some limited device replacement – see RCW 19.28.006(2)(a) for a list of permit exempt work – the work will generally require an electrical permit and inspection. The permit must be obtained prior to beginning any electrical work. Permit fees are generally based upon the addition or alteration of commercial branch circuits described in WAC 296-46B-906(2)(c).

● **Rule Development**

The Electrical Program will begin rule development about April 2012. WAC 296-46B will be opened for proposals and a Technical Advisory Committee will be formed to help review proposals and make recommendations to the department. If you are interested in being a part of the program's rule making process and receiving other general Electrical Program information, you should join the Electrical Email List at: <http://www.lni.wa.gov/Main/Listservs/Electrical.asp>

Additional information will also be published in the Electrical Currents newsletter in the coming months.

● **New Standard for Light Poles, Effective April 1, 2012**

Underwriters Laboratories has had an electrical standard for light poles under 8' in height for some time. Recently, a new standard, UL 1598, was created for lighting poles from 8' to 100'. As is common when a new standard is implemented, there are very few manufacturers who have completed the listing process with an approved electrical testing laboratory for these tall poles

L&I will not be enforcing a listing or field evaluation requirement for them until April 1, 2012. Beginning on that date, all poles from 8-100' in height will be required to be listed or field evaluated by an approved electrical testing laboratory. All requirements for luminaires and their supporting means, including the requirements of NEC 410.30(B) will be enforced for all lighting poles, metal and non-metallic – hand hole and grounding terminal.

● **Answer to This Month's Question of the Month: B) safeguards – NEC 725.2**

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

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