



## SPECIAL EDITION

### Significant Changes – 2019 WAC 296-46B

In this issue, we will review some of the significant changes in the 2019 [WAC 296-46B](#) electrical rules. The changes will be effective August 23, 2019. Installations made using electrical permits purchased on or after that date must comply with the revised requirements. We are also adopting the 2020 National Electrical Code (NEC) but it will not become effective until July 1, 2020. None of the current exam questions are affected by these changes.

This document does not cover all changes. We wrote it to help you become aware of some of the more important changes. A complete version of the 2019 WAC 296-46B will soon be available at:

<http://www.lni.wa.gov/TradesLicensing/Electrical/LawRulePol/LawsRules/default.asp>.

- **WAC 296-46B-010(1) – Adopted standards – 2020 National Electrical Code (NEC)**

We are adopting the 2020 NEC with an effective date of July 1, 2020. The 2020 NEC will apply to installations for all permits purchased on or after that date. We will consider rule proposals after publication of the 2020 NEC in September.

- **WAC 296-46B-100 – General definitions**

- “New building” – For the purposes of [RCW 19.28.261](#), includes the setting of a manufactured, mobile, or modular building. This clarifies that property owners or leaseholders cannot install wiring for a mobile or manufactured home then offer it for sale or lease without electrical contractor license and worker certification. We made the same change to WAC 296-46B-925(13).
- We removed four definitions specific to electrical services because the NEC definitions now accomplish what the rule did.

- **WAC 296-46B-210(3) – Other than dwelling units – GFCI requirements.**

A new rule clarifies that receptacles used for recreational vehicle supply equipment or for attachment of a mobile home supply cord do not require GFCI protection. It does not apply to 125-volt, single phase, 15- or 20-amp receptacles.

- **WAC 296-46B-215(1) – Feeders – Minimum rating and size**

This new rule for feeders is similar to one already required for services. If the feeder conductors have a lesser ampacity than the rating of the equipment they terminate in or on, you must install an identification plate that states the ampacity of feeder conductors. It does not apply to one- or two-family dwelling feeders rated up to 400 amperes.

- **WAC 296-46B-225 – Outside branch circuits and feeders – Clearances from roofs**

This rule adds an exception to NEC 225.19(A). It allows a reduction in clearance to 3 feet where feeder conductors that do not exceed 300 volts pass over a guarded or isolated roof. NEC 230.24(A) contains this exception for overhead service conductors and this rule now applies to feeder conductors as well. This change allows us to eliminate WAC 296-46B-230(4)(c) regarding residential patio covers.

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- **WAC 296-46B-408 – Switchboards, switchgear, and panelboards**  
 We moved this rule from WAC 296-46B-230(10). It prohibits installation of service equipment, subpanels, and similar electrical equipment in clothes closets, toilet rooms, and shower rooms. We moved it here because the rule also applies to panels for other than services.
- **WAC 296-46B-410(3) – Luminaires – Protection of conductors and insulation**  
 This new rule clarifies that requirements of NEC 410.56(E) for stranded conductors do not apply to branch-circuit conductors.
- **WAC 296-46B-430 – Marking on motors**  
 We amended this rule that requires motors to comply with National Electrical Manufacturer’s Association (NEMA) standards. Now it allows approval of motors built according to International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) standards.
- **WAC 296-46B-440 – Air conditioning and refrigerating equipment – Split system indoor disconnecting means**  
 We amended this rule, which does not require a disconnecting means for the indoor unit of a split system in one- and two-family dwelling units under certain conditions. The change requires the outdoor unit to have a label identifying the location of all indoor units. This is an existing department policy published in the [November 2013](#) Electrical Currents newsletter.
- **WAC 296-46B-501(8) – Sewage disposal systems**  
 This new rule coordinates with Department of Health rules. It requires on-site sewage disposal systems using pumps to have audible and visual alarms designed to alert the resident of a malfunction. A circuit independent of the pump circuit must supply the alarm.
- **WAC 296-46B-514(7) – Motor fuel dispensing facilities – Maintenance disconnecting means**  
 This new rule clarifies the NEC 514.3 requirement for a maintenance and service disconnect for fuel dispensing equipment. It must be capable of isolating each dispenser individually from all external voltage sources including the grounded conductor, while all other dispensers remain operational.
- **WAC 296-46B-555 – Marinas – Ground-Fault protection**  
 Beginning September 1, 2019, ground-fault protection for marinas will be as published in the 2020 NEC. This provision was effective July 1, 2018.
- **WAC 296-46B-620 – Elevators – Disconnecting means**  
 This new rule coordinates L&I electrical and elevator program requirements. It specifies the location of elevator disconnects in elevator machine rooms.
- **WAC 296-46B-705(2) – Interconnected electric power production sources – Supply side disconnect**  
 We amended this rule to clarify the wiring methods, grounding, and bonding requirements for a supply side interconnection disconnect. It requires the same rules as if it were an additional service.
- **WAC 296-46B-908(10)(b)(iii) – Class B scope of work – Like-in-kind furnace replacement**  
 We amended the Class B random inspection process scope for low voltage HVAC control wiring. The change allows low voltage wiring for an existing and/or new thermostat, heat pump, or air conditioner using the same Class B label as the replacement of a furnace.
- **WAC 296-46B-915 – Civil penalty schedule**  
 We increased the penalty for unlicensed electrical contracting to \$1000 for a first offense with a maximum penalty of \$10,000. The penalties have not increased for over thirty years. The Technical Advisory Committee and the Electrical Board overwhelmingly supported this provision.

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- **WAC 296-46B-920(2)(f)(iv)(A) – Scope of work – HVAC/refrigeration systems specialty**  
 We amended the HVAC/R specialty scope of work to allow, if HVAC/R equipment is being replaced, the specialty may remove and replace a disconnecting means enclosure mounted on the surface of the HVAC/R equipment with a like-in-kind disconnecting means enclosure rated not more than 20 amperes and 120 volts using the existing wiring method.
- **WAC 296-46B-940(3) – Electrician certificate of competency required**  
 We amended this rule to consider a supervising electrician to be working in the electrical construction trade while supervising trainees (even if the supervising electrician is not performing electrical work). This requires the supervising electrician to display an electrician’s certificate appropriate for the work performed by the trainee(s).
- **WAC 296-46B-940(17)-(19) – Reciprocal agreements between Washington and other states**  
 This new rule specifies requirements for the department to enter into reciprocal agreements for electrician certification with other states as allowed by [RCW 19.28.231](#).
- **WAC 296-46B-942(1) – Training certificates**  
 This new rule alerts everyone that beginning July 1, 2023, unless working in a specialty, apprentices and individuals learning the electrical construction trade must have in their possession proof of being registered in an approved journey level electrical apprenticeship or journey level electrical training school program.
- **WAC 296-46B-942(8)(d) – Renewal of training certificates – Timely submittal of affidavits of experience**  
 We amended the rules for renewal of training certificates to require trainees to submit affidavits of experience for all hours gained since the individual’s last training certificate was effective within one-hundred eighty days after the expiration date of an electrical training certificate unless enrolled in a department approved apprenticeship program. This is in accordance with [RCW 19.28.161\(2\)](#).
- **WAC 296-46B-942(9) – Renewal of training certificates – Basic classroom training required to renew**  
 Effective July 1, 2020, an individual may not renew a training certificate until they complete the required hours of basic trainee classroom education. The current rule allowing a trainee to pay the renewal fee without completing their required classroom training violated RCW 19.28.161(2) which has no provision for inactive status for a trainee who has not completed the required basic classroom training.
- **WAC 296-46B-945(4) – Qualifying for the journey level electrician examination – Apprenticeship required**  
 This new rule alerts everyone of the coming July 1, 2023 requirement for completion of apprenticeship to qualify for the journey level electrician certificate of competency examination.
- **WAC 296-46B-945(14) – Canadian Red Seal electricians**  
 This new rule allows Canadian Red Seal electricians to qualify for the journey level certificate of competency examination if they have possessed a Red Seal endorsement for one year.
- **WAC 296-46B-990(3) – Serious noncompliance**  
 We amended the rule defining serious noncompliance, which allows suspension or revocation of an electrical license or certificate to include:
 
  - Using or allowing a certificate to be used through error or fraud.
  - Refusing to present a government issued photo identification when requested by an electrical inspector while working as an electrician or trainee.
  - Cheating on an electrical certification examination.
- **WAC 296-46B-995(14) – Electrical board appeal rights and hearings**  
 This new rule specifies requirements for appealing a decision pursuant to RCW 19.28.010(4) issued through an appellate process of a city or town to the Electrical Board.

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