



Washington State Department of
Labor & Industries

Electrical Installation Variance Application

Electrical Licensing & Certification
PO Box 44460
Olympia WA 98504-4460

www.Lni.wa.gov/Electrical
360-902-5249

Fee: \$99.60

Please allow a minimum of two weeks for processing.

What is variance?

A variance is an allowable deviation from specific requirements of a National Electrical Code (NEC) section, or the [Washington Administrative Code \(WAC\) 296-46B](#) where the proposed alternate methods will maintain equivalent safety.

What won't a variance do?

A variance will not avoid compliance with the intention of the section or rule. A variance is not a way to recover from an installation or design error. A variance will not be granted if the alternate method would reduce the safety of the installation or equipment.

What does a variance cover?

If the variance is granted, it shall be limited to the particular case(s) covered in the application and will NOT be applicable to future installations or equipment. The variance may be revoke for cause.

What if the variance is denied?

When a request for variance is denied, an appeal may be directed to the Electrical Board, as provided in [RCW 19.28](#). Interim acceptance of the installation, pending outcome of an appeal, will be at the discretion of the Department of Labor & Industries and **must** be in writing.

Who may apply for a variance?

Only the property owner or electrical contractor, those responsible for compliance with [RCW 19.28](#), may apply for a variance.

Who grants a variance?

A variance is granted only by the Chief Electrical Inspector upon request, in writing, under the authority of [RCW 19.28](#) and the National Electrical Code Section 90-4, a portion of which states: *"The authority having jurisdiction may waive specific requirements in this Code or permit alternative methods, where it is assured that equivalent objectives can be achieved by establishing and maintaining effective safety."*

Mail application and payment to:

Department of Labor & Industries
Chief Electrical Inspector
PO Box 44460
Olympia WA 98504-4460



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Include fee \$99.60. Allow a minimum of two weeks for processing.

Submit the following with your application:

1. A diagram or one line drawing, manufacturer’s brochure(s), and/or other information to support you application.
2. The electrical permit number or a copy of the original correction notice, if issued.

Applicant Name		
Address		
City	State	Zip Code
Contact Person		
Phone Number	Email Address	

Electrical Contractor
Property Owner
Location Where Variance is Requested

Variance Requested From
NEC Section
And/Or WAC 296-46B

Which reads as follows:

Statement of Problem:

Alternative Method Proposed:

Has the installation been made?

Yes No

Has a correction notice been issued by the Department?

Yes No

If yes, please complete the following:

a. Date of the Violation

b. Location

c. Name of Inspector Who Issued Correction Notice