

CONCISE EXPLANATORY STATEMENT (CES)

Electrical Rules (Reciprocity)

WAC 296-46B-940, Electrician/certificate of competency required.

The date of adoption for this rule: November 17, 2020

The effective date for this rule: November 17, 2020

I. Purpose of rulemaking:

The purpose of this rulemaking is to adopt amendments to the electrician certification qualifications under WAC 296-46B-940, to allow for a reciprocal agreement between Washington and Oregon.

L&I accepted a petition for rulemaking requesting the amendments to better harmonize rules between Washington and Oregon for the purposes of establishing a reciprocal agreement. On August 7, 2020, L&I filed a CR-103E emergency rule (WSR 20-17-029) to enact the proposed amendments and expedite an agreement. A CR-101 Preproposal Statement of Inquiry (WSR 20-17-028) was filed simultaneously to initiate the permanent rulemaking process. On August 17, 2020, L&I and the Oregon Building Codes Division signed an agreement. The CR-102 Proposal was filed on October 6, 2020 (WSR 20-20-120).

This rulemaking allows L&I to continue the reciprocal agreement with Oregon under the same conditions. The adopted rule and resulting agreement will help to alleviate the shortage of journey level electricians in the state and provide more access to qualified electricians working near the border between Washington and Oregon.

2. Differences between the rule as adopted and the proposed rule:

There are no differences between the text of the proposed rule and the rule as adopted.

3. Comments on proposed rule:

The purpose of this section is to respond to the oral and written comments received through the public comment period and at the public hearing.

The public comment period for this rulemaking began October 6, 2020, and ended November 10, 2020.

A public hearing was held on November 10, 2020, by conference call. Two persons attended the public hearing and elected not to provide testimony. L&I did not receive any written comments during the public comment period.