



PREPROPOSAL STATEMENT OF INQUIRY

CR-101 (October 2017)
(Implements RCW 34.05.310)
Do **NOT** use for expedited rule making

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FILED

DATE: May 06, 2025

TIME: 1:18 PM

WSR 25-10-083

Agency: Department of Labor & Industries (L&I)

Subject of possible rule making: Electrical rules: WAC 296-46B-010, General; WAC 296-46B-334, Nonmetallic-sheathed cable; WAC 296-46B-942, Training certificate required.

Statutes authorizing the agency to adopt rules on this subject: Chapter 19.28 RCW, Electricians and Electrical Installations including RCW 19.28.031 and 19.28.251.

Reasons why rules on this subject may be needed and what they might accomplish: L&I is considering amendments to the electrical rules under Chapter 296-46B WAC. The purpose is to adopt the latest national safety standards for electrical in the state of Washington and update and clarify other rules.

The amendments under consideration include:

- Adopting the 2026 edition of the National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) 70, the National Electrical Code (NEC) by reference with a delayed effective date.
- Amending the adopted NEC restriction for non-metallic sheathed cable to allow calculations for minimum conductor sizes to be calculated at a higher temperature rating.
- Clarifying the existing requirements for trainee hours of experience submittal.

The 2026 edition of the NEC will be published in the fall of 2025. The NEC sets the standard for safe electrical installations in homes, businesses, and institutions to protect people and property from hazards arising from the use of electricity. L&I is considering adopting the 2026 NEC in its entirety by reference under this rulemaking with a delayed effective of December 31, 2026 (tentative), to give stakeholders advance notice of its adoption and more opportunity for review and comment, prior to its publication and L&I's formal rule review process. Following the adoption of rules under this rulemaking, L&I plans to engage in a subsequent rulemaking next year to begin the formal review process of the 2026 NEC. As part of the subsequent rulemaking, stakeholders will have the opportunity to submit proposals for amendments to the 2026 NEC code requirements and make recommendations to L&I on adoption of the rules prior to effective date for the 2026 NEC.

Additional amendments to rules also being considered in this rulemaking are to eliminate an unnecessary temperature restriction for certain cable types and to provide better clarity on existing requirements for trainee hours of experience submittal.

Identify other federal and state agencies that regulate this subject and the process coordinating the rule with these agencies: None.

Process for developing new rule (check all that apply):

- ☐ Negotiated rule making
- ☐ Pilot rule making
- ☐ Agency study

☒ Other (describe) Interested parties can participate in the formulation of the proposed amendments before publication by contacting the individual listed below. The public can also participate after amendments are proposed by providing written comments and/or testimony during the public hearing and comment process.

Interested parties can participate in the decision to adopt the new rule and formulation of the proposed rule before publication by contacting:

(If necessary)

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Other:

Name:
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Email:
Web site:
Other:

Additional comments:

Date: May 6, 2025

Name: Joel Sacks

Title: Director

Signature:

