



RULE-MAKING ORDER PERMANENT RULE ONLY

CR-103P (December 2017) (Implements RCW 34.05.360)

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STATE OF WASHINGTON
FILED

DATE: February 14, 2023

TIME: 8:35 AM

WSR 23-05-073

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

Effective date of rule:

Permanent Rules

- 31 days after filing.
- Other (specify) July 1, 2023 (If less than 31 days after filing, a specific finding under RCW 34.05.380(3) is required and should be stated below)

Any other findings required by other provisions of law as precondition to adoption or effectiveness of rule?

- Yes No If Yes, explain:

Purpose: This rulemaking adopts amendments to the qualifications for journey level electrician examinations under WAC 296-46B-945. Amendments to this rule are required to implement Substitute Senate Bill 6126 (SSB 6126) (Chapter 249, Laws of 2018). SSB 6126 enacted apprenticeship requirements for journey level electrician examination candidates that take effect July 1, 2023.

SSB 6126 gives L&I the authority, until July 1, 2025, to permit applicants that have obtained experience and training equivalent to a journey level apprenticeship program to take the examination, if the applicant has “good cause” for not completing the minimum hours of work applicable on July 1, 2023 (RCW 19.28.195). L&I is authorized to exercise this discretion until July 1, 2025.

Under the adopted rule, L&I is exercising the discretion provided in the law to allow temporary alternative pathways to qualify for the 01 journey level electrician examination through a “good cause” exemption.

The adopted rule: Removes language that applies to qualifying for 01 journey level electrician examination with on-the-job-training that becomes obsolete on July 1, 2023, due to passage of SSB 6126.

- Provides exceptions to apprenticeship completion requirements to qualify for 01 journey level electrician examination for “good cause” until July 1, 2025. Due to the universal effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, “good cause” will be granted until July 1, 2025 to journey level examination candidates who meet the experience identified under the exceptions. The adopted changes for the exceptions include:
 - Modified requirements to qualify for the 01 journey level electrician examination for apprentices registered in chapter 49.04 RCW programs. Allows apprentices to qualify for examination before completing an apprenticeship program once they complete the education and work experience required of the apprenticeship program.
 - Recognizing examination based state-licensed electricians from other jurisdictions that require 8,000 hours of experience (4,000 hours must be new commercial or industrial installations) to qualify for the 01 journey level electrician examination.
 - Recognizing individuals with 8,000 hours of electrical experience gained in a construction battalion while serving in the armed forces of the United States to qualify for the 01 journey level electrician examination.
 - Recognizing individuals from other jurisdictions that have 16,000 hours working in the electrical construction trade (4,000 hours must be commercial or industrial installations) to qualify for the 01 journey level electrician examination. Individuals under this provision include those who work in states that have no licensing requirements for electricians or states where licensing is not examination based.
 - Recognizing individuals with 4,000 hours performing industrial or commercial installations accrued prior to July 1, 2023. The individual can continue accruing remaining specialty experience and qualify for the journey level electrician examination without joining an apprenticeship program.
- Includes how L&I will approve qualified hours gained by applicants for the journey level examination under the good cause exemptions.
- Updates language for general housekeeping, such as reference corrections, renumbering, formatting, replacing written numbers with numerals, etc.

Citation of rules affected by this order:

New:
Repealed:
Amended: WAC 296-46B-945
Suspended:

Statutory authority for adoption: Substitute Senate Bill 6126 (SSB 6126), Chapter 249, Laws of 2018, and chapter 19.28 RCW, Electricians and Electrical Installations including RCW 19.28.191 and 19.28.251.

Other authority: None

PERMANENT RULE (Including Expedited Rule Making)

Adopted under notice filed as WSR 22-23-153 on November 22, 2022 (date).
Describe any changes other than editing from proposed to adopted version: None.

If a preliminary cost-benefit analysis was prepared under RCW 34.05.328, a final cost-benefit analysis is available by contacting:

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**Note: If any category is left blank, it will be calculated as zero.
No descriptive text.**

**Count by whole WAC sections only, from the WAC number through the history note.
A section may be counted in more than one category.**

The number of sections adopted in order to comply with:

Federal statute:	New	___	Amended	___	Repealed	___
Federal rules or standards:	New	___	Amended	___	Repealed	___
Recently enacted state statutes:	New	___	Amended	<u>1</u>	Repealed	___

The number of sections adopted at the request of a nongovernmental entity:

New ___ Amended ___ Repealed ___

The number of sections adopted on the agency's own initiative:

New ___ Amended 1 Repealed ___

The number of sections adopted in order to clarify, streamline, or reform agency procedures:

New ___ Amended ___ Repealed ___

The number of sections adopted using:

Negotiated rule making:	New	___	Amended	___	Repealed	___
Pilot rule making:	New	___	Amended	___	Repealed	___
Other alternative rule making:	New	___	Amended	<u>1</u>	Repealed	___

Date Adopted: February 14, 2023

Name: Joel Sacks

Title: Director

Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joel Sacks". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J' and 'S'.