

ELECTRICAL CURRENTS

A Newsletter from the Office of L&I Chief Electrical Inspector Wayne Molesworth September 2023

Question of the Month:

The electrical program operates with funding from a dedicated account called the electrical license fund. RCW [19.28.351](#) states the electrical license fund can only be used to accomplish the intent of RCW [19.28](#), which is the law regulating Electricians and Electrical Installations. What is the intent of the law?

See correct answer at the bottom of this page.

Unlisted Low Voltage Devices And Equipment Must Be Fed From A Listed Class 2 Transformer.

For some types of low voltage systems (30 volts or less) it can be difficult or impossible to find listed low voltage devices and equipment. Field evaluation is always an option for unlisted equipment, but in many cases the cost of the evaluation far exceeds the cost of the equipment. For some low voltage equipment there is an alternative.

Unlisted low voltage utilization equipment or devices will be approved if they receive their power from a listed Class 2 transformer or power supply and comply with **all** of the following.

- The Class 2 transformer is listed and used in accordance with the manufacturer instructions.
- The wiring method used complies with NEC 725.
- The secondary voltage of the Class 2 transformer/power supply does not exceed 30 volts.
- The secondary side of the Class 2 transformer/power supply is protected by a 5-ampere maximum use, or a fuse derived by dividing 100 VA by the secondary voltage whichever is less.
- A permanent marking is affixed as near as practicable to the transformer/power supply and must indicate the size and type of replacement fuse, or the fuse must be integrated into the transformer/power supply assembly requiring replacement of the unit.
- The Class 2 circuit does not supply life safety equipment or emergency egress, such as: fire alarm, rescue systems, and classified (hazardous) locations.
- The equipment and devices must be located exclusively within the Class 2 circuit (i.e. isolated from all other electrical circuits).

Answer to the Question of the Month:

The answer is found in RCW [19.28.010](#)(1); [.031](#)(1); [.051](#); [.201](#)(1)(a); [.410](#)(1); [.440](#). To ensure that all electrical wires and equipment, and installations thereof are in strict conformity with approved methods of construction for **safety to life and property**, and to ensure that those engaged in the business of electrical installations are competent to engage in and supervise the work to **ensure proper safety and protection for the general public**.

Safety Tip of the Month

Back-to-school season is here again! Be on the lookout for children not only in school zones, but also in residential areas, playgrounds, and parks. Children are unpredictable and often take risks, ignore hazards, and fail to look both ways before crossing the street.

Give them a brake

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UL Warns of Potentially Hazardous Network Communications Cable and Unauthorized Marks

In July, UL released a public notice of a network cable on the market that does not meet safety standards. “High-Performance Network Cable Category 6 Plenum 550Mhz (1000 ft)” is marked as a plenum rated cable but could pose a fire hazard.

Learn more: [UL Solutions Warns of Potentially Hazardous Network Communications Cable | UL Solutions](#)

In October 2022, UL issued a public notice for a communications cable bearing an unauthorized UL mark. According to UL, “Templar” branded communications cable has not been evaluated for safety.

Learn more: [UL Solutions Warns of Unauthorized UL Marks on TEMPLAR branded Communications Cable \(CAT.6 UTP\) | UL Solutions](#)

Stay informed: [Public Notices | UL Solutions](#)

Accurate Directions Promote Faster Inspections

Locating your jobsite with hardly any information can cause delays. Inspectors rely on your directions to get the job done. With accurate directions, inspectors get more inspections done.

Inspectors bounce all over, they do not always know the areas they are inspecting. Please keep directions simple. Avoid using over complicated directions from mapping websites. Please provide directions from the nearest main street, highway, or intersection. A few more details help your inspector get more inspections done.

Which directions would you like to have?

A	B
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North on Hwy 821 from Selah, past Pomona, right on Selah Creek Dr. In about a mile, look for a blue house at the end of a long driveway • I-82 East to Exit 75, right on McCreadie, right on Wine Country Rd. Third driveway on the right, big new metal building. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Just past the old Smith house on Brown Rd. • Hwy 20 • Use Google Maps • You have been here before • Directions starting in Pasco WA to Winthrop WA

A is the winner by far.

Struggling to find your way is no fun. Having accurate directions saves everybody time. The sooner we find your jobsite, the sooner we can be on to the next inspection.

Learn how electricians can make [Virtual Inspection](#) appointments.

Picture of the Month:

The inspector found this installation on a random compliance stop. This installation was made by the general contractor. They were not an electrical contractor and no certified electricians could be found. This splice, without an electrical box in the ceiling, is a fire hazard.



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