

The Electrical Standards Subcommittee report to WSATC January 2021

Review recent variances to Minimum Guideline Standard requirements

The subcommittee reviewed and discussed recent variance requests to the Minimum Guideline Standard. After much discussion, the subcommittee came to the agreement that under Section II, the minimum High School Equivalency scores for the educational requirement should be removed; however, the math requirement shall remain.

It was brought to the subcommittee's attention that there was some confusion around what was considered boilerplate language in a set of standards and what was designated as the Minimum Guideline Standard for a set of standards. This was particularly true for potential sponsors of new programs. It was the consensus of the group that Oregon's method of clearly identifying Minimum Guidelines in standards was indeed clear and easily understood by the reader. As a result, the subcommittee respectfully requests that the Council direct Department to clearly identify Minimum Guideline Standard statements in applicable standards, using Oregon's method as an example.

Review cross supervision requirements and practices

It was the consensus of group is to continue with Minimum Guideline Standard around supervision requirements. These requirements, as they are written, are in concert with the electrical licensing requirements. The subcommittee determined that a work group should be formed to develop clarifying language for placement in the Standards under Section VI. The following individuals volunteered for the work group: Steve Harper, Halene Sigmund, Clay Tschillard, and Rob Bartell. It is the intention of the subcommittee to provide language for adoption to Council at their regularly scheduled meeting in April of 2021.

Review and provide recommendation concerning new electrical standards proposals

The subcommittee spent some time reviewing and discussing new electrical proposals that had objections. Discussion ensued around concerns that ranged from selection procedures to attendance policies and how single employer apprenticeship programs addressed these areas. Both Trevor and Dana, who operate single employer programs, spoke to these concerns. A few suggestions were made that may temper some of the concerns expressed by the multiemployer program sponsors. The suggestions focused on how a single employer might work with their apprentices to help ensure the continuation of their apprenticeship when an apprentice has been laid off or terminated due to no fault of their own.

L&I Electrical Subcommittee information request and support as SSB 6126 is implemented

The apprenticeship section of L&I is assisting electrical licensing in getting information out to affected parties regarding the implementation of SSB 6126. Apprenticeship will be comparing electrical licensing's list of licensed electrical contractors in Washington to the ARTs system. Employers who are not registered Training Agents will be made aware of SSB 6126. This is a

focused effort by both departments to support current 01 trainees who should be in a registered apprenticeship.

Additionally, the apprenticeship section is working closely with electrical licensing to develop a trainee card that will easily identify a person as a registered apprentice. This adjustment will assist compliance inspectors in working in the field.

The subcommittee also discussed the alignment of non-apprenticeship OJT credit with apprenticeship WACs and electrical licensing's interpretation of allowable hours to test under SSB 6126. This primarily focuses on the alignment of the apprenticeship rule which allows apprentices to be completed in 6 months and the interpretation of SSB 6126's requirement around eligibility to test. Apprentices can have electrical hours credited toward their apprenticeship completion, providing the hours have been approved by electrical licensing. Licensing is interpreting SSB 6126 to require an individual to obtain all 8000 hours under an apprenticeship program to be eligible to test. This interpretation continues to be a discussion between stakeholders, the apprenticeship and licensing section of L&I.

Other Business

The subcommittee committed to meet quarterly, prior to each regularly scheduled Council meeting. Future Agenda Items to be discussed will focus on 06 HVAC licensing requirements (apprenticeship tracking and electrical licensing requirements during an affidavit audit) and developing standardized language for single employer programs on acceptable options for working with and helping laid off/terminated apprentices continue their apprenticeship.

Respectfully submitted by:

Steve Harper and Halene Sigmund, Co-Chairs, Electrical Standards Subcommittee