

The Electrical Standards Subcommittee report to WSATC April 2022

The subcommittee met on March 29, 2022, with stakeholders from electrical and mechanical apprenticeship programs.

MGS Clarifying Language Fix for Supervision of 01s

The stakeholders were informed by L&I that there was some confusion around ratio supervision of 01 apprentices while working on specialty jobsites. The group discussed adding some clarity to the wording around supervision in the new MGS. The department will work on getting an example of this language for the subcommittee members to review prior to the April meeting. The hope is that this fix could be acted on at the WSATC April meeting. The Electrical Standards Subcommittee is requesting approval from the WSATC regarding the addition of the language as attached for Section VI in the MGS.

When 01 Apprentices and Trainees Can Work on the Same Jobsite

The department reported that they are receiving a lot of questions regarding under what circumstances can 01 apprentices and trainees work on the same jobsite. Discussion ensued around situations where this can occur, such as when the trainee is not working toward an 01 but toward another electrical license. The licensing and apprenticeship departments consider the various electrical licenses as different occupations. The group agrees with the assessment from the departments. L&I Apprenticeship Program Manager has provided an official response and will share their response with the group to help ensure consistent messaging.

Work Processes, MGS Hours Stated and Prospective Employers

Discussion ensued around the number of 01 hours that a prospective employer would need to perform in order to support their own 01 apprenticeship program. The group recognized that licensing doesn't have access to all the information around the types of jobs that an employer may perform in border states. The group considered establishing minimum guidelines for the work processes required to qualify for the 01-license exam, where at least 4000 hours must be commercial/Industrial electrical work, and the remaining hours may be specialty electrical work. A workgroup of this subcommittee was created to review the work processes and any suggested edits. Volunteers were Clay Tshillard, Steve Harper, Halene Sigmund, Patrick Martin, Amy Simondet, Rob Bartell, Steve Neimi, and Larry Vance

SSB 6126 and the "Fix-It" bill 5599 did not pass

Extensive discussion ensued around what to do about hours earned under a trainee only card and how those hours can be credited to the apprenticeship term. The group also discussed how to address apprentices who have completed the requirements of their apprenticeship but cannot pass the license exam. Most program standards in Washington require the passing of the license exam before an apprentice can be completed by the committee. Clarification was requested from L&I regarding the agency's interpretation of SSB6126 and what requirements will be implemented around acceptance of hours to sit for the exam. Brittany Craighead will reach out to L&I Leadership for clarity and will report back to the subcommittee at their next meeting in June, if not before. Discussion on this topic was tabled to the June agenda.

Respectfully submitted by:
Steve Harper and Halene Sigmund
Co-Chairs, Electrical Standards Subcommittee

VI. RATIO OF APPRENTICES TO JOURNEY LEVEL WORKERS

E.

1. General Electrician (01)

~~The employer is allowed a ratio of one (1) apprentice to one (1) journey level worker per job site.~~

~~At no time shall the ratio of apprentices to journey level workers exceed 1:1, unless the following condition is met:~~

~~Apprentices with a minimum of 7,000 hours of OJT will be allowed to work without the direct supervision of a journey level person provided that they have been issued a six month, nonrenewable, unsupervised electrical training certificate by the Washington State Labor and Industries Electrical Section. Such apprentices will not be counted for the purposes of a ratio calculation nor be allowed to supervise other apprentices.~~

The employer is allowed a ratio of one (1) apprentice to one (1) journey-level worker per job site, unless one of the following conditions is met:

No more than two apprentices for every journey level Residential (02) or Limited Energy (06) specialty electrician when working in that electrician's specialty.

Apprentices with a minimum of 7,000 hours of OJT will be allowed to work without the direct supervision of a journey-level person provided that they have been issued a six- month, nonrenewable, unsupervised electrical training certificate by the Washington State Labor and Industries Electrical Section. Such apprentices will not be counted for the purposes of a ratio calculation nor be allowed to supervise other apprentices.

Supervision and Ratio of apprentices registered in the above occupations shall follow requirements established under RCW 19.28.161.