



# ELECTRICAL CURRENTS

Newsletter from the Office of the Chief Electrical Inspector

Ron Fuller, Chief Electrical Inspector

Vol. 11 No.12

December 2008

## ● The 2008 NEC and WAC Effective December 31, 2008!!

Electrical permits purchased on or before December 30<sup>th</sup> 2008, will be inspected to the requirements of the 2005 NEC and the 2006 WAC 296-46B. Subsequent electrical inspections made for these projects will use those same standards. Permits purchased on, or after December 31, 2008, will be inspected to the requirements of the 2008 NEC and 2008 WAC 296-46B.

The coming WAC 296-46B version (in the Code Reviser format with strikethroughs and underlining to denote changes) can be viewed on our 2008 Electrical Rule Development webpage under "2008 DRAFT WAC Proposals", or at:

<http://www.lni.wa.gov/TradesLicensing/Electrical/files/WACFY08DRAFT.pdf>

## ● Temporary Electrician Permits For Out-Of-State Electricians

Electricians coming to Washington from another state may qualify for a temporary electrician permit. This permit would allow the individual to work as a certified electrician for 30 days. Temporary permits may be given to reciprocal applicants and to applicants from out-of-state who are applying for the examination.

To qualify for the temporary electrician permit an individual must submit an *Application for Electrical Examination or Reciprocal Electrician Certificate* at:

<http://www.lni.wa.gov/FormPub/Detail.asp?DocID=1895>, pay application and temporary permit fees (See WAC 296-46B-909 for fees at: <http://www.lni.wa.gov/TradesLicensing/Rules/files/electrical/500-039-222.pdf>) and provide evidence that they meet the requirements of RCW 19.28.191. To expedite the processing of these types of applications, applicants should contact Electrical Licensing at (360) 902-5269, **before** coming to Washington to get details about what is acceptable evidence of experience.

The applicant should then complete the application, collect the necessary evidence, and send it by express mail to the Electrical Licensing Unit, Labor and Industries, PO Box 44460 Olympia WA 98504-4460 or 7273 Linderson Ways SW Tumwater WA 98501-4460 **before** moving to Washington. Waiting to do this until you have arrived in Washington may delay your ability to quickly go to work as an electrician.

## ● 2005 NEC Update Courses Will Expire December 31, 2008

Effective December 31, 2008, all 2005 National Electrical Code Update courses will be expired. Course sponsors must have updated their materials and received 2008 course numbers for any Code Update classes delivered after that date. If you take an expired class you will not get CEU credit, so make sure you verify your Code Update class is current prior to investing your time and money. During your certification renewal cycle, any Code Update course that was valid when you completed it will satisfy your renewal requirements. For example, a 2005 NEC-based Code Update course taken before December 31, 2008, would still meet your renewal requirements if you renew after December 31<sup>st</sup>.

## ● Temporary Fee Reductions Will Expire December 31, 2008

On January 1, 2007, the department instituted a temporary fee reduction for electrical inspection and certification fees. Because of the strong construction economy at the time we were able to extend this 5% reduction an additional year through 2008. This temporary fee reduction will expire December 31, 2008. Effective with the new rules all electrical fees will return to their original 2006 values.

## ● You Can Now Add Money To Your Electrical Permit Online

To expand our customer service, we have added online services. Like the original purchase of an electrical permit, you can now pay for additional services or fees due without having to physically come to an L&I office. Effective November 21, 2008, customers can pay fees on an existing permit through the Electronic Permits & Inspections System (EPIS). First, your local L&I office must add fees due or

### Safety Tip of the Month!

This time of year, many of us will be hanging holiday lights on trees, gutters, windows, etc. Before you plug in your lights or extension cords take the time to inspect them to make sure they are in good shape.

When you plug them in make sure you have good solid connections. If installed outdoors be sure to use GFCI protected outlets.

Have a safe holiday!

additional service items to an existing permit. (For security reasons, you will still need to call your L&I customer service specialist to do data entry modifications of an existing permit.) Once the fee is added you can then pay it online. This is done in the "Request an Inspection" section of EPIS.

Information about this service is located at our Trades and Licensing Electrical webpage under "Purchase Permits & Request Inspections": <http://www.lni.wa.gov/TradesLicensing/Electrical/FeePermlnsp>

### ● Flood Damaged Equipment Or Wiring Must Either Be Replaced Or Reconditioned

Many Washington residents have experienced the damage caused to electrical systems caused by flooding. "What should be done with this water damaged equipment? Does it need to be replaced? Am I allowed to dry it out, clean it and reinstall it, or is there something else I should do?"

The new rules provide specific guidance on flood damaged wiring and equipment per NEMA guidelines. WAC 296-46B-110(2) says that all breakers, fuses, controllers, receptacles, lighting switches/dimmers, electric heaters, and any sealed device/equipment (e.g., relays, contactors, etc.) submerged or exposed to water must be replaced. All other electrical equipment (e.g., wiring, breaker panelboards, disconnect switches, switchgear, motor control centers, boiler controls, HVAC/R equipment, electric motors, transformers, appliances, water heaters, and similar appliances) must be replaced or may be reconditioned by the original manufacturer, or by their approved representative.

### ● An Approved First Aid/CPR Course May Qualify For Industry Related CEUs

Since 2001 the department has allowed accredited first aid/CPR training courses to be applied toward the Industry Related category CEU's required for renewal of an electrician certificate of competency. Courses consisting of 2-, 4-, 6-, or 8-hour increments are allowed. In no case will first aid/CPR credit be given for less than 2 hours or more than 8 hours. Your course completion certificate (or instructor) must document hourly attendance in class. First aid/CPR classes do not meet the requirements for basic classroom electrical training (BC) credit for trainees.

### ● NEC 334.15(C) NM Sheathed Cable Protection Does Not Apply In Crawl Spaces

In crawl spaces only, where nonmetallic sheathed cable runs at an angle to the direction of joists, the requirements for smaller sizes of NM cable to be run either through bored holes in joists or on running boards does not apply (per WAC 296-46B-334(6)). In unfinished basements NEC 334.15(C) still applies.

### ● GFCIs Are Required For Dwelling Kitchens, But What If It's Not Quite A Kitchen?

NEC 210.8 requires ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) protection for personnel in a dwelling's kitchen where the receptacles are installed to serve the countertop surfaces. But what if the countertop is in an area that doesn't quite meet the definition of a kitchen?

The National Electrical Code defines "kitchen" in article 100. It says a kitchen is an area with a sink and permanent facilities for food preparation and cooking. The new rules further define "kitchen." WAC 296-46B-210(2)(a) says: "*For the purposes of NEC 210(8)(B), kitchen means any area where utensils, dishes, etc., are cleaned or where food or beverages are prepared or cooked.*"

This means a wet bar or a dry bar (with no sink) and no permanent cooking facilities is now considered a kitchen, and GFCI protection is required for 125-volt, 15- and 20-amp receptacles. Consider this new language when installing receptacle outlets in these spaces.

### ● Job Site Zip Codes Will Soon Be Required When Purchasing An Electrical Permit

Beginning in mid-January 2009 we will require zip codes for job site addresses on all electrical permits. This will improve the consistency and efficiency in delivering electrical inspection services.

### ● Electrical Question of the Month

**This Month's Question:** What type of electrical permit is required for the replacement of a fuel dispenser at a gas station? **A)** Standard permit, **B)** Class B permit, **C)** Provisional permit, **D)** No permit is required because it is Class A basic electrical work.

**Last Month's Question:** Electrical repairs or changes must be completed within how many days after corrections have been written and posted by the inspector?

**A)** 15, **B)** 30, **C)** 45, **D)** before permit expires. The answer is: **A) 15** [RCW 19.28.101]