

# ELECTRICAL CURRENTS

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

October 2023

## Question of the Month:

WAC [296-46B-940](#) and [942](#) requires all electricians, trainees and apprentices to possess, wear, and visibly display their certificates while working in the electrical construction trade. What else are they required to have with them to show an inspector if they ask to see it? *See correct answer at the bottom of page 2.*

## 2023 Rulemaking Update

Rulemaking to adopt the 2023 NEC and to make other rule changes is underway. The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) provided advice regarding outside and department rule proposals during their July 11, 2023 meeting.

A Second Draft of the proposed rules and supplemental information that focuses on proposed changes to the (06A) HVAC/refrigeration scope of work is now available on our [Rule Development](#) webpage. Here is what happens next:

- October 26: During the [Electrical Board Meeting](#), we will receive advice from the Board on the proposed rules.
- November 21: The proposed rules (CR-102) are expected to be filed with the state Office of the Code Reviser.
- January 3, 2024: A public hearing on the proposed rules is tentatively scheduled.
- February 27, 2024: The final rules (CR-103) are expected to be filed with the state Office of the Code Reviser.
- April 1, 2024: The new rules and adoption of the 2023 NEC are expected to take effect.

See the [April 2023 Special Edition Electrical Currents Newsletter](#) for more details about the entire process.

## New 01 Apprenticeships!

The Washington State Apprenticeship and Training Council approved three new apprenticeship programs for people training to become 01 electricians.

- [Greater Spokane Electrical Training Apprenticeship](#) - serving the Washington counties of Adams, Asotin, Columbia, Ferry, Franklin, Garfield, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens and Whitman. Also the Idaho counties of Benewah, Bonner, Boundary, Clearwater, Idaho, Kootenai, Latah, Lewis, Nez, Perce and Shoshone.
- [Rob's Electric Inc. Apprenticeship & Training](#) (employees of Rob's Electric Inc. only) - serving King, Pierce, Skagit and Snohomish Counties.
- [Rockwell Electric, Inc. Apprenticeship & Training](#) (employees of Rockwell Electric Inc. only) - Serving Island, Skagit and Whatcom counties.

You can find a list of all the recognized 01 apprenticeship programs on our [website](#).

If you have questions about apprenticeship programs, contact them directly or contact [apprenticeship@lni.wa.gov](mailto:apprenticeship@lni.wa.gov).

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## Safety Tip of the Month

Before removing any fuse from a circuit, be sure the equipment is in an electrically safe work condition.

When removing fuses, use an approved fuse puller and break contact on the line side of the circuit first.

When replacing a fuse, install the fuse into the load side of the fuse clip first, then into the line side.

## Help with FAS Rulemaking

L&I is considering changes to the factory assembled structures rules. The changes affect L&I's Factory Assembled Structures (FAS) Advisory Board, and distributing inspection insignia to manufacturers of recreational vehicles. These changes are necessary after passage of two bills in 2023 that took effect July 23: [House Bill 1514](#) (HB 1514), and [Senate Bill 5089](#) (SB 5089)

You can find information about this rulemaking [here](#)

The agency filed a [Pre-proposal Statement of Inquiry \(CR-101\)](#) on Sept. 19. This formally starts the rulemaking process. L&I will seek input in the rule development from the FAS Advisory Committee and will consider other input from other interested parties.

FAS program welcomes your participation in this rulemaking process. If you have any questions or want to know how to participate in the rule development, please contact us at [FAS1@lni.wa.gov](mailto:FAS1@lni.wa.gov) or call 1-800-705-1411, Option 3

## What is a Like-in-Kind Installation?

All electrical work in Washington is must be performed by certified electricians working for licensed electrical contractors. There are a few exceptions to this in RCW [19.28.261](#) and WAC [296-46B-925](#).

There is a common misconception that replacing any electrical equipment with something like-in-kind does not require a permit or inspection.

RCW [19.28.006](#) defines "like-in-kind" as having similar characteristics such as voltage requirements, current draw, and function, and being in the same location. There are many installations that fall under like-in-kind, most require permitting and inspection.

The only work that does not require a permit or inspection is Class A basic electrical described in WAC [296-46B-901](#)(7)(a).

## Picture of the Month:

A sharp eyed inspector found this black widow spider living in a piece of deenergized service equipment. Luckily he slowed down enough the take a look before getting too close to the equipment. Outdoor equipment makes a great home for insects, spiders, rodents and even snakes. Keep your eyes open for all potential hazards.

## Answer to the Question of the Month:

Any person working as an electrician, trainee or apprentice must also possess government issued photo identification and immediately present that identification when requested by the inspector. Unless working in a specialty, (01) apprentices are required to carry proof of apprenticeship registration with them on the job. Check out RCW [19.28.161](#)(2)(c)(ii) for the complete requirement.



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