

# ELECTRICAL CURRENTS

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

## Question of the Month

Where can you find requirements for electrical equipment and wiring that has been submerged or exposed to water? *See the answer on page 2*

## A Message from Chief Wayne Molesworth

The mission of the Electrical Inspection Program is to ensure public safety by ensuring safe electrical installations. To do this we must employ the most qualified electrical inspectors with the highest level of electrical knowledge. We are constantly looking for ways to improve our ability to hire the best.

One of the ways to do this is to implement a technical knowledge assessment during the application process starting January 1, 2024. This assessment is designed to evaluate the applicants knowledge of the electrical industry and application of National Electrical Code (NEC), WAC and RCW.

It is open book and all copyrighted reference materials are accepted. A passing score of 70% is required in order to move forward in the process. Once you receive a passing score it is good for 1 year to use when applying for electrical inspector positions across the state.

For more information and testing locations and times please contact the Electrical Inspection Program at [ElectricalHiringAssessment@lni.wa.gov](mailto:ElectricalHiringAssessment@lni.wa.gov).

If you are looking for a challenge and want to experience and be influential in all facets of the electrical industry come join our team!

## 2023 Rulemaking Update - Code Adoption

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. The [Electrical Board](#) provided advice during their October 26, 2023 meeting.

On December 5, a CR-102 was filed that includes proposed rules language, a preliminary cost benefit analysis, and notice of the public hearing and comment period. Details of the filing are available at: [Rulemaking Activity at L&I \(wa.gov\)](#). We will soon update our [Rule Development](#) webpage to reflect this progress. Here is what happens next:

- January 9, 2024: A public hearing on the proposed rules is tentatively scheduled.
- February 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.

## Safety Tip of the Month

Working in an attic space can be difficult and dangerous. It exposes you to fall hazards if you slip and step between the trusses. Employers must evaluate the hazards and take steps to reduce the risk of falls. Using appropriate fall protection measures reduces risks and saves lives. For more information, OSHA® has a helpful [Fact Sheet](#) about reducing falls while working in attics.

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## Virtual Electrical Inspections Turns Four

Virtual Electrical Inspections (VEI) is a customer driven service, designed to be easy and convenient for electrical contractors to get inspections. Since its beginning 4 years ago, VEI has completed over 100,000 inspections for customers all over the state. The key to VEI's success is its ability to meet customers needs in real time.

It is easy to get an VEI inspection. All you need to have is an:

- Electrical contractor license
- L&I electrical permit
- Internet connected smart device (mobile network or WIFI works), and
- Certified electrician to show the work (no trainees, apprentices or others).

VEI inspections are fast, typically 15 minutes or less! Schedule an appointment when it is right for you. Our inspection staff are here to help. Learn more about using VEI on your next job [here](#).

## Inspector Training—No Electrical Inspections on January 9, February 7, 2024

We regret the inconvenience this causes, but a statewide approach to training, improves consistency and is the most efficient way to educate our staff. The 2023 NEC tentatively becomes effective April 1, 2024. It is never too early to become familiar with it. Find a 2023 code update class [here](#).

## What Happens if I Fail My Open-Book Electrical Examination?

Electrician, master electrician, and administrator examination candidates have one year to pass all sections of their examination. Each exam is unique and made up of questions selected randomly from a question pool covering basic electrical theory, NEC®, and Washington laws and rules. If they fail to pass the examination, the conditional allowance to retest is found in WAC [296-46B-960](#) (8)-(10).

If a candidate makes a failing score, they must wait two weeks before being eligible to retest. Within the one year examination period, candidates have to retake only the sections they failed to pass. If a candidate fails three times within a one-year period, they must wait three months to retake any failed sections of the examination. This three-month waiting period will apply to all subsequent attempts. If all sections are not successfully completed within the one-year period, the candidate must reapply for a new examination period and retake all sections. Learn more about exam content: [PSI Exam Bulletin](#).

All exams are currently based on the 2020 NEC. Sometime late next year, exams will be updated to the 2023 NEC. More about that to come in this publication.

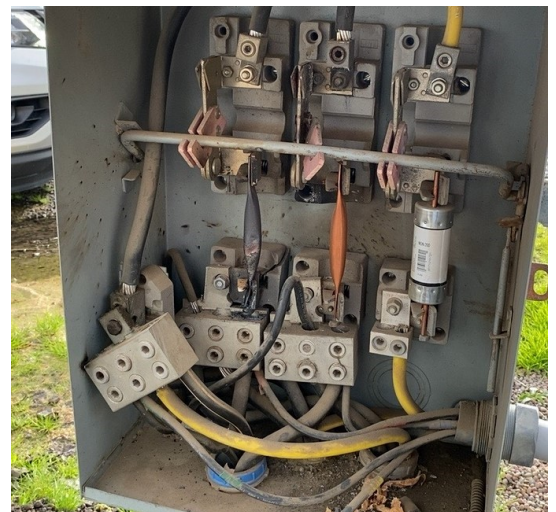
## Picture of the Month:

Fortunately, an electrical contractor was in the process of replacing this equipment. Notice the arcing marks, cracks in the equipment, close clearances, and homemade components.

## Answer to the Question of the Month:

WAC [296-46B-110](#)(2) has requirements for electrical equipment replacement and reconditioning.

Learn more about what to do after floods and other natural disasters on our [webpage](#).



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