

ELECTRICAL CURRENTS

A Newsletter from the Office of L&I Chief Electrical Inspector Wayne Molesworth February 2024

Question of the Month:

Where are the terms "in sight from", "within sight from" or "within sight of" defined in the 2023 NEC? *See the answer at the bottom of this page.*

Inspector Training—No Electrical Inspections on 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](#).

Indefinite Delay Ends - UL 231 Power Outlet Equipment

For temporary power and recreational vehicle services, installers often choose to use power outlet equipment. Revised standards for Power Outlets (UL 231) became effective in June of 2022.

Effective July 1, 2024:

Installations of new power outlet equipment used for service equipment must comply with NEC 230.62 and NEC 230.71 except as allowed by the following.

For temporary power services, installers may reuse power outlet equipment manufactured before June of 2022 that does not meet the requirements of NEC 230.71 and NEC 230.62. Equipment is approvable when used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Altered equipment is not approvable unless proven to meet appropriate electrical safety standards through field evaluation by an [accredited electrical product-testing laboratory](#).

Equipment manufactured after June of 2022 had to comply with new standards, stocks of older equipment are exhausted. It is easy to recognize compliant equipment; it typically has a service disconnect complying with NEC 230.71 and barriers to prevent contact with energized parts required by NEC 230.62.

2023 Rulemaking Update - Code Adoption and Fee Increase

1. 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 and there was a public hearing on January 9th.

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 on our [Rule Development](#) webpage.

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Answer to the Question of the Month

According to NEC 110.29; when required to be "in sight from", "within sight from" or "within sight of", the specified equipment shall be visible and not more than 50 feet distant from the other.

Safety Tip of the Month

Major appliances (refrigerators, dryers, washers, stoves, air conditioners, etc.) and space heaters should be plugged directly into a wall receptacle outlet. Extension cords and plug strips should not be used. Here is a good [Video](#) on the subject.

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Here is what happens next:

- 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.
- Exams will continue to be based on the 2020 NEC until early 2025, exact date TBD.

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

The updated WAC and 2023 NEC will apply to installations when issue dates of electrical permits are on and after adoption dates. There are 2 exceptions:

(a) New one- and two-family dwellings, or multifamily dwellings where the issue date of building permits for the premises is before the adoption date; or

(b) New installations where plan review is required by WAC [296-46B-900](#) when plans are received and accepted for review before the adoption date.

2. Fee Increase

We are proposing a 6.40% fee increase to support operating expenses for electrical inspections and other electrical public safety activities. The increase is the Office of Financial Management's maximum allowable fiscal growth factor rate for fiscal year 2025. Our current fee levels are not adequate to cover current Program expenses. A fee increase is necessary to ensure the Programs' revenues match expenditures.

We held a public hearing on the proposed rules on Jan. 26, 2024. Learn more on our [Rule Development](#) page.

Here is what happens next:

- March 2024: The new fee rules are adopted.
- July 1, 2024: New fees tentatively become effective.
- Fees will increase on the effective date.

Training Hour Appeals Receive a Fresh Look

The electrical program is working to create a process to allow customers to request a review of denied hours of experience.

Appeals made through superior court can be confusing and expensive. We are committed making it easier to do business with L&I, and have a goal to help workers and businesses. The electrical program is confident in the work we accomplish, and we want to be as accurate as we possible. This standardized process will benefit everyone.

The [process to report hours](#) of experience will remain the same. Look for details in the coming months. While it's still early, please feel free to send comments to HoursReconsideration@Lni.wa.gov

Picture of the Month: Steel pipe electrodes shall have the outer surface galvanized or otherwise metal-coated for corrosion. A single pipe electrode shall be supplemented as required by NEC 250.53(A)(2) when an existing electrical service is altered.



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