

ELECTRICAL CURRENTS

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

May 2024

Question of the Month: See the answer at the bottom of page 2.

A ground ring is an electrode encircling the building or structure, in direct contact with the earth, consisting of at least _____ of bare copper conductor not smaller than _____. The ground ring shall be buried at a depth below the earth's surface of not less than _____.

Safety Tip of the Month

When installing or using listed or labeled electrical equipment it is very important to follow the manufacturer's instructions. This holds true for something as simple as selecting a light bulb for a light fixture. A bulb that exceeds the rating of a light fixture will create excessive heat and may shorten the life of the fixture or worse, start a fire.

Virtual Electrical Inspections Supervisor Brian Stenerson Passes Away



The electrical program was saddened with the loss of VEI supervisor Brian Stenerson. Brian passed away April 19, 2024 at the age of 61.

Brian began working for the Department of Labor & Industries in 2011 as an electrical inspector. Before becoming the VEI Supervisor, Brian got to inspect all over the state. This experience provided Brian a state wide point of view, and a focus on customer service. Brian was dedicated to his team and spread his positive personality to everyone. Brian truly loved his job and his crew.

These factors combined and contributed to Brian being foundational force in the development and success of the VEI program.

Prior to becoming an electrical inspector, Brian was an electrical contractor, operating and owning Interstate Electric for 22 years.

Brian Stenerson was born in Seattle on Feb. 16, 1963. He married the love of his life, Dianna, on April 26, 1985. Together, they built their life in Napavine, Washington.

They have two amazing sons, Sam and Bill, a wonderful daughter-in-law, Alisa, and two granddaughters, Alison and Hannah, who make his heart happy. Brian shares a very special bond with his little sister, Pattrise. When

those two are together, their laughter would brighten every room.

Brian shared his deep passion for hydroplane racing with his family. He took them all over the world following the boat races. Anything fast and loud! Brian loved to golf with his boys. He formed many lifelong friendships golfing, especially with his buddy Rick. Brian and Rick started Xbox golfing with each other a few nights a week to stay connected.

Brian is loved and respected by many and will truly be missed.

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<https://lni.wa.gov/licensing-permits/electrical/electrical-currents-newsletter/>

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Select Licensing & Permits, then Electrical



Washington State Department of
Labor & Industries

Fee Increase Effective July 1, 2024

We adopted 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. See WAC [296-46B-010\(1\)](#) to find out more how fees apply to new permits.

Sections affected by this rulemaking are WAC [296-46B-906](#), [296-46B-909](#), and [296-46B-911](#). Learn more on our [Rule Development](#) page.

Affidavit Deadline for Trainees who are not Registered Apprentices

TRAINEES: From the expiration date your training certificate, you have 180 days to turn in affidavits for the previous 2 years. Affidavits received by L&I after the deadline are not approvable. For receipt of delivery, use certified mail. Affidavits are date stamped upon receipt at L&I. Find the mailing address and other instructions on the form: [Affidavit of Experience for Washington Electrical Trainees](#) (F500-149-000).

EMPLOYERS: You must supply a completed affidavit to any trainee within 20 days of request. Any employer who refuses to supply an affidavit are subject to civil penalties. Learn about [reporting hours of experience](#) and check out WAC [296-46B-942\(8\)\(d\)](#) for more information.

New Electrical Training Hour Reconsideration Process Begins

A new reconsideration process started April 1 for electrical trainees requesting a review of denied training hours.

A request must be made within 20 calendar days of receiving a denial. The request must include specific reasons why the denial should be reconsidered and a copy or photo of the denial letter. There is no fee for making the request. **Only requests made from decisions issued on or after April 1 are eligible for the new process.**

From the time L&I receives a reconsideration request, the review process is expected to take about a month.

The process to report hours of experience will remain the same. Send questions to HoursReconsideration@Lni.wa.gov.

Find Printable WAC and RCW online

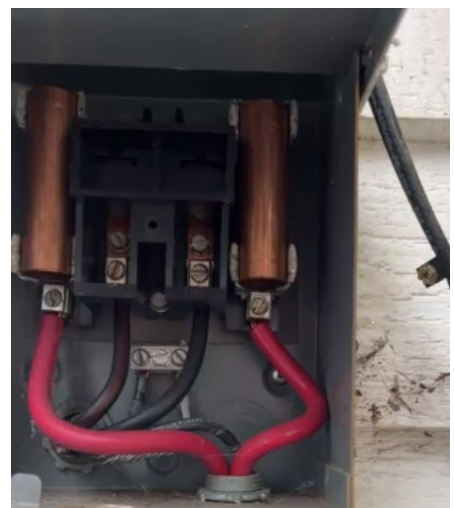
During the recent rule making, the provisions for purchasing printed copies of the WAC and RCW at L&I service locations was removed. Check out the free printable Exam Friendly versions of the laws and rules on our [webpage](#).

Answer to the Question of the Month:

6.0 m (20 ft.); 2 AWG; 750 mm (30 in.) NEC 250.52(A)(4), NEC 250.53(F)

Picture of the Month: *If viewing this document online, click on the picture to open a larger image.*

A virtual inspector found these copper pipes in a heat pump disconnect. If we put the listing and labeling issue to the side, how many different code violations can you come up with? We stopped at eight. When electrical equipment is not installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, it introduces hazards and leads to unforeseen consequences.



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