

ELECTRICAL CURRENTS

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

October 2024

Question of the Month - How can you apply for the inspector pre-employment electrical assessment? See Page 2.

GFCI Protection Requirements Delayed

Appliance manufacturers and standards organizations need more time to ensure compatibility with new GFCI protection requirements. For this reason, we are delaying enforcement of the following until July 1, 2026:

1. 2023 NEC 210.8(A) and (B) for 250 volt receptacles for electric ranges, wall mounted ovens and counter mounted cooking equipment.
2. 2023 NEC 210.8(D)(8), (9), and (10) for 250 volt electric ranges, wall mounted ovens and counter mounted cooking equipment.

Exception to 2023 NEC 230.71(B)(4) Requirements for Metering Centers

Manufacturing capacity continues to improve, but has not reached a level where it can support the market with equipment that meets new requirements. Until July 1, 2026, requirements for separate compartments for service disconnects do not apply to metering centers with 2 – 6 service disconnects that comply with all of the following:

1. Voltage to ground is 150 volts or less.
2. Equipment must comply with 2023 NEC 230.62(C) to ensure there are no hazards from live parts on the line side of service disconnects. Barriers and insulation must be factory installed by the original equipment manufacturer, field-installed using the manufacturer's instructions and accessories, or field evaluated by an accredited electrical product testing laboratory.

We will only extend this allowance if manufacturing capacity does not improve. More information to come in future editions of this newsletter.

One Service Disconnect or Two or More?

For equipment having two or more service disconnects interlocked by a cover mounted interlock mechanism, interlocked disconnects are not one service disconnect the purposes of 2023 NEC 230.71. When two or more are present after removing the cover, NEC 230.71(B) applies accordingly.

Example:



Safety Tip of the Month

Be safe – be seen.

Daylight is getting very limited this time of year. High visibility clothing is your best bet for safe working or outdoor activities in low light conditions. Always wear reflective clothing or accessories so that others can see you. Wearing reflective clothing reduces the possibility of injury from a motor vehicle or other mobile equipment.

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Have You Heard About Proposed Changes to the 2026 NEC?

The first draft of the 2026 NEC and public comment has been released and is found here under the “Next Edition” tab at <https://www.nfpa.org/codes-and-standards/nfpa-70-standard-development/70>. With help from our friends at the [NFPA](#) and [Minnesota Dept. of L&I](#), we have highlighted a few of the proposed changes below.

The NEC's structure may be one of the biggest changes you notice, with articles being moved around. For example, Article 220 could become Article 120, and Article 750 could become Article 130. Medium voltage and limited energy articles may be added.

- 230.70 – Service disconnecting means now required to be on the exterior of or with in sight of the home for single and two-family dwelling units. No more confusing labels, the emergency disconnect and service disconnect will be one in the same, with similar requirements for feeders.
- 625.54 – EVSE GFCI protection for both receptacles and outlets.
- 550.32 – Surge protection device requirements for a replacement mobile or manufactured home.

More: Visit the NFPA blog : [Changes Proposed for the 2026 NEC \(nfpa.org\)](#)

Validating Class B Permits

When answering YES or NO to the question “Limited Energy/Telecom work only?”, while validating a Class “B” permit online: Select “YES” for installations that consist only of limited energy or telecom work. Select “NO” if other types of work are performed.

What is a Like-in-Kind Installation?

Not all like-in-kind work can be done without a permit or inspection. The only work that does not require a permit or inspection is Class A basic electrical described in WAC [296-46B-901\(7\)\(a\)](#). 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.

All electrical work, including like-in-kind electrical work, must be performed by certified electricians working for licensed electrical contractors, unless exempt under RCW [19.28.261](#) or WAC [296-46B-925](#).

Answer to Question of the Month: To register, contact electricalassessment@lni.wa.gov. Assessment is available each month on the first Tuesday in Tumwater, the second Tuesday in Tukwila, and third Tuesday in Moses Lake. Please indicate your preference. We will respond with further details. Look for available inspector openings at [careers.wa.gov](#).

Picture of the Month: *If viewing this document online, click on the picture to open a larger image. A lot going on in this picture for such a small box. Was box fill an issue? What conditions cause wire nuts to melt? Can wire nuts be used for KO seals? What could have happened if this box was concealed in wall and branch circuit protective device had not tripped?*



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