

Question of the Month

According to the 2011 NEC, a connector or terminal for a 1 AWG to 4/0 copper conductor with more than ___ strands shall be identified for the specific conductor class or classes.

Note From The Chief

The annual summer construction season is rapidly approaching. Better weather will likely bring an increase in opportunity for everyone in the construction trades. This includes the underground economy and contractors who choose to not follow the law. We anticipate seeing even more attempts by the underground economy to do electrical work illegally in the State of Washington.

Our inspectors and the ECORE compliance team will continue to be vigilant in locating and taking compliance action with anyone who is not working legally. We will continue to focus on unlicensed electrical contractors, uncertified electricians, and anyone who does not get the required permits and inspections.

In the past 12 months, we took action on 822 unlicensed electrical contractors, 999 uncertified electricians, and 1,744 cases with no electrical permit. This is up 29% from the same period one year before (contractor licensing up 11%, electrician certification up 85%, no permit up 18%). It is critical that we continue to maintain our focus on these three underground economy issues to protect the safety of consumers and the livelihoods of legitimate electrical contractors and electricians.

Listing Requirements for Luminaire Poles

In September of 2011 an article was published in the *Electrical Currents* newsletter stating that beginning April 1, 2012, all lighting poles up to 100' in height would be required to be listed or field evaluated to UL standard 1598. Since UL standard 1598 does not apply to taller poles, this requirement will only apply to poles that do not exceed 12' in height measured from the bottom of the base, or from the intended grade level of poles when installed partially in the ground. You can find information on these products in the [UL Online Certifications Directory](#). UL category [IFFX](#) for Luminaire Fittings covers poles up to 12' in height. These poles are required to be listed or field evaluated by an accredited Electrical [Product Testing Laboratory](#).

Luminaire poles exceeding 12' in height are "Classified" by UL under UL product category [IEUR](#) for Luminaire Poles and not listed because evaluation is limited and does not include mechanical strength for luminaire support and wind load conditions.

All requirements for luminaires and their supporting means, including the requirements of NEC 410.30 will be enforced for all luminaire poles, metal and non-metallic.

WAC Rule Update

The department is accepting proposals for revision of WAC 296-46B and applications for membership on the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) until May 31st. In March, we published a [Special Edition Electrical Currents](#) newsletter with details about the process, timeline, and instructions for submitting proposals and applications. If you have a proposal for WAC revision, it must meet the requirements of the Governor's rule moratorium. The special edition newsletter describes those requirements. Stakeholders must submit their proposals electronically using the form supplied by the department. The department will only accept proposals received between May 1st and May 31, 2012.

There is a change to the timeline published in the special edition newsletter. The TAC meeting will be held in Tukwila on June 27th. You can find further information on our website on the [Rule Development](#) page.

Notify the Department if You Will Not Be Finishing the Job

Sometimes, customers hire an electrical contractor to perform only a portion of the job (e.g. to only install the conduit, a panel with no branch circuits, or rough-in wiring). If you know this when the permit is purchased, provide a detailed description of the scope of work

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Safety Tip of the Month!

Inspect power tools and electric lawn mowers for frayed power cords, broken plugs and cracked or broken housings. If the product is damaged, stop using it and have it repaired or replace it. All tools should be unplugged when not in use and stored in dry areas.

on the permit indicating that you will not be performing all of the electrical work on the job. If, after purchasing the permit, you become aware that you will not be completing any portion of the job, you must notify the department so the department may add any appropriate notes to the permit; otherwise, the department may hold you responsible for all the work. According to [WAC 296-46B-901\(4\)](#), an electrical work permit is only valid for the work performed by the entity that purchased it. If you are not going to be completing the job, someone else will, and having an accurate description of the work scope on the permit will help to protect you from any liability arising from work for which you are not responsible.

According to [WAC 296-46B-901\(10\)\(a\)](#), requests for inspection must be made no later than three business days after completion of the installation or one business day after any part of the installation has been energized, whichever occurs first. You must request an inspection when you are completed even if there will be more work performed by others. The inspector will document the portion of the work performed on your permit and indicate that others will perform additional work.

You should inform the owner that an additional permit will be required of whoever completes the remaining work. The [Home & Business Owner Basics](#) page on our website provides information to owners about permitting and inspection requirements.

Online Renewal Will Save You Time and Money

Online renewal of Electrical licenses and certificates became available 10 years ago this month. In May of 2002, the department implemented this convenient tool for electrical contractors, electricians, trainees and administrators. The electrical licensing group won a Governor's award for improvements to streamline the electrical licensing and certification renewal process. These changes reduced the renewal backlog from 13 weeks to 3-5 days. Today, online renewals account for approximately 55 percent of all renewals.

If you renew your electrical contractor's license or electrician certificate online, you will save approximately 10 percent compared to the cost of renewing at the local L&I office or through the mail. The current proposed fee increase does not apply to online renewals, making the cost savings even greater. You will also save time and receive your new license or certificate faster by renewing online.

To renew your electrician or training certificate online, you must have completed all required CEU or Basic Classroom training. You may renew your electrical contractor's license or electrician certificate up to 90 days prior to the expiration date by going to the [Contractor Licensing, Registration, and Certification](#) web page. You may renew up to 90 days after the expiration date, but you will have to pay the late (double) renewal fee. If your electrical certificate renewal is more than 90 days late, you will need to apply for and pass the [Electrical Certification Exam](#) before renewing. You cannot renew if you have any unpaid citations with L&I or a collection agency. Currently, combination (electrical/plumbing) pumping industry licenses and certificates are not renewable online.

Proper Supervision of Trainees

Appropriately certified electricians must supervise trainees learning the electrical trade. The department receives many questions about what proper supervision consists of. [RCW 19.28.161\(3\)](#) contains a definition of proper supervision: *...Supervision shall consist of a person being on the same job site and under the control of either a certified master journeyman electrician, journeyman electrician, master specialty electrician working in that electrician's specialty, or specialty electrician working in that electrician's specialty.* When the electrical work is in the scope of the 03A, 06B, 07A, 07B, 07C, 07D, 07E, or 10 certification limits, the individual must be supervised 100% of the time until they get the minimum 720 or 1,000 hours of experience and pass their examination. Appropriately certified electricians must supervise trainees performing all other types of work on each jobsite for a minimum of 75% of the time the trainee works. The contractor must provide a trainee working on multiple job sites in one day with supervision for 75% of the time on each job site during the day. If an inspector finds a trainee working without supervision, but who claims to have been supervised for the required 75% time, the inspector will give the trainee an electrical trainee supervision statement to document the supervision. The trainee and supervising electrician must fill out and sign the form. The trainee is responsible to return the completed form to the inspector within 24 hours.



Ugly Installations

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Violations (to name a few): NEC 334.12(B) NM cable in wet location; NEC 312.2 panels subject to water damage; NEC 358.30(A) securing and supporting requirements for EMT

Answer to Question of the Month: 37 – NEC 110.14; Chapter 9, Table 10

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