

Rod Mutch, Chief Electrical Inspector

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Question of the Month

Is it permissible for the electrical equipment associated with a hydromassage bathtub to be solely accessible from a crawlspace below the tub? See correct answer on page 2.

Note From José Rodríguez, Assistant Director for Specialty Compliance Services

It is my pleasure to announce the appointment of Rod Mutch as the new Chief Electrical Inspector.

Rod has over 35 years of experience in the electrical construction and maintenance industry and most recently has served as an Electrical Technical Specialist, a position he has held since September 2011. Rod holds a commercial electrical inspector certification with the International Code Council, Washington state general electrical (AD01) administrator's certificate, and Washington state general electrical (EL01) certificate of competency. Rod began his electrical career as an electrical construction apprentice and has been an electrical construction supervisor, plant engineer and electrical maintenance supervisor, small business owner (electrical contractor), project manager and electrical foreman in the private sector. Rod has been with L&I for eleven years and served as an electrical inspector, lead electrical inspector, and technical specialist.

The selection process was very competitive and demonstrated the high levels of technical proficiency, practical experience, and leadership that we have in the Electrical Program, within our agency, and the private sector. Rod has the well earned respect of superiors, peers, and stakeholders and has demonstrated his capability to lead the Electrical Program, develop good public policy, and enforce the electrical laws. For these reasons, and many more, I am confident that he is the right person for this assignment. Rod's appointment is effective on March 1, 2013.

I would like to thank Larry Vance for his willingness to serve and for the excellent job he did as interim Chief.

Revised WAC 296-46B effective March 1, 2013

The revision process for WAC 296-46B, Electrical Safety Standards, Administration, and Installation is complete. The revised rules are effective March 1, 2013.

The process began in January 2012 when the department notified stakeholders of the upcoming rulemaking. During May 2012, the department accepted revision proposals from stakeholders as well as applications for membership on the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). All proposals were reviewed by the TAC in June, and then presented to the Electrical Board at their July meeting. The department then presented the recommended changes at seventeen stakeholder meetings conducted around the state from September through December. In December, the department received and responded to public comments on the proposed changes. The director of L&I, Joel Sacks, signed the CR-103P adopting the new rule on January 22, 2013 with an effective date of March 1, 2013.

Printed copies of the rules will be available at L&I offices for \$5.60. You can download an electronic copy by visiting the [Laws & Rules](#) page of our website. For a summary of the major changes, see the [January 2013](#) Special Edition *Electrical Currents* newsletter. Keep yourself up to date on important developments by joining L&I's [Electrical Email List](#).

New Class B Labels

Beginning March 1, Class B random inspection labels will have a [new look](#) and process for validation and use. The new labels are salmon colored and no longer consist of two parts. Contractors using salmon colored Class B labels will no

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<http://www.ElectricalCurrents.lni.wa.gov>

Safety Tip of the Month!

The amount of electricity required to kill a person is very small. According to the OSHA publication [Controlling Electrical Hazards](#), 50 to 150 milliamperes of electricity will cause extreme pain, respiratory arrest, severe muscular contractions and possible death. Use extreme caution, follow all safety procedures, and use required personal protective equipment while working on or near energized circuits.

longer mail in the contractor portion to L&I, but must validate the label prior to use in the Electronic Permit and Inspection System using their Secure Access Washington account. Contractors may continue to use the two part labels and process for unused Class B labels purchased prior to March 1. The scope of work for Class B labels has changed significantly and in most cases, has expanded. Beginning March 1, the new scope of work will apply to all Class B labels. See [WAC 296-46B-908](#) for complete rules on the use of Class B random inspection labels.

Refunds Are Available For Unused Class B Books Sold Before March 1

The Department is offering refunds for unused Class B books purchased prior to March 1, 2013. This limited time offer allows contractors to take advantage of the convenience of the new Class B label process sooner. The refund must be requested by, and will only be issued to the original purchaser for the amount of purchase. The department will only grant refunds for complete books (twenty labels per book). The Class B books must be unused and intact. Refund requests must be received by the department by June 15, 2013.

Class B refund request forms and instructions are available from your local [L&I Office](#) or you may [download](#) a copy from our website.

Legislative Updates

Lawmakers are considering several bills during the 2013 legislative session that might affect the electrical program. If you are interested in these bills or other proposed legislation, you can find bill information at the legislative website: <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/>. Enter the bill number, review the legislation and comment if you desire.

- [Senate Bill 5189](#) – Creates a photovoltaic installer endorsement to allow holders of a valid limited energy (06) specialty electrician's certificate or a valid telecommunications electrician's certificate (which does not exist) to install solar photovoltaic electrical systems up to 90 volts and 25 kilowatts.
- [Senate Bill 5077](#) – Technical corrections to gender based terms. (e.g., requires replacement of the term "journeyman" with "journey level").
- [Senate Bill 5682](#) and companion [House Bill 1760](#) – Allows HVAC/refrigeration specialty electricians to perform like-in-kind replacement of household appliances.
- [House Bill 1855](#) – Allows nonresidential maintenance (07) specialty electricians to perform generator load bank testing and eliminates permit and inspection requirements for load bank testing.
- [House Bill 1681](#) – Eliminates immunity from prosecution for criminal trespass for government personnel while performing their duties on private property.

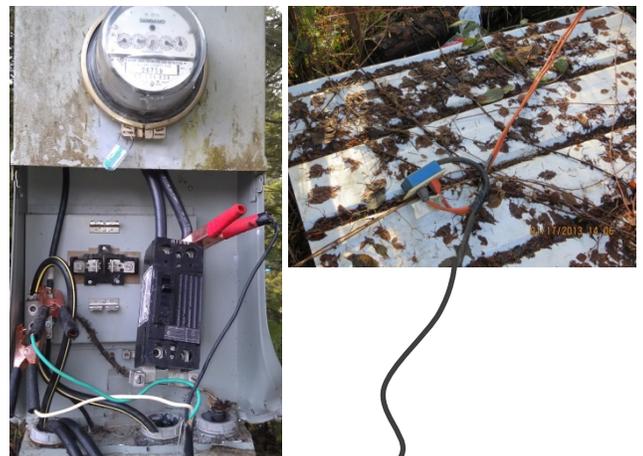
This legislation is not sponsored or promoted by L&I. You may contact your legislator to share your opinion about these bills by visiting the legislative website at <http://app.leg.wa.gov/DistrictFinder/>.

Be Sure We Have Your Correct Address

For your convenience, the department sends important notices such as renewal notices approximately 6 weeks prior to those nearing their expiration date. Many license and certificate holders do not receive these notices due to an incorrect mailing address in our database. You can update your mailing address by visiting the [Licensing, Registration, and Certification \(Quickcards\)](#) page of our website.

Ugly Installations Online readers - click on the pictures to open larger images. Violation: WAC 296-46B-990(3)(a) – Serious violation of RCW 19.28 that creates a hazard of fire, and imminent life safety danger to the public. The serving utility disconnected this installation.

Answer to Question of the Month: No. WAC 296-46B-680(13) For hydromassage bathtubs, all electrical equipment installed to support the bathtub (e.g. disconnecting means, motor, etc.) must be accessible at the same grade level as the tub or from a landing on the exterior of the building without the use of a ladder or other access device.



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