

Electrical Inspector Positions Available

Do you enjoy a challenge? Have you ever thought about becoming an Electrical Inspector for L&I? The time may be right if you enjoy serving customers and interacting with electrical contractors, electricians, and the public. If you want to help ensure electrical safety in Washington and help licensed electrical contractors and certified electricians by enforcing laws related to the underground electrical economy, this could be just what you are looking for. It is a great job with a great benefit package. Inspectors have a challenging workload inspecting a wide variety of interesting and complex electrical installations. You can get more information and apply for these positions by visiting the [Find a Job at L&I](#) page of our website. Get your resume together and keep watching, as openings will be posted for upcoming positions.

Safety Tip of the Month

In the coming months, be prepared for deteriorating driving conditions. Rain, fog, ice, and snow are on the way. Slow down and increase your following distance to help compensate for decreased traction and visibility. Make sure your windshield wipers work well and wiper fluid is full. To help prepare for winter driving, see the [Winter Travel](#) page on the Washington Department of Transportation website.

2016 Emergency Rule – Temporary Electrician Permits, Canadian Red Seal Electricians

Due to the sharp increase in construction projects in Washington, and shortage of journey level electricians to do the work, the department, acting on advice of the Electrical Board, has filed emergency rule revisions (effective November 21, 2016) which will allow the issuance of temporary permits in lieu of certificates of competency for qualified electricians coming from another state. The law does not allow temporary certificates to be issued for specialty electricians or to those from another country. Under the emergency rule, electricians from other states who have completed an equivalent state regulated four-year journey level electrical apprenticeship program or possess an equivalent journey level electrician certificate obtained by examination in another state and can meet the requirements under [RCW 19.28.181](#) are eligible for a 90 day non-renewable temporary permit allowing them to work in Washington before passing the open-book electrician certification examination. (01) General Electrical contractors wishing to employ temporary electricians must receive permission from the Chief Electrical Inspector using the [Contractor Application to Employ Temporary Electricians](#) form.

All applicants for a temporary electrician permit must complete the [Combined Application for a Temporary Electrician Permit and Journey Level Electrician Examination](#) form and submit documentation of qualifications. The application fee is \$124.00, of which \$62.00 is nonrefundable after the application is submitted. Along with the completed form, applicants must provide proof of either:

- Completion of an equivalent state regulated four-year journey level electrical apprenticeship program. Submit a notarized letter from the apprenticeship training director or state apprenticeship authority stating that they have completed such a program; or
- Proof of issuance of an equivalent journey level electrician certificate obtained by examination in another state. Submit a notarized letter from a state licensing authority verifying certification and indicating the number of hours of supervised work experience in the electrical construction trade under direct supervision of a licensed electrician. In addition, provide evidence of completion of at least 96 hours of in-class training on the National Electrical Code, basic electrical theory, or the use of Washington's electrical laws and rules.

The emergency rule also allows Canadian Red Seal endorsed journey person construction electricians to qualify for the Washington journey level (01) electrician competency examination if they have possessed a Red Seal endorsement for one year. Canadian Red Seal electricians do not qualify for a temporary electrician permit.

The emergency rules will be in effect for 120 days. In the meantime, the department will begin the process to adopt permanent rules for these issues with input from stakeholders and the Electrical Board. See the [Rule Development](#) page of our website for information about this and other proposed rule revisions.

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Electrical Fee Increase to be Effective January 1, 2017

The Electrical Program is increasing fees by the fiscal-growth factor of 4.32%, the Office of Financial Management's (OFM) maximum allowable fiscal growth rate for fiscal year 2017. The [fiscal growth factor](#) is based upon OFM's estimated projections for 2017. At the current fee levels, revenues fell short of allotted operating expenses in the Electrical Program in fiscal years 2015 and 2016 and are projected to fall short in fiscal year 2017 if fees are not adjusted to cover costs. A fee increase will help to ensure the program's revenues match expenditures; otherwise, service levels may have to be reduced. The last fiscal-growth increase took effect on June 30, 2012. The [revised fees](#) are posted on the Rule Development page of our website. These fees will take effect for all fee items purchased after 12:00 a.m. January 1, 2017.

WAC 296-46B Rule Revision Proposals – 2017 NEC Adoption

During the month of October, the department accepted proposals for revision of [WAC 296-46B](#) from all electrical stakeholders. In the coming months, the department will be considering these proposals based on advice from the Technical Advisory Committee and the Electrical Board. You can view or download a copy of all proposals and keep up-to-date on this and other rule revisions by visiting the [Rule Development](#) page of our website.

Invitation to a Stakeholder Meeting Near You

I am holding 18 electrical stakeholder meetings in various locations across the state between January 24 and April 5, 2017. These meetings are an opportunity to talk in an informal setting. Check the schedule below and attend a meeting near you. I want to hear how we can better serve you, our customers and help you stay informed of any changes that might affect you and/or your business. Meetings are scheduled from 6 to 8 p.m. at the locations listed below. Meeting dates and addresses will also be posted on our [Electrical Calendar](#) webpage and distributed on the program email list. If you are not on the email list, you may join at our [Electrical Email List](#) webpage.

Spring 2017 Stakeholder Meetings 6 – 8 p.m.	
January 24 – Aberdeen – L&I Building 415 West Wishkah Street, Suite B	March 8 – Everett – Snohomish County PUD Commission Meeting Room 2320 California Street
January 25 – Tumwater – L&I Auditorium 7273 Linderson Way Southwest	March 9 – Tukwila – L&I Building 12806 Gateway Drive South
February 7 – Longview – Cowlitz PUD meeting room, 961 12th Avenue	March 21 – Pullman – Gladish Community and Cultural Center, Oscars Room, 115 NW State St.
February 8 – White Salmon – White Salmon Valley Community Library – 77 NE Wauna Avenue	March 22 – Spokane – Spokane Falls Community College 3410 W. Fort George Wright Drive, Bldg 17, Sub Lounges A & B
February 9 – Vancouver – L&I Building 312 Southeast Stonemill Drive	March 23 – Moses Lake – L&I Building 3001 West Broadway Avenue
February 21– Bremerton – L&I Building, basement 500 Pacific Avenue	March 29 – Wenatchee – Chelan County PUD Auditorium, 327 North Wenatchee Avenue – Parking in back (east) side of building
February 22 – Port Angeles – Elwha Klallam Heritage Center, 401 East First Street	March 30 – Okanogan – Okanogan PUD Auditorium 1331 2 nd Ave North
February 23 – Tacoma – L&I Building 950 Broadway, Orcas Room, 5 th floor	April 4 – Kennewick – Benton PUD Auditorium 2721 West 10th Avenue
March 7 – Mount Vernon – Northwestern Washington Research and Extension Center, 16650 State Route 536	April 5 – Yakima – Pacific Power Auditorium 500 Keys Road

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