



## Requesting Stakeholder Input for Rule Changes

Stakeholders are invited to submit proposals for changes to the Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 296-46B and the 2026 National Electrical Code (NEC).

- Draft rules will be posted online when available, providing advance notice of the changes.
- If adopted, the new rules and 2026 NEC will take effect on December 31, 2026.
- Examinations will be updated at a later date.

## L&I's Role in this Rule Development

- We follow the Washington State Administrative Procedure Act (APA) rulemaking process—specifically the [CR-101](#), [CR-102](#), and [CR-103](#) stages for non-emergency rules.
- For all proposed rule changes, we serve as the correlating body.

## Purpose of Rulemaking

Rules are designed to:

- Clarify and enforce the intent of the electrical laws - - RCW 19.28.
- Provide guidance for stakeholders and L&I staff
- Address changes, which must be supported by evidence of a specific problem and a clear solution

## How to Submit a Proposal

- Deadline: February 15, 2026
- Submission: Email proposals to [ElectricalWAC@lni.wa.gov](mailto:ElectricalWAC@lni.wa.gov)
- Format: MS Word document using the official [Rule Proposal Form](#)

Proposals must:

- Include the relevant text from [WAC 296-46B](#) if you are proposing a change to an existing rule.
- Use legislative format:
  - Underline wording to be inserted (e.g., *new wording*)
  - Strike-through wording to be deleted (e.g., )

Proposals not following these instructions—or submitted after the deadline—will be rejected.

Stay informed of rulemaking progress by visiting the [Rule Development](#) page.

## 2026 WAC Revision Process – Proposed Timeline

- December 16, 2025 – Preproposal Statement of Inquiry (CR-101) filed with the Office of the Code Reviser
- January 7 – February 15, 2026 – Accept stakeholder proposals and TAC applications
- April 1, 2026 – TAC meeting at L&I [Headquarters](#) in Tumwater, WA
- July 2026 – Electrical Board review and advice
- July 2026 – Proposed rules (CR-102) expected to be filed with the Office of the Code Reviser, opening the official public comment period
- August 2026 – Tentative public hearing
- December 31, 2026 – New rules expected to take effect

## The TAC Process

The TAC will:

- Review proposals pertaining to WAC 296-46B-010 through 800 and scopes of work in WAC 296-46B-920.
- Identify proposals with potential economic impacts on specialties, small businesses, construction costs, or enforcement costs
- Evaluate proposals based on the need to:
  - Address a life/safety issue
  - Align with state policy or statute
  - Correct errors or omissions
  - Assess supply chain issues

All TAC members have an equal opportunity to provide advice to the department. For each proposal reviewed, L&I tallies levels of support and opposition. TAC members may offer amendments to proposals. L&I will consider all TAC recommendations.

Note: Public comments or presentations will not be received during TAC meetings. Opportunities for public comment are provided later in the process.

## Apply for the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

The TAC has proven to be a valuable part of rulemaking efforts. L&I is again appointing a General TAC made up of experts and representatives from the electrical industry to review and recommend proposals.

- Deadline for applications: February 15, 2026
- Submission: Email a letter of interest to [ElectricalWAC@lni.wa.gov](mailto:ElectricalWAC@lni.wa.gov)

Letters must:

- State the position applied for described in Table 1.
- Include your email address and daytime phone number.
- Describe any affiliations with industry stakeholder groups and how you are authorized to represent them.
- When applying for a contractor or electrician position you must provide your license or certificate number and category (e.g., 01, 02, etc.)

**Table 1**  
**Chair- Electrical Program Staff**

2	Electrical Board Members (observers)	1	WA Manufacturing Business
1	Training School Representative	1	Electrical Engineer
1	Continuing Education Provider	1	Electrical Testing Laboratory
2	Electrical Apprenticeship Representatives	1	Electric Utility Representative
1	Electrical Manufacturer Representative	1	General Public Member
2	L&I Inspection (1 inspector 5 & 1 Inspector 2)	10	Electricians
2	City Electrical Jurisdiction (1 Supervisor & 1 Inspector)	10	Electrical Contractors
1	Plumber (Contractor or Plumber)		

This document may contain hyperlinks to internet web pages.

Access this PDF document online at: <https://lni.wa.gov/licensing-permits/electrical/electrical-currents-newsletter/>  
Electrical Section Internet Address: <https://www.lni.wa.gov/> - Select Licensing & Permits, then Electrical

## TAC Membership

- The TAC consists of 35 members and two members of the Electrical Board observing the proceedings.
- Membership reflects an equitable distribution based on involvement across Washington's electrical industry.
- Successful candidates may designate an alternate to attend meetings.
- TAC members unable to attend must notify the Chief Electrical Inspector by email one week prior to the meeting with the alternate's name. Failure to notify the department will leave the position vacant during the meeting.

## General TAC – Membership Notes

- Contractor positions must be filled by a member of the firm or an assigned administrator/master electrician of a licensed electrical/telecommunications contractor, or a representative of an electrical contractors' association in Washington.
- Electrician positions must be filled by a certified electrician who is not a member of the firm or assigned administrator/master electrician in an electrical contracting business.
- Ad Hoc contractor and electrician positions will be filled on an equitable basis with an emphasis on representation closely following the percentages of licenses and certificates indicated in Table 2 .
- Plumbing positions must be filled by a plumbing contractor, a representative of a Washington plumber contractors' association, or a certified journey-level plumber.

Table 2

### Methodology for Determining the Number of Electrical Contractor and Electrician Members

Active Licenses & Certificates	# of Contractors	% of All Licenses	# of TAC Members (Contractors)	# of Electricians	% of All Certificates	# of TAC Members (Electricians)
01	3303	61.20%	6	18,494	65.10%	6
02	531	9.84%		2,730	9.61%	
03	94	1.74%		222	0.78%	
03A	37	0.69%		85	0.30%	
04	86	1.59%		202	0.71%	
06	503	9.32%		3,095	10.90%	1
06A	436	8.08%		2,287	8.05%	
06B	16	0.30%		146	0.51%	
07	60	1.11%		690	2.43%	
07A	11	0.20%		49	0.17%	
07B	43	0.80%		133	0.47%	
07C	1	0.02%		18	0.06%	
07D	38	0.70%		148	0.52%	
07E	7	0.13%		45	0.16%	
09	208	3.85%		0	0.00%	
10	23	0.43%		63	0.22%	
Ad Hoc Group	2,094	38.80%	4	6,818	24.00%	3
Total	5397		10	28,407		10

**Notes:** <10% of Licenses/Certificates joins the Ad Hoc group – The Ad Hoc group will be filled on an equitable basis with an emphasis on representation closely following the % of licenses – Unfilled positions will remain vacant.

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