



● Inspectors Safety on the Jobsite

Electrical inspectors are exposed to various jobsite hazards daily while performing their job duties. The Department takes the welfare of its employees very seriously. Any jobsite where an inspection is to be made must meet minimum safety requirements before the inspection can be performed.

In particular:

- Adequate access ways must be maintained in the inspection area.
- This includes removing tripping hazards and sufficiently covering or identifying any floor openings.
- Stairways must be protected on all open sides. In areas where ambient light is not sufficient then adequate light must be provided for the inspection. If the inspection requires a vertical elevation change of more than 18 inches then a ladder, stairway or ramp must be provided.

These minimum safety requirements are intended to be in line with the requirements of WAC 296-24, General Safety and Health Standards. If the jobsite does not meet the minimum safety requirements then a correction will be written and a trip fee may be assessed.

● New Service Will Show Corrections Online

Our new software application, Correction Writer will be implemented in June to offer an important service to the contractors. Corrections for the jobs inspected the day prior will be available for the contractors to view as soon as the inspectors upload the data, typically by 9:00 AM in the morning.

We believe this will allow you to increase the efficiency of your business by reducing your time and travel costs. Correction Writer allows us to closely monitor the exact type and frequency of installation deficiencies and work closely with contractors getting too many corrections to encourage them to improve. We expect to make consistent progress toward our goal of reducing the number of corrections written per inspection. A higher quality initial installation will be a benefit to the electrical contractor and to the safety of the citizens of Washington that live and work in the buildings wired.

● What Is An “Emergency” Inspection Relative To Permit Fees?

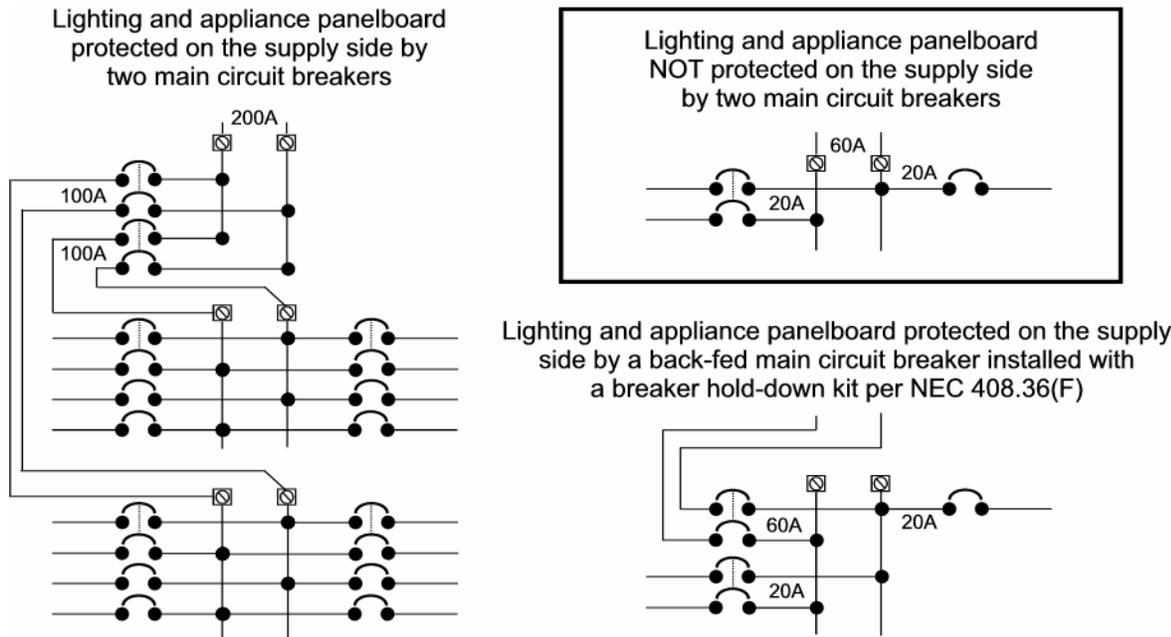
Emergency inspections are those required due to unforeseen circumstances outside the control of the property owner or contractor initiating the inspection request. These “after hours” inspections are usually the result of weather damage, natural disasters, or fires and involve electrical utility companies, law enforcement officers, or other regulatory agencies and not a business need. Emergency inspection fees are in WAC 296-46B-905(5)(f) and include a fixed surcharge (\$91.80) in addition to the regular inspection fee from the rest of the fee schedule, based on the work needing inspection.

The term “emergency” does not include pre-scheduled inspections needed on weekends or after normal working hours. Typically these are inspections arranged for equipment testing, service changes (or service shut-downs), or to allow work and inspection to be safely completed at times that will have the least impact on a business. Non-emergency after hours inspections are charged the regular inspection fee for the work done, **plus** the cost to the department for the inspector’s travel time (portal-to-portal) to perform the after hours inspection. The fee is \$73.00 per hour and found in WAC 296-46B-905(11).

● Clarification—Equipment Used For Temporary Construction Services.

The large number of calls we received about the article titled “Main Breaker Requirement For Temporary Construction Panelboards” in the May 2006 ELECTRICAL CURRENTS indicates further clarification is needed about the equipment affected. The May article was the result of a request by a contractor for a formal interpretation that would ensure consistent inspections (and results) statewide for the construction temporary services he built with panelboards as the service equipment. These are not new requirements for panelboards, the same language has been in the NEC for decades.

If you are using a listed “Panelboard” manufactured under ANSI/UL 67 and are building an assembly of weatherproof receptacle outlets supplied by branch circuits from the panelboard, then you must follow the manufacturer’s installation instructions for this equipment. As detailed in the May newsletter, if classified as a lighting and appliance panelboard (NEC 408.34) then it must be protected **on the supply side** by not more than two main circuit breakers or two sets of fuses (NEC 408.36). This provision for two mains does not mean two load overcurrent devices on a single set of busing, but applies only to specialized panelboards with two sections of busing, each protected on the supply side by individual main breakers as illustrated in the diagrams below.



If you are using equipment listed under ANSI/UL 231 as a “Power Outlet” and identified as “Suitable For Use As Service Equipment For Temporary Sites”, then in most cases a main breaker is not required by the manufacturer’s installation instructions. Typically, these units have the receptacle outlets integrated into the enclosure cover and they are constructed to a different standard than panelboards.

● **Do HVAC Damper Actuators Need Motor Disconnecting Means Per NEC Article 430?**

No, an actuator is considered a **component of the damper assembly** and is not subject to the disconnect requirements of NEC 430.101. Though often called by other names such as damper motors, damper operators, or motor packs, **damper actuator** is the appropriate term. A damper actuator is not a motor subject to NEC Article 430.

Dampers are available with a wide variety of actuators installed. Some dampers are shipped without actuators and intended for installation of an actuator in the field after the damper has been mounted in the HVAC mechanical duct system. All actuators on UL classified Smoke and combination Fire Smoke Dampers must be furnished and installed by the damper manufacturer at the time the damper is manufactured. Regardless of the specific application, all dampers should be installed in accordance with the installation instructions for the damper assembly.

● **Electrical Question of the Month**

This Month’s Question: Space heating cables with orange leads indicate a circuit voltage rating requirement of ____ volts, nominal.
A) 120, B) 240, C) 277, D) 480.

Last Month’s Question: A lighting and appliance branch-circuit panelboard is one having more than ____ percent of its overcurrent devices protecting lighting and appliance branch circuits.
A) 5, B) 10, C) 15, D) 20, The answer is . B [NEC 408.34]