

CHAPTER 16

ELECTRICAL CODE

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16.01 STATE CODE ADOPTED.

(1) Wisconsin Administrative Code ILHR Ch. 24 is hereby adopted by reference and made a part of this chapter and shall apply to the construction and inspection of new 1- and 2-family dwellings and additions or modifications to existing 1- and 2-family dwellings.

(2) Subject to the exceptions set forth in this chapter, the Rules of Electrical Code, Volume 2, of the Wisconsin Administrative Code is hereby adopted by reference and may be a part of this chapter and shall apply to all buildings, except those covered in sub. (1) above.

(3) Any further amendments, revisions and modifications of said code and rules incorporated therein are intended to be made a part of this chapter.

16.02 DEFINITIONS. In the interpretation and enforcement of this chapter, the following definitions shall apply:

(1) **ELECTRICAL SYSTEM.** All wires, equipment or devices installed for the purpose of conducting or safeguarding electrical current at all voltages.

(2) **ELECTRICAL WORK.** Any act in connection with the installing, altering or maintaining of electrical systems, which act ordinarily requires the use of tools.

(3) **WIRING.** All conductors and all other devices incidental to the safe conduction of electrical current.

16.03 ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR.

(1) **APPOINTMENT.** See sec. 1.03(8) of this Code.

(2) **QUALIFICATIONS.** The Electrical Inspector shall be versed in approved methods of electrical construction for the safety of life and property, the State Statutes relating to electrical work, the rules and regulations of the State Department of Industry, Labor and Human Relations and the National Electric Safety Code of the United States Bureau of Standards, and shall be certified by the State of Wisconsin.

(3) **DUTIES.**

(a) **Records and Reports.** The Electrical Inspector shall keep a complete record of all applications made and permits issued, regularly numbered in the order of their issuance. He shall also keep a record of all inspections made and other official work performed under the provisions of this chapter, so arranged as to afford prompt information concerning electrical installations and shall make such reports to the Council as it may require.

(b) **Inspections; Notices.** The Electrical Inspector shall inspect all buildings and premises and make a thorough examination of all the electrical wiring, equipment and devices

installed, and when such are found to be in a dangerous or unsafe conditions, he shall notify the person owning, using, operating or installing the same to place them in a safe condition. Such necessary repairs or changes shall be completed according to the provisions of this chapter. The Electrical Inspector may order the discontinuance of electrical service to such defective electrical system until it has been repaired, removed or altered as directed by the Inspector. Failure to obey any such order shall subject such person to the penalties herein provided.

(4) **AUTHORITY TO TURN OFF CURRENT.** The Electrical Inspector may cause the immediate turning off of all electrical current to any equipment which he finds, in the exercise of his sound judgment, creates imminent danger to persons or property and to cut or discontinue electrical service in emergencies where he finds, in the exercise of his sound judgment, such electrical current creates imminent danger to persons or property or where such currents may interfere with the work of the Fire Department. No person shall reconnect any equipment thus cut off without the written permission of the Electrical Inspector.

(5) **RIGHT OF ENTRY.** The Electrical Inspector may enter any building or premises in the discharge of his official duties and for that purpose shall be given prompt access upon notification to the proper authority. He may discontinue electrical service to premises to which he is denied access or entry.

16.04 ELECTRICAL PERMITS.

(1) **PERMITS REQUIRED; APPLICATION.** The Electrical Inspector or the Building Inspector shall issue permits for the execution of electrical installation for light, heat or power upon the filing of a proper application, which shall be made on blanks furnished by the Electrical Inspector or the Building Inspector and shall prescribe the nature of the work contemplated and such other pertinent information as may be required for inspection. No work shall be done until a permit has been obtained.

(2) **ISSUANCE; TERM.** When the Electrical Inspector is satisfied that the work proposed by the applicant can be done in conformity with the provisions of this chapter, and after the appropriate fees have been paid to the Clerk-Treasurer, he shall issue the permit. Such permit shall be good for the continuous performance of the work named thereon. A permit shall automatically expire if work has not been commenced within 90 days of the date of issuance or when work ceases for a period of 90 days without good and reasonable cause for same and shall automatically expire on completion of the work for which it was issued; provided the Electrical Inspector may, upon notice, suspend or revoke such permit for violation of the provisions of this chapter.

(3) **PERMITS FOR TEMPORARY WORK.** On applying for a permit for temporary work, the period of time for which such wiring is to remain in service shall be specified. Service shall be cut off at the end of this period and shall not again be connected without written permission from the Electrical Inspector.

(4) **INSPECTION OF WORK.** The permittee or an authorized representative shall, in writing or orally, request inspections by the Electrical Inspector at appropriate times required for the enforcement of this code. The Electrical Inspector shall perform the requested inspection within 48 hours after notification, except the final inspection. Construction may not proceed beyond the point of inspection until the inspection has been completed, except if inspection has not taken place within 48

hours of notification, excluding Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, unless otherwise agreed upon between the permittee and the Electrical Inspector. No building where electrical service has been cut off due to fire shall be reconnected until authorized by the Electrical Inspector. If the Electrical Inspector shall determine that the work has not been done in accordance with the provisions of this chapter, the contractor shall correct the same within 10 days after receiving notice thereof. If the defective work has not been corrected within 10 days, the Electrical Inspector shall cancel the permit until the provisions of this chapter have been complied with.

(5) **ISSUANCE OF SUBSEQUENT PERMITS.** No permit shall be issued if there are any outstanding corrections to be made. No permit shall be issued if previous permits are not complete as to work done and the fees paid on any work that has been reported as complete.

16.05 **FEES.** See sec. 14.07 of this Code.

16.06 **SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR TEMPORARY INSTALLATION.** The Electrical Inspector may grant special permission, for a limited time, for the installation or use of temporary electric wiring and equipment which does not conform with the regulations of this chapter. The person installing such wiring or equipment shall be directly and legally responsible and accountable for the safe condition of the installation at all times and its complete removal at the end of the fixed temporary period, as set by the Electrical Inspector, or any time sooner when ordered by the Inspector. Carnivals, circuses, theatrical acts and exhibitions and all places of temporary outdoor assembly are included in the provisions of this section and all electrical wiring and equipment associated therewith shall be installed, maintained and operated in a safe and workmanlike manner. All such electric wiring and equipment shall be isolated from the public by proper elevation and guarding of all electric fuses, and switches shall be installed in approved enclosures. Cable laid on the ground in areas traversed by the public shall be buried in trenches or protected by approved covers. No wooden raceways shall be used. All temporary services shall be rainproof in their entirety. Where an enclosure is built around non-waterproof equipment, it shall have a hinged cover and be supplied with a hasp and lock.

16.07 **NOTICE OF NONCOMPLIANCE; APPEAL.** Whenever the Electrical Inspector determines that all or part of the electrical work of any building does not comply with the provisions of this chapter, he shall, in cases where the construction is in progress, give 5 days' written notice thereof to the contractor on the job. In all other cases he shall give 5 days' notice thereof to the owner or his authorized agent or attorney. Such contractor or owner may have such determination reviewed by the Board of Zoning Appeals.

16.08 **ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR LICENSES.**

(1) **REQUIRED.**

(a) **Standard License.** All electrical work in the City shall be done only by or under the supervision of an electrical contractor licensed by the City, except in those circumstances where licensing is prohibited in Wis. Adm. Code ILHR 20.02(1).

(b) **Restricted License.** A license restricted only for connections and reconnections of heating and air conditioning equipment, three phase and low voltage wiring; not for commercial or residential service entrance, rewiring or service panels.

(c) **Inactive License.** A License issued to former Standard License holders who wish to be placed on an inactive status within a three year period. The Inactive License has an annual fee as set by council resolution. An Inactive License holder can again obtain a Standard License without taking the electrician by making application for a Standard License in writing, paying the Standard License fee and providing proof of liability insurance.

(2) **APPLICATION AND ISSUANCE OF LICENSE.** Application for an electrical contractor's license shall be made in writing to the Electrical Inspector or Building Inspector upon a form furnished by the Inspector. No license shall be granted until the applicant has paid the license fee to the Inspector. Such application shall be acted upon and said license shall be issued by the Clerk-Treasurer after the Electrical Inspector or Building Inspector approve of the application. Before any person shall be licensed, he or she shall present valid evidence of a Master Electrician Certification by the Wisconsin Department of Commerce under the provisions of Wis. Adm. Code ILHR17.53. This provision does not apply to renewal of current licenses.

(3) **LICENSE FEE.** The fee shall be set by Council resolution and said fee shall be for the year or any part thereof with the license year ending on June 30.

(4) **BOARD OF ELECTRICAL EXAMINERS** (Repealed 9/9/08)

(5) **EXAMINATIONS.** (Repealed 9/9/08)

(6) **APPEAL.** In the event the applicant is denied a license, he may appeal such decision to the Board of Zoning Appeals, pursuant to Ch. 17 of this Code. Examinations may be taken every 60 days.

(7) **LIABILITY INSURANCE** (Am. Ord. #610). A certificate of insurance evidencing that the applicant has in force and will maintain during the licensing period public liability insurance of not less than \$500,000 for any one person, \$500,000 for any one accident and \$50,000 for property damage.

(8) **CONTRACTORS LICENSED IN OTHER CITIES.** (Repealed 9/9/08)

(9) **STATE CERTIFIED MASTER ELECTRICIANS.** (Repealed 9/9/08)

16.09 **NON-ASSUMPTION OF LIABILITY.** This chapter shall not be considered as assuming any liability on the part of the City or any official or employee thereof for damages to anyone injured or for any property destroyed by any defect in any building or equipment, or in any plumbing or electric wiring or equipment.

16.10 **ELECTRICAL GENERATORS.**

(1) No person shall connect any electric power generator to any structure which is connected to the power grid without first obtaining an electrical permit and an inspection by the Electrical Inspector.

(2) Any person who violates the provisions of sub (1) above shall be subject to forfeiture of up to \$5,000.

16.11 **PENALTY**. Any person who shall violate any provisions of this chapter or any regulation, rule or order made hereunder shall be subject to a penalty as provided in sec. 25.04 of this Code.