



Welcome to the TDLR FLASH

Our newsletter is intended to keep city officials and electricians throughout Texas informed of the Texas Electrical Safety and Licensing Act and TDLR's efforts to enforce the associated requirements. To receive news and updates on the electrical program, <http://www.license.state.tx.us/newsletters/TDLRnotificationLists.asp>.

Survey Questionnaires for Local Electrical Requirements

The information collection continues and a new web page has been constructed from the data received to show requirements of the cities and municipalities throughout the state. Again, we encourage you to see if you are on our list at <http://www.license.state.tx.us/electricians/forms/citylist.pdf>. If you have not provided the agency with your local electrical licensing requirements the city listing will show a "?" indicating that there was no response received. Remember...your input is invaluable, so please get us the information as soon as you can.

Residential Appliance Installers & Residential Appliance Installer Contractor Licenses

Senate Bill 1222, enacted by the 80th Texas Legislature, amended Chapter 1305 of the Texas Occupations Code and established new statewide requirements for residential appliance installers and residential appliance installation contractors.

Beginning March 1, 2008, a person may not perform or offer to perform residential appliance installation or residential appliance installation contracting work without a license. The new state licensing program creates uniform minimum qualifications for all residential appliance installers statewide and the new license will authorize a licensee to work anywhere in the state.

The law also provides a grandfathering period which extends through June 1, 2008. The grandfathering period allows qualified applicants who have completed 4,000 hours of electrical work or residential appliance installation under the supervision of a Master Electrician to apply for a **Residential Appliance Installer License** without passing an exam. After the grandfathering period ends, all applicants will need to present proof of having passed a Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) approved exam evaluating their occupational knowledge.

NOTE: Applications for licensure were not available at the release of this newsletter, but will be forthcoming very soon. Please sign up for TDLR's e-mail subscription service at <http://www.license.state.tx.us/newsletters/TDLRnotificationLists.asp>, so that you may be notified as soon as the applications are made available.

Residential Appliance Installer Examinations

The state Residential Appliance Installer (RAI) Exam is available through the International Code Council (ICC). **To register for an RAI examination** call LaserGrade at 1-800-211-2754 between 6:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Pacific time, Monday through Friday; or 6:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Saturday. A LaserGrade representative will take your name and information and will help you select the optimal test date and location for your schedule. Testing locations near you can be found at www.lasergrade.com/locate.shtml.

For information about the examination (including content and scheduling instructions) go to http://www2.iccsafe.org/contractor/dsp_state.cfm?state=TX and make sure to review the *2008 Texas Electrical Examination Bulletin*.

The Electrical Safety and Licensing Advisory Board

The Board met on October 25, 2007 at 9:00 am to discuss and make recommendations on the adoption of new Administrative Rules necessary for implementation of SB 1222. The proposed rules were unanimously approved by the Board; they were subsequently adopted by the Commission, and became effective as of December 1, 2007. The Board was also updated on the status of possible multi-state reciprocity agreements. Additionally, the Board voted to update state technical requirements from the NEC 2005 to the NEC 2008 with a proposed effective date of September 1, 2008. To listen to the meeting and get more detail on these matters go to <http://www.license.state.tx.us/electricians/elecmeet.htm>. The next Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 23, 2008.

Monthly "Licensing Sweeps"

TDLR's monthly "licensing sweeps" continue. Our most recent activities included visits to the incorporated and unincorporated areas of:

- **West Pecos, Jeff Davis, and Brewster** counties
- **Williamson** county
- **Denton and Collin** counties
- **Nacogdoches, San Augustine, and Angelina** counties
- **Kaufman and Henderson** counties

Through our cooperative efforts with local municipal officials, TDLR staff has been successful at identifying violations including: 1) vehicles not properly marked with the Electrical Contractor License # (i.e. TECL#), 2) electrical work performed with expired licenses, 3) electrical work performed without electrical licenses, and 4) unsupervised electrical work performed by apprentice electricians. The "licensing sweeps" are intended to curtail unlicensed activity by establishing a TDLR presence, educating the public on the state electrical licensing requirements, and verifying that electrical work is being performed by licensed electricians in accordance with state law and rules. Invitations or requests from local officials for TDLR to establish a presence in unincorporated areas of their counties are always welcome.

TDLR Compliance Staff (Other Notable Activities)

- IEC Gulf Coast Chapter meeting in Houston, TX. - Presentation
- Electrical Enforcement Task Force meeting in Seguin, TX. - Presentation
- State Fire Marshals ERT meeting in Austin, TX. - Presentation
- Electrical Safety and Licensing Advisory Board meeting in Austin, TX.
- Denton ISD Advanced Technology Complex in Denton, TX. - Presentation

TDLR Electrical Task Force

The Electrical Enforcement Task Force (EETF) met in Seguin, TX. on October 18, 2007. The turnout of approximately 140 people was outstanding and re-emphasizes the interest that the electrical industry has in the state electrical program. Jeff Rinard, Lead Investigator for TDLR, gave an overview of the Enforcement Division and their continued efforts. Afterwards, Jerry Daniel of the Compliance Division answered a multitude of questions from the audience. The next EETF meeting will be held Thursday, January 17th, 2008 from 9:30 AM to 3:00 PM. It will be held at Independent Electrical Contractors, Inc. 601 N. Shepherd Dr. Ste. 330; Houston, TX. 77007.

Additional Contact Information:

For general questions about the electrical program you may contact TDLR at (512) 463-6599 or toll-free (in Texas) (800) 803-9202. For the hearing impaired, Relay Texas - TDD is available at (800) 735-2989. You can also email the agency at the addresses referenced below:

For Questions about the State Electrical Program: electricians@license.state.tx.us

To File a Complaint or Report a Violation go to: <http://www.license.state.tx.us/Complaints/>

Did You Know!!

State law and rules require that electrical contractors display their business name and TECL# on both sides of vehicles owned/operated by the business and used in the conduct of electrical work. For details on size, contrast, and how they must be affixed go to <http://www.license.state.tx.us/electricians/eleclaw.htm#1305166> and <http://www.license.state.tx.us/electricians/elecrules.htm#7351>

Also, state law and rules require that electrical contractors shall have company information as well as TDLR information on all invoices. For specifics go to <http://www.license.state.tx.us/electricians/elecrules.htm#7351>

Closing the Circuit

Your participation/input is critical! If you have any questions, concerns, comments, or observations, please contact us – we want to hear from you. You may reach Jerry Daniel at (512) 475-0538 or e-mail him at: jerry.daniel@license.state.tx.us. You may reach Larry Reichle at (512) 463-7289 or e-mail him at: larry.reichle@license.state.tx.us. Please feel free to take this information and **PASS IT ON!**



Remember – "Let your voice speak from wisdom – let your life make the difference"

Thanks! - J.L. Daniel & L. Reichle

**Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation
Electrical Compliance Division**