



## **TDLR FLASH** - Newsletter of the Texas Electrical Safety and Licensing Program

### **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 go to <http://www.license.state.tx.us/newsletters/TDLRnotificationLists.asp>.



### **TDLR's Strategic Planning – We Need Your Feedback!**

Strategic planning enables TDLR to meet the changing needs of the people we serve. Our approach is to bring together all stakeholders - their ideas and concerns - to map out a shared vision for the future. We want to know how we are doing and what we need to improve on. To accomplish this we hold focus groups and provide you (our customers) an opportunity to give us your feedback. With our agency leaders taking notes, you are also given the chance to tell us the one thing you would change at TDLR if you were "King/Queen for the Day". Many past participants have expressed their appreciation for a chance to provide input and effect real change in the way government does business. By working together with our customers, TDLR expects we can accomplish our agency's mission and address the critical issues effecting regulation of the electrical industry. **Your voice is important to us at TDLR and your input can truly make a difference, so we encourage all of our customers (electricians, building officials, consumers, etc...) to attend the Electrical and Air Conditioning Focus Group being held March 31<sup>st</sup> in Austin @ the Radisson Hotel located on 111 East Cesar Chavez. It is scheduled from 3:30 to 6:00 p.m. If you are unable to attend the meeting, but would like information on alternative ways you may participate in our strategic planning go to <http://www.license.state.tx.us/stratplan.htm#schedule>**



### **Adoption of NEC 2008**

Effective September 1, 2008 TDLR adopts the 2008 National Electrical Code (NEC) as the electrical code for the state thereby establishing the NEC 2008 as the "minimum standard" for all electrical work in Texas that is covered by the Act. In addition, all examinations for state electrical licenses offered on or after that date will be based on the 2008 NEC.



### **Residential Appliance Installers & Residential Appliance Installer Contractor Licenses**

State law - Chapter 1305 of the Texas Occupations Code - established new licensing requirements for residential appliance installers and contractors. As of 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 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.

The state **Residential Appliance Installer (RAI)** Exam is available through the International Code Council (ICC). To register now for an RAI examination call Laser Grade at 1-800-211-2754. **For more information about the examination** (including content and scheduling instructions) go to [http://www2.iccsafe.org/contractor/dsp\\_state.cfm?state=TX](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 January 23, 2008 at 9:00 am to approve the adoption of the new Administrative Rules and receive a status update on a possible multi-state reciprocity agreement. To listen to the meeting and get more details on these matters go to: <http://www.license.state.tx.us/electricians/elecmeet.htm>

### **Electrical Sign Industry**

The Greater Houston Sign Association held a meeting on February 21, 2008. A Q & A session was held at the meeting to discuss requirements of state law and ensuring compliance. Some of the questions/concerns addressed included:

- Clarifications on the requirements for display of Electrical Sign Contractor TSCL# on vehicles and the requirements for including "TDLR" contact information on all invoices/proposals.
- Clarifications on who may "perform or offer to perform electrical sign work" – those who hold or are employed under the appropriate TECL# or TSCL# contracting license.
- Clarification that all electric signs must be "listed" per Article 600.3 of the NEC.

### **Electrical Exam Committee**

Every year from April 1<sup>st</sup> through May 31<sup>st</sup>, ICC will be accepting applications for consideration for those individuals who wish to assist in developing the Texas Electrical Exams. The application is posted at [http://www2.iccsafe.org/contractor/dsp\\_state.cfm?state=TX](http://www2.iccsafe.org/contractor/dsp_state.cfm?state=TX)





### Monthly "Licensing Sweeps"

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

- **North Harris County**
- **South Montgomery County**
- **Travis County**
- **Dallas County**

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 welcomed.

### TDLR Compliance Staff (Other Notable Activities)

- On 01/17/08 answered the "hot topic" electrical questions at the ELC & ACR Enforcement Task Force meeting in Houston. *Many thanks to Bob Wilkinson, Robert Jones, and the IEC Gulf Coast for use of their meeting facilities.*
- On 01/18/08 manned a booth at the TIVA (Texas Industrial Vocational Association) 2008 Midwinter Conference in Houston. Jerry Daniel also gave a presentation on the state law and rules. *Thank you to Linda Holcombe for the invitation and opportunity to educate TIVA attendees on state electrical requirements!*
- On 02/13/08 gave a presentation to the Cen-Tex IEC on state electrical program and compliance with state law and rules. Closed with a Q & A session afterwards. *Many thanks to David Johnson and CenTex IEC for the invitation and opportunity to address questions/concerns!*
- On 02/21/08 gave a presentation to the Greater Houston Sign Association on state electrical program and compliance with state law and rules. Closed with a Q & A session afterwards. *Many thanks to Al Ross, Stanford Titlow, and the Stablers for the invitation and opportunity to address questions/concerns!*
- On 03/11/08 attended the monthly IAEI Texas Chapter meeting and gave brief update on adoption of NEC 2008. *Many thanks to James Hathorn of the City of Irving!*
- On 03/12-14/08 assisted with review and development of the Texas Electrical Exams on the 2008 NEC code at the Texas ICC Exam Development Conference in Dallas. *Many thanks to Doug Hatch, Michelle Porter, Jackie Claus, and the entire exam advisory board for their dedication to the continued development/maintenance of the Texas Electrical Exams!*

### TDLR Electrical Task Force

The Electrical Enforcement Task Force (EETF) met in Houston on Thursday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2008. The turnout of approximately 150 people was outstanding. 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 date is up for recommendation and proposed for the North Texas (Dallas) area. For the most current information on the (EETF) meetings send your email address to: [elctask@license.state.tx.us](mailto:elctask@license.state.tx.us) and we will add your name to the (EETF) list.

### Did You Know!!!

Electrical work performed with an "expired" license is a violation of Administrative Rule 73.22(b). See <http://www.license.state.tx.us/electricians/elecrules030108.pdf> An electrician's license must be "current" in order to perform electrical work in Texas.

### 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) 799-1489 or e-mail him at: [jerry.daniel@license.state.tx.us](mailto: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](mailto:larry.reichle@license.state.tx.us). Please feel free to take this information and **PASS IT ON!** To File a Complaint or Report a Violation go to: <http://www.license.state.tx.us/Complaints/>



Remember – "If we work together to address issues effecting regulation of the electrical industry – we can achieve great things!"

**Thanks! - J.L. Daniel & L. Reichle**  
Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation  
Electrical Compliance Division