

Welcome to the TDLR FLASH for September 2007

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, [sign up for TDLR's free email subscription service](#).

Survey Questionnaires for Local Electrical Requirements

The information collection continues and a new web page has been constructed from the data received to show the requirements of 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. This web page will be updated every quarter. Remember...your input is invaluable, so please get us the information as soon as you can.

New Licenses - Residential Appliance Installers & Residential Appliance Installer Contractors

Senate Bill 1222, which was passed during the 80th Legislative Session, has resulted in amendments to Chapter 1305 of the Texas Occupations Code and new statewide requirements for residential appliance installers and contractors.

Beginning March 1, 2008, a person may not perform or offer to perform residential appliance installation or residential appliance installation contracting work without the appropriate license. The new requirements establish minimum qualifications for these license holders and makes them eligible to work anywhere in the state.

The law also established a "grandfathering period" which extends through June 1, 2008. The "grandfathering period" enables qualified applicants (specifically those who have completed 4,000 hours of electrical work or residential appliance installation under the supervision of a master electrician) to obtain a license without passing an exam. After the "grandfathering period" ends, all applicants will need to present proof of having passed an exam approved by the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR).

TDLR, in conjunction with the Electrical Safety and Licensing Advisory Board, is proposing administrative rules, developing forms, and preparing FAQ's to facilitate the new licensing requirements. *The administrative rules have not yet been adopted, application forms are not yet available, and we are not accepting applications at this time.* To receive updates and information on requirements for appliance installers and contractors, [sign up for TDLR's free email subscription service](#).

The Electrical Safety and Licensing Advisory (ESLA) Board

The ESLA Board met on August 16, 2007. Agenda items included proposed rules for implementation of the new appliance installer/contractor requirements and appointments of the chair and vice-chair to the new Electrical Enforcement Task Force (EETF). Congratulations to Mr. Gil Durant (task force chair) and to Mr. Brooks Myers (vice-chair). The task force was established to help identify/address issues facing Texas electricians and to assist TDLR on their enforcement efforts. A date/time has not yet been established, however, the first meeting of the EETF will be announced via our list server. If you would like to participate in the EETF, just drop us a line at elctask@license.state.tx.us and we'll add you to our email contact list.

Our next Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for October 25, 2007 in Austin at 9:00 a.m. You may tune in live or listen to previously archived meetings by going to <http://www.license.state.tx.us/electricians/elecmeet.htm>

TDLR "Licensing Sweeps"

The Compliance Division staff continue their "licensing sweeps". Their most recent activities included visits to the incorporated and unincorporated areas of:

- **Midland** and **Ector** counties, where we accepted an invitation from the local officials and performed a sweep in late June. *Thank you to Ralph McCain, and Gary Owens for the invitation and support in Odessa, and David Wayland, and Greg Shelton for the invitation and support in Midland.*
- **Washington** and **Grimes** counties, where we accepted an invitation from the local officials and performed a sweep in early July. *Thank you to Paul Kendall for the invitation and support in Brenham.*
- **Bexar** and **Comal** counties, where we accepted an invitation from the local officials and performed a sweep in late August. *Thank you to Ray Martinez, John Raney, George Moreno, and Billy Clark.*

Through our cooperative efforts with local municipal officials, TDLR staff has been successful at identifying violations including: 1) electrical work performed without electrical licenses, 2) electrical work performed with expired licenses, and 3) vehicles not properly marked with the Electrical Contractor License # (i.e. TECL#). 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.

Having already received invitations from the local municipal officials, Compliance Division staff will be extending our "licensing sweep" efforts into the counties of South and East Texas. We will probably visit a few more counties in the Central Texas area as well. Requests from local officials for TDLR to establish a presence in unincorporated areas of their counties are always welcome.

TDLR Compliance Staff (Notable Activities)

- Working on implementation of Senate Bill 1222 and requirements for Residential Appliance Installers and Contractors.
- Participated in the Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM) Conference 2007 in Arlington, TX. - manned a booth and gave a presentation.
- Participated on the ICC Examination Committee in Corpus Christi, TX - reviewed electrical examination questions and established a new examination for appliance installers.

Exam Committee Changes

The ICC Texas Electrical Examination Advisory Committee or EAC has chosen new committee members. The application process has closed until April 1st – May 31st 2008. Beginning April 1st through May 31st of every year anyone can apply by application to be on the EAC and assist in developing the Texas Electrical Exams. The application will be posted at http://www2.iccsafe.org/contractor/dsp_state.cfm?state=TX

The Exam Committee has been chosen, and a sincere **thank you** to all who applied.

The Committee includes:

Leo Barraza
Travis Burrow
Billy Chamberlin
Gil Durant
Sheila Evans
Chris Farenthold
Mitch Feris
Ronnie Williams

Robert Ford
Ron Gibbs
Gary Jones
Raymond Martinez
Rodney Mayberry
John Minick
Gary Owens

Joe Riley
Brad Scates
Carl Thompson
Luis Vasquez
Alex Verver
N.A. Weiman
Dennis Williams
David McMillan

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>

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/>

Closing the Circuit

Your participation/input is critical! If you have any concerns, comments, or observations, please contact us – we want to hear from you. You may reach Jerry Daniel at (512) 475-0538 or Larry Reichle at (512) 463-7289. For the hearing impaired, Relay Texas - TDD is available at (800) 735-2989. You may also e-mail us at: electricalsafety@license.state.tx.us. Please feel free to take this information and **PASS IT ON!**

 *Acknowledge those people who dream of worthy goals, but tip your hats to those who stay awake and accomplish them!*

Thanks! - J. Daniel & L. Reichle
Electrical Program
Building & Mechanical Section
Compliance Division, TDLR