Coming Soon: 2020 National Electrical Code

The Texas Electrical Safety and Licensing Act requires the TDLR to adopt the revised National Electrical Code (NEC) as the electrical code for the state of Texas. In 2020, TDLR will adopt the 2020 NEC as the electrical code for the state of Texas and establish it as the "minimum standard" for all electrical work in Texas covered by the Act. The proposed effective date will be September 1, 2020.

Chapter 1305.201 of the Act gives municipalities the authority to make local amendments to the 2020 NEC. However, any proposal to amend these standards should be done in accordance with NEC 90.4 which stipulates, "the authority having jurisdiction may waive specific requirements in this Code or permit alternative methods where it is assured that equivalent objectives can be achieved by establishing and maintaining effective safety."

Expectations are that any non-exempt electrical work started on or after September 1, 2020 will have to be installed in accordance with the 2020 NEC. For purposes of clarification, the “start” of electrical work is the day the electrician begins installing electrical materials or equipment within the residential or commercial building structure. Inside the corporate limits of a municipality, electricians must abide by city permitting requirements and adhere to any local code amendments.

Also beginning September 1, 2020, all examinations for state electrical licenses will be based on the 2020 NEC. The state electrical exams are available through PSI, who contracts with TDLR to develop, maintain, and administer the state electrician licensing examinations. It is very important for license candidates to review the Candidate Information Bulletin (CIB) which contains detailed information regarding the examinations and is vital to understanding the process.

If you have questions about the NE, contact TDLR's Chief Electrical Inspector Jerry Daniel at jerry.daniel@tdlr.texas.gov or Deputy Chief Electrical Inspector Larry Reichle at larry.reichle@tdlr.texas.gov