



## Permit Center

210 Lottie Street, Bellingham, WA 98225

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# Class B Electrical Program

***\*Updates to 2017 NEC & WAC 296-46B on last page\****

## City of Bellingham Program Information

*This program is similar to the Labor & Industries program, but all users should understand that:*

- Labels are valid only within the code cycle in which they are sold.
- Labels may be used for Class B electrical work on residential or commercial jobs
- The scope of work for each label may not exceed a valuation of \$5,000
- Fees are based on the number of labels purchased in each transaction:
  - 1-4 labels: \$107 per label
  - 5-9 labels: \$80.25 per label
  - 10+ labels: \$53.50 per label
- A \$107 per trip charge may be added if re-inspection is required
- Noncompliance with the NEC may result in removal of a contractor from the program

## Electrical contractors and electricians

*If you use Class B labels, please understand these points before using a label:*

- Class B basic electrical work is basic electrical that requires minimal electrical circuit modification, has limited exposure hazards, and may be inspected on a random basis.
- Do not work out of your allowed scope of work.
- You must follow all the rules for using Class B labels.
- The specific rules for use of the Class B labels are in WAC 296-46B-900.

## For more information:

If you have questions about Class B labels, contact the Permit Center.

210 Lottie St  
Bellingham, WA 98225  
[www.cob.org/permits](http://www.cob.org/permits)  
360-778-8300 ♦ [permits@cob.org](mailto:permits@cob.org)

## We want your feedback!

Please direct comments to:

Sean Angeley, Building Official  
[smangeley@cob.org](mailto:smangeley@cob.org)

## Electrical contractors, assigned administrators and master electricians

*You are the primary responsible party for using Class B labels properly.*

- You are responsible for using and posting permits when they are required.
- You are responsible for ensuring your electricians use and fill in Class B labels properly.
- Safeguard your Class B labels. They are valuable, and someone else might use them if they are lost or stolen.
- Return the contractor portion of a Class B label to the Permit Center within one week of when it is used or within 5 days when voided or destroyed.
- You cannot give or resell a Class B label to anyone for use outside your company.
- There is no refund for unused labels.
- Failure to comply with the law might result in written warnings or citations to you.

## Electricians and telecommunications workers

*If you use a Class B label, you are also a responsible party.*

- You are responsible for using and posting permits when they are required.
- You are responsible for using and filling in Class B labels properly.
- After you have used a Class B label, you must give your contractor the filled in contractor portion of the label.
- Except for telecommunications workers, the electrician, or in the case of an unsupervised trainee installing a thermostat cable, the worker's certification number must be written on both copies of the Class B label. Nobody other than the person actually doing the work should fill in the label. Telecommunications workers must put their name in the certification area.
- Failure to comply with the law might result in written warnings or citations to you.

### General instructions for using Class B labels

- The worker doing the installation must fill in and post the Class B label before beginning work. The Class B label must be completely filled in.
- Attach the Site portion of the Class B label to the electrical panel, the overcurrent device that supplies power to the affected circuit/equipment, or the equipment itself.
- Do the work. After completing the work, return the contractor portion of the Class B label to the contractor.
- The contractor must return the Contractor portion of the Class B label to the Permit Center within one week after it was posted at the jobsite.

- If an inspection is made, the Permit Center will attempt to arrange access and make the

inspection based on the information on the portion of the Class B label returned to the Permit Center. If the inspection cannot be arranged, the contractor must arrange access for the inspector.

Contractor's Portion—Return to City	
Class B Basic Electrical Work	
XXXXXX	
Date of Work	4/7/11
Elec Contractor Name	Wee Bee Electrical Company
Elec Contractor License #	WEEBE111EX
Electrician Certificate #	ANYONE123ME
Site Address	Bob's Office 123 1st St #101
Job site owner name & phone # (for inspection)	Bob Example, 360-000-0000
Description of Work	Low voltage security & intercom

Within one week of job return this portion to:  
Permit Center, 210 Lottie St, Bellingham, WA 98225

### How to fill in a Class B label

- All fields must be filled in completely and accurately. Do not forget any field.
- The certificate number is the worker's number, not the contractor's or administrator's certificate number.
- Make certain that the owner's information is complete and accurate. This is critical in arranging an inspection.
- Make certain the description of work is complete and includes all work done on the label, e.g., thermostat, furnace change, circuit extension.

## **Class B basic electrical work:**

*Allowed work under this program is defined in WAC 296-46B-908 and includes the following:*

**(a)** Extension of not more than one branch electrical circuit limited to 120 volts and 20 amps each where:

- (i) No cover inspection is necessary. For the purposes of this section, cover inspection does not include work covered by any surface that may be removed for inspection without damaging the surface; and
- (ii) The extension does not supply more than two outlets as defined by the NEC.

**(b)** Single like-in-kind replacement of:

- (i) A motor larger than 10 horsepower; or
- (ii) The internal wiring of a furnace, air conditioner, refrigeration unit or household appliance; or
- (iii) An electric/gas/oil furnace not exceeding 240 volts and 100 amps and associated Class 2 low voltage wiring when the furnace is connected to an existing branch circuit. For the purposes of this section, a boiler is not a furnace; or
- (iv) An individually controlled electric room heater (e.g., baseboard, wall, fan forced air, etc.), air conditioning unit, heat pump unit, or refrigeration unit not exceeding 240 volts, 40 minimum circuit amps and associated Class 2 low voltage wiring when the unit is connected to an existing branch circuit; or
- (v) Circuit modification required to install not more than five residential load control devices in a residence where installed as part of an energy conservation program sponsored by an electrical utility and where the circuit does not exceed 240 volts and 40 amps.

**(c)** The following low voltage systems:

- (i) Repair and replacement of devices not exceeding 100 volt-amperes in Class 2, Class 3, or power limited low voltage systems in one- and two-family dwellings; or
- (ii) Repair and replacement of devices not exceeding 100 volt-amperes in Class 2, Class 3, or power limited low voltage systems in other buildings, provided the equipment is not

for fire alarm or nurse call systems and is not located in an area classified as hazardous by the NEC; or

(iii) The installation of Class 2 or 3 device(s) or wiring for thermostat, audio, security, burglar alarm, intercom, amplified sound, public address, or access control systems where the installation does not exceed twenty devices or five thousand square feet. This does not include fire alarm, nurse call, lighting control, industrial automation/control or energy management systems; or

(iv) Telecommunications cabling and equipment requiring inspection in RCW [19.28.470](#) where the installation does not exceed twenty devices or five thousand square feet;

**(d)** The replacement of not more than ten standard receptacles with GFCI receptacles;

**(e)** The conversion of not more than ten snap switches to dimmers or occupancy sensors for the use of controlling a luminaire(s) conversion;

**(f)** The like-in-kind replacement of a maximum of twenty: Paddle fans, luminaires not exceeding 277 volts and 20 amperes; snap switches, dimmers, receptacle outlets, line voltage thermostats, heating elements, or luminaire ballasts;

**(g)** The replacement of not more than two luminaires with paddle fans if a listed fan box has been previously installed to support the luminaires;

**(h)** The replacement of not more than four batteries rated not larger than 150 amp hours each that supply power to a single unit of equipment (e.g., uninterruptable power supply, photovoltaic storage system, control panel, etc.);

(i) The installation or repair of equipment powered by a stand-alone solar photovoltaic source where the:

(i) Electrical equipment requires no field assembly except for the attachment and electrical connection of the solar photovoltaic source to the equipment, the installation and attachment to a grounding electrode, and the placement of the equipment on a pad, pole, or other structure;

(ii) Solar photovoltaic source and the equipment operates at less than 15 volts DC;

- (iii) Solar photovoltaic source is the only source of external power; and
- (iv) Equipment and the solar photovoltaic source are appropriately labeled as a single unit. The label must be by an approved electrical testing laboratory or for equipment used for traffic control labeled according to WAC [296-46B-010\(21\)](#).

*Class B basic electrical work **does not include** any work in:*

- (a) Areas classified as Class I, Class II, Class III, or Zone locations per NEC 500; or
- (b) Areas regulated by NEC 517 or 680; or
- (c) Any work where electrical plan review is required; or
- (d) Fire alarm, nurse call, lighting control, industrial automation/control or energy management system

**\*2017 WAC 296-46B-908(10) UPDATES\***

**Class B Random Inspection:**

*The scope of work for Class B random inspection labels was expanded to include:*

- (a) A single, line-voltage flexible supply whip associated with like-in-kind replacement of HVAC equipment.  
This may be done on the same Class B label with the replacement unit if done at the same time.
- (b) Replacement of not more than ten standard receptacles with AFCI receptacles.
- (c) The installation or replacement of a single-electric sign on an existing 120-volt, 20-amp maximum branch circuit.