

80.50 Permit Application.

(A) Permit Required. It shall be unlawful to install, alter, repair, replace, modify, extend, or connect any electrical equipment, or allow the same to be done, without first obtaining a permit for the work from the authority having jurisdiction, except as allowed in subsections (B) and (C) of this Section. A separate electrical permit is required for each separate building or structure.

Informational Note: See the “Smoke and Fire Protection Features” section in the *Seattle Building Code* for required protection methods when electrical work penetrates fire-resistance rated building elements.

(B) Like-in-Kind Replacement. An electrical permit shall not be required for the like-in-kind replacement of the following electrical equipment:

- (1) single-family residential luminaires, snap switches, dimmers, receptacles, lamps, or luminaire ballasts with an identical ballast;
- (2) a single set of fuses, a single battery smaller than 150 amp hour, or single lead acid batteries;
- (3) circuit breakers, contactors, relays, timers, starters, circuit boards, thermostats, or similar control components. For the purpose of this section, “circuit breaker” means a circuit breaker that is used to provide overcurrent protection only for a branch circuit, as defined in NEC 100;
- (4) household appliance, gas or oil furnace, water heater, baseboard heater, and wall heating unit when the equipment is reconnected to a circuit that was lawfully installed and approved, and no alteration of the circuit is necessary;
- (5) component(s) of electrical signs, outline lighting, or skeleton neon tubing when replaced on-site by an appropriately licensed electrical contractor and when the sign, outline lighting or skeleton neon tubing system is not modified;
- (6) one 10-horsepower or smaller motor;
- (7) electrical equipment repaired or installed in connection with an elevator, dumbwaiter, or similar conveyance when the equipment work is covered under an issued elevator permit; and
- (8) lead acid batteries supporting a listed UPS system when replaced by a factory authorized technician.

(C) Work Exempt from Permitting Requirements. An electrical permit shall not be required for the following electrical equipment:

- (1) induction detection loops used to control gate access devices;
- (2) induction detection loop or similar circuits for traffic management systems will be accepted by the authority having jurisdiction without inspection;
- (3) embedded premanufactured heat mats placed in tile grout where the mat is listed by an approved testing

laboratory and comes from the manufacturer with preconnected lead-in conductors. All listing marks and lead-in conductor labels must be left intact and visible for evaluation and inspection by the installing electrician and the electrical inspector; and

- (4) wiring for communication systems and installation of optical fiber cables, as set forth in *NEC* Chapter 8 and Article 770, as follows:
 - (a) in one- and two-family dwellings, or
 - (b) in installations of 1,000 feet or less.

Exemption from the permit requirements of this *Code* shall not be deemed to grant authorization for work done in any manner that violates the provisions of this *Code* or any other laws or ordinances of the City. All work shall comply with this *Code*, even where no permit is required.

(D) Flood Hazard Areas. In addition to the permit required by this section, all work to be performed in areas of special flood hazard, as identified in the report entitled “Flood Insurance Study for King County, Washington and Incorporated Areas” and the accompanying Flood Insurance Rate Maps filed in C.F. 296948, is subject to additional standards and requirements, including floodplain development approval or a Floodplain Development License as set forth in Chapter 25.06, the Seattle Floodplain Development Ordinance, and Chapter 16 of the *Seattle Building Code*.

80.51 Application for Permit.

(A) Application. To obtain a permit, the applicant shall first file an application in a format determined by the authority having jurisdiction. Every application shall:

- (1) Identify and describe the work to be covered by the permit for which application is made;
- (2) Describe the land on which the proposed work is to be done by legal description, property address, or similar description that will readily identify and definitively locate the proposed building or work;
- (3) Provide the contractor’s business name, address, phone number, and current contractor registration number with state license number of the licensed contractor, if a contractor has been selected;
- (4) Be accompanied by construction documents, including plans, drawings, diagrams, computations and specifications, equipment schedules, and other data as required in Sections 80.54(B) and (C) when required by the authority having jurisdiction;
- (5) State the valuation of the electrical work to be done. The valuation of the electrical work is the estimated current value of all labor and material, whether paid for or not, for which the permit is sought;
- (6) Be signed by the owner of the property or building, or the owner’s authorized agent, who may be required to submit evidence to indicate such authority;
- (7) Give such other data and information as may be required by the authority having jurisdiction;

- (8) State the name of the owner and the name, address, and phone number of a contact person;
- (9) Substantially conform with applicable law in effect on the date described in Section R101.3, as modified by any exception; and
- (10) Include documentation of compliance with the *Seattle Energy Code*.

The authority having jurisdiction may refuse to issue or may revoke a permit if any statement in the permit application is found to be untrue.

(B) Construction Documents.

(1) General. In addition to the requirements of Section 80.51(A), construction documents, including plans and specifications, shall be submitted with each electrical permit application and in an electronic format approved by the authority having jurisdiction.

Construction documents shall be submitted for work that includes the following:

- (a) services or feeders of 400 amperes or over;
- (b) switches, circuit breakers, and equipment rated 400 amperes or over;
- (c) any equipment operating at voltages exceeding 600;
- (d) services, feeders, and power supplies for emergency, legally required standby or fire pump systems;
- (e) proposed alteration or installation, the scope of which covers more than 5,000 square feet;
- (f) proposed alteration or installation which cannot be adequately described on the application form;
- (g) new or altered electrical installations in educational, institutional, and health or personal care occupancies as required in WAC 296-46B-900(1); (3)(a), (b), (c), (e), & (g); and WAC 269-46B-900 Tables 900-1 and 900-2; and

Exception to (a) through (g): Plan review applications will not be accepted for installations in one- and two-family dwelling structures that can be adequately described on the over-the-counter application form.

- (h) photovoltaic and other renewable energy systems. Submittals for these systems shall be as follows:
 - (1) systems rated over 26 kW shall submit plans and specifications, including system layout and all system components at the time of application;
 - (2) systems rated over 7.7 kW shall submit plans and specifications, including system layout and all system components at the time of application; and
 - (3) systems rated under 7.7 kW shall provide a one line drawing and manufacturer's installation requirements to the field inspector prior to the first cover inspection

(2) Fire Department Review. Electronic plans and specifications for fire alarm systems shall be submitted to SDCI. SDCI shall provide electronic plans to the Seattle Fire

Department for review. See *Seattle Fire Code* Section 907 for required submittal information.

(3) Clarity of Plans. Plans shall be drawn to a clearly indicated and commonly accepted scale. The plans shall be of sufficient quality to be easily read.

Plans shall indicate the nature and extent of the work proposed and shall show in detail that it will conform to the provisions of this *Code*. All new and revised electrical work shall be readily distinguishable from other electrical work. Applicants shall not use a red color to create notes, text, annotations, and "redlines" within electronic plans. The use of a red color on submitted electronic plan sets will be reserved for the exclusive use of SDCI plans examiners. If plans are incomplete, unintelligible, indefinite, or poorly organized, the authority having jurisdiction may require that the plans be prepared by a licensed electrical engineer, or may reject or refuse to examine such plans, even though a plan examination fee has been paid in accordance with *Seattle Municipal Code*, Title 22, Subtitle IX, Permit Fees.

(4) Information Required on Plans. Information on plans and specifications shall include the following:

- (a) the type of occupancy and a complete scope of work;
- (b) a complete riser and a one line diagram to include:
 - (1) approved service point location, service connection, metering, and grounding,
 - (2) feeder connections and if utilized, their equipment grounding conductors,
 - (3) grounding of separately derived systems,
 - (4) grounding electrode system and conductor size for service, transformers, and generators including main and system bonding jumpers,
 - (5) equipment specifications and designations, including voltage, ampacity, disconnecting means and short-circuit current rating,
 - (6) ground-fault equipment protection, when required,
 - (7) transformer over-current protective device size(s), and
 - (8) transformer primary and secondary voltage, and kilovolt-amperes (KVA) rating.
- (c) clear identification of all circuitry, including but not limited to: circuit numbers, wire sizes, insulation types, conduit sizes and types;
- (d) elevators used as an accessible means of egress element and clearly identified as such;
- (e) a complete set of switchboard and panel schedules. These shall include all load calculations and demand factors used for computation per Article 220;
- (f) a complete project load summary to include existing loads as computed in accordance with *NEC* Article 220, and all added loads. Electrical calculations and lighting summaries may be submitted on separate computation sheets;

- (g) fault current calculations and the listed interrupting rating of all feeder and service equipment;
- (h) a key to all symbols used;
- (i) a luminaire schedule showing all pertinent information and include the *Seattle Energy Code* lighting power allowance form; and
- (j) any other information as may be required by the plans examiner.

(C) Incomplete Submittals. Plans shall be submitted in a manner that is organized to facilitate plan review. Plan sets not having the information and specifications required by 80.51(B) or not clearly organized are deemed to be incomplete submittals. Review time will be charged at the hourly rate established by the Seattle Fee Subtitle until a complete submittal is received.