

Electrical OTC Permit Types and Required Licenses (Contractor Guide)

This guide explains which Washington State electrical contractor license is required for each Electrical Over-the-Counter (OTC) permit type. Contractors must hold the appropriate license classification for the work being performed.

Standard Itemized Self-Issued Permit

Allowed license types:

EL-01 or EL-02

Description:

Used for most typical electrical work in buildings, including installing or modifying branch circuits, lighting, receptacles, and similar building wiring.

This permit type may also include related work such as low-voltage wiring, Distributed Antenna System (DAS) or ERRCS components, and an Ufer ground inspection. (Obtain a Stand-Alone Low-Voltage System specialty permit for work on door/gate/similar systems)

This permit does not include fire alarm systems or temporary electrical power, which must be applied for using their own permit types.

Specialty Electrical OTC Permits

The permits below are used for specific types of electrical work that can be submitted separately from the standard electrical permit.

Fire Alarm Modifications (6 Devices or Fewer)

Allowed license types:

EL-01, EL-02, or EL-06

Description:

Used for minor modifications to an existing fire alarm system involving six devices or fewer.

Stand-Alone DAS or ERRCS

Allowed license types:

EL-01, EL-02, EL-06, EL-09

Description:

Used for installation or modification of a Distributed Antenna System (DAS) or Emergency Responder Radio Communication System (ERRCS) when it is not included as part of another electrical permit.

Stand-Alone Low-Voltage System

Allowed license types:

Any Washington State electrical license authorized for low-voltage systems.

Description:

Used for installation or modification of communications, data, security, or other low-voltage electrical systems not included under another permit.

This permit type must be used to install, repair, or replace door/gate/similar systems electrical operator wiring and equipment.

Temporary Electrical Service

Allowed license types:

EL-01, EL-02

Description:

Used to install temporary electrical service or construction power for job sites or temporary installations.

Electricity at a Special Event

Allowed license types:

EL-01, EL-02

Description:

Used for temporary electrical installations supporting special events such as festivals, fairs, or public gatherings.

Ufer Ground Inspection

Allowed license types:

Anyone may apply.

Description:

Used to request inspection of an Ufer grounding electrode installed in a building foundation before concrete placement.

Underground Conduit Work

Allowed license types:

EL-01, EL-02

Description:

Used for installation of underground electrical conduit systems prior to conductor installation or trench backfill.

Mast or Meter Emergency Repair

Allowed license types:

EL-01, EL-02

Description:

Used for emergency repair or replacement of damaged service mast or meter equipment to safely restore electrical service.

Annual Facilities Electrical Maintenance

Allowed license types:

EL-01, EL-02

Description:

Used for ongoing electrical maintenance performed throughout the year at a facility under a quarterly billing structure.

Safety Inspection Requested by Seattle City Light

Allowed license types:

EL-01, EL-02

Description:

Used when Seattle City Light directs a customer or contractor to obtain an electrical safety inspection permit before service can be connected or restored.

Inspector-Directed Inspection-Only Permit

Allowed license types:

All license types can apply, but validity depends on the work involved.

Description:

Used when an SDCI electrical inspector directs a customer or contractor to obtain an inspection-only permit to evaluate existing electrical work.

License Requirement Chart

SDCI Electrical OTC Permit Type	Washington State Electrical License Type															
	EL-01	EL-02	EL-03	EL-3A	EL-04	EL-06	EL-6A	EL-6B	EL-07	EL7A	EL-7B	EL-7C	EL-7D	EL-7E	EL-09	EL-10
Standard itemized self-issued permit = Yes	✓	✓														
Fire alarm modifications with 6 devices or fewer	✓	✓				✓										
Stand-alone DAS or ERRCS	✓	✓				✓									✓	
Stand-alone low-voltage system	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Temporary Electrical Service	✓	✓														
Electricity at a special event	✓	✓														
Underground conduit work	✓	✓														
Mast or meter emergency repair	✓	✓														
“Annual” facilities electrical maintenance (1/2hr min quarterly fee)	✓	✓														
Seattle City Light has directed me to obtain a safety inspection permit	✓	✓														
An inspector has directed me to obtain an inspection-only permit	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

There are no license requirements for obtaining an Electrical OTC Ufer permit.

Important: Refer to the [WAC 296-46B-920](#) to clarify electrical/telecommunications license/certificate types and scope of work requirements.