



Franklin Regional Council of Governments

Franklin County Cooperative Inspection Program

WHEN IS AN ELECTRICAL LICENSE and PERMIT REQUIRED

There are many types of hazards that arise from the use of electricity. More than you think. For this reason, and for the protection, health and safety of all consumers, we wish to offer a list of instances where an electrical license and a permit **are required** by Massachusetts General Law 527 CMR and 237 CMR.

A. Licenses

It should be known that ALL persons, firms, and corporations engaging in or working at the business of installing wires, conduits, apparatus, devices, fixtures, or other appliances for carrying electricity for light, heat, power, fire warning or security purposes **must be** licensed in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

B. Permits

It should be known that ALL installations, repairs and maintenance of electrical wiring and electrical fixtures for light, heat, power, signaling, and communication purposes **require** an electrical permit.

Some examples are shown below, but are not limited to the following list:

- New buildings
- Additions
- Renovations
- Generators
- Transfer switches
- Electrical appliances (e.g. dishwashers, ranges, microwaves, garbage disposals, washers and dryers, etc.)
- Solar installations
- Mini split heat pumps
- Central air conditioner systems
- Heating systems
- Electric Hot Water Heaters
- Fire alarm and security systems
- Smoke, heat, and carbon monoxide detectors
- Swimming Pools above ground and in ground
- Hot tubs and spas
- Service upgrades

Panel changes
Septic pump alarm systems
Signs

It is important to note that electrical installations **must not** be concealed or covered from view until inspected by the local electrical inspector. Otherwise, the inspector may not be able to validate the completion of the work for which the permit was issued. This documentation is necessary to verify final approval. It is also **required** that each electrician call the electrical inspector for the necessary inspections.

Warning: Failure to hire a licensed electrician or systems contractor, or to apply for a permit and having the work inspected, could result in severe personal injury to yourself or others and denied insurance claims for those injuries. It could result in denied insurance/manufacture's warranty claims for the cost of repairs of damage to your property. It may also delay the sale of your home or business due to the lack of documentation for permits and inspections.

Warning: Please take great caution with any phone, electronic, or door to door solicitations that you may receive to perform electrical services, as you may become the victim of fraud or substandard work.

You, as a home and/or business owner have the right to ask, **and should ask**, for proof of licensing for anyone wiring on your property, even when dealing with large, well known companies or stores.

To check or verify a license, you may contact our office or go to the following website for the Massachusetts Board of Electricians: <http://www.mass.gov/ocabr/licensee/dpl-boards/el/>.

Our contact info:

Tom McDonald

Electrical inspector for Ashfield, Bernardston, Buckland, Charlemont, Conway, Erving, Gill, Greenfield, Hawley, Heath, Leverett, Leyden, Rowe, Shelburne, and Whately.

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