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STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & ECONOMIC GROWTH
LANSING

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IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING APPRENTICE ELECTRICIANS

Notice to all licensed electrical contractors, master, journeyman and apprentice electricians in the State of Michigan.

On September 16, 2008, the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan at Bay City lifted an injunction on the requirements set forth in Michigan Compiled Laws 338.883e (2), (3), (4) of Public Act 217.

338.883e reads as follows:

Apprentice electrician; registration; form; certificate of registration; apprenticeship training program; apprentice electrician ratio.

Sec. 3e. (1) An individual employed as an apprentice electrician shall register with the board on a form provided by the board within 30 days after employment.

(2) The department of labor shall issue a certificate of registration to a person seeking registration upon satisfactory proof of the person's participation in a bona fide apprenticeship training program approved by the board. This program shall be equivalent to the requirements of those imposed by the United States department of labor bureau of apprenticeship and training, subject to subsection (3).

(3) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (4), the ratio of electrical journeymen or master electricians to registered apprentice electricians shall be on the basis of 1 electrical journeyman or master electrician to 1 registered apprentice electrician. The department of labor or an enforcing agency shall enforce the ratio on a jobsite basis.

(4) Notwithstanding subsection (3), in the case of a residential single family dwelling or a multifamily dwelling not exceeding 8 units per building, the department of labor or an enforcing agency shall enforce the apprentice electrician ratio on the basis of 1 electrical journeyman or master electrician to 2 registered apprentice electricians on a jobsite basis.

History: Add. 1990, Act 246, Eff. Mar. 28, 1991.

Simply, the law requires a ratio of one apprentice to one journeyman or master on all projects excluding residential. On residential and multifamily projects up to 8 units the ratio is 2:1. In addition all electrical apprentices must submit proof of participation in a bona fide apprenticeship training program equivalent to the requirements of those imposed by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training and approved by the Electrical Administrative Board.

The Bureau of Construction Codes, Electrical Division plans to implement the requirements incrementally. The requirement for jobsite ratios of journey or master to apprentices will be

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enforced effective April 1, 2009. All electrical contractors throughout the State of Michigan are required to comply with the jobsite ratios. The requirements for apprentices to participate in an approved apprenticeship training program will take some time to implement. The department is currently working with the Electrical Administrative Board to determine an appropriate course of action to approve training programs based on the Federal Bureau of Apprenticeship Training requirements. The department has not yet established a date for the implementation of the training requirements. All registered apprentices will be notified once the approved training programs are available and a date is established for the requirements of apprentices to participate in an approved program. The Electrical Division is committed to ensuring that the requirements set forth in 1956 PA 217 are implemented fairly and that individuals and businesses understand the requirements.

Additionally, the following list includes the most common mistakes found when processing licensing and apprentice registrations. Please review this list to assure you are in compliance with the law.

1. Paying a master, journeyman or apprentice with a 1099. (They must be on the company's payroll.)
2. A master who signs documents for individuals who do not physically work for the company they are master of record for.
3. Contractors who do not employ a full time master electrician.
4. Electrical contractors who are allowing unregistered apprentices to be on a jobsite. (All apprentices must be currently registered in order to be on a jobsite)
5. Electrical contractors who are operating a business under a name that is different than what appears on their contractors license.

Any questions regarding electrical licensing or apprentice registration should be directed to the Electrical Division at (517) 241-9320.