

ELECTRICAL CERTIFICATION RENEWAL

It seems like we just got our electrical certifications in our wallets and now we are asked to renew. There is a lot of information and misinformation about the electrical certification and when and how to renew. What about the continuing education that we are required to perform prior to our renewal? Why has the State been so slow to implement the Electrical Certification rules and regulations? Let me see if I can sort through some of this for you.

The Rule of Law that started the Electrical Certification program is called the "California Code of Regulations" (CCR). Title 8, Chapter 2 is the part of the code that refers to the Electrical Certification. The problem has been that the Code is not clear enough to cover all of the issues uncovered during the implementation of this CCR change. To clarify the code, the "Prevailing Authority" (in this case the Division of Apprenticeship Standards (DAS)) has the authority to adopt regulations to implement and enforce the CCR. The process to do this is through a series of (usually 2) hearings held publicly to get input from the general public. Individuals may also write letters or email the DAS (www.dir.ca.gov/DAS) with their thoughts and concerns. The DAS then has their legal counsel guide them through the final process of writing the regulations. Hopefully you can now understand why it has taken so long to get answers to your questions. The following are some answers to the most common questions.

The California Code of Regulations Title 8, Chapter 2 Subchapter IV says "Certification shall be renewed every three (3) years. To be eligible for renewal an applicant must provide proof under penalty of perjury of 32 hours further electrical education from an Educational Provider relevant to the type of certification, and must certify under penalty of perjury that he or she has worked in the industry 2000 hours within the previous three years."

The deadline for renewal is the month noted on your Certification Card and three years from 2006. An example is, John Doe took the exam and received his Certification on August 28, 2006. His deadline to obtain a renewal is August 28, 2009. His cost is \$100. To renew John must fill out an application and send it to the DAS with a postmark of 30 days before the end of the certification period in order for John's certification to be renewed without a lapse. With that application John must sign, under penalty of perjury, that he has taken 32 hours of further electrical education from an "educational provider". San Diego Electrical Training Center is considered an "educational provider". Any "electrical" class taken at our Training Center since January of 2006 satisfies the requirement for "further electrical education".

The DAS will, in the future, randomly contact certification holders and ask them to send in proof that they have taken the required 32 hours of course work. If this happens to John he can call our Training Center and request a "transcript" of his course(s) taken and we will mail him a certified transcript which he can mail to the DAS.

Do not try to find an application for renewal on the web or at any State office. They have not developed one yet. They have promised that it will be coming out soon. By the way, the State has adopted the 2005 NEC and our Training Center is holding classes on the new code. This would be a great way to work on those 32 hours of education needed for your renewal. Check out the new class schedule on our website and register online at www.positivelyelectric.org or call 858-569-6633 ext.156 (24/7) to enroll in any class.