

City of Tacoma Electrical Code

Effective August 9, 2010



Chapter 2.04 ELECTRICAL CODE

Sections:

2.04.010	Title.
2.04.020	Purpose.
2.04.030	Scope of chapter.
2.04.035	Adoption.
2.04.040	Standards for installations.
2.04.050	Severability.
2.04.060	Enforcement of chapter.
2.04.070	Definitions.
2.04.080	Duties of chief electrical inspector.
2.04.090	Effective date of chapter.
2.04.100	Inspection of new electrical installations.
2.04.110	Inspection of existing electrical installations.
2.04.120	Final inspection and service approval.
2.04.130	Temporary wiring and service connections.
2.04.135	Metering installations and labeling.
2.04.140	New electrical installations.
2.04.145	Overhead service drops.
2.04.150	Unlawful to alter existing wiring.
2.04.155	Variance from Code requirements.
2.04.160	Move-on housing.
2.04.170	Fusing and equipment protection.
2.04.180	Explanation of chapter requirements.
2.04.190	Right of entry.
2.04.200	Nonliability of City for damages.
2.04.210	Permits required.
2.04.220	Permits and inspections.
2.04.230	Permit to owner – Single-family residence.
2.04.240	Filing of drawings and specifications.
2.04.250	Permit fees.
2.04.260	Penalty fees and fee adjustments.
2.04.270	Penalty and adjustment fee appeals.
2.04.300	Protection of electrical workers.
2.04.350	License requirements.
2.04.360	Appeal process.
2.04.370	Additional rules may be made by director.
2.04.380	Classification of occupancies and wiring methods.
2.04.400	Violations – Notification – Penalties.

2.04.010 Title.

This Chapter shall be known as the Electrical Code of the City of Tacoma.

2.04.020 Purpose.

The purpose of this Code is the practical safeguarding of persons and property from electrical hazards arising from the use of electricity. This Code contains provisions that are considered necessary for safety. Compliance with this chapter and proper maintenance will result in an installation that is reasonably free from hazard, but not necessarily the most efficient, convenient, or adequate for good service or future expansion of electrical use. Additional guidance for efficient and convenient future expansion of electrical use and systems is found in the NEC.

2.04.030 Scope of chapter.

The provisions of this chapter shall apply to all electrical conductors and equipment installed, used, rented, offered for sale, or distributed for use in areas served by Tacoma Power and its franchised entities, except as shown in Article 90.2(B) of the 2008 National Electrical Code.

2.04.035 Adoption.

A. RCW and WAC adoption and incorporation by reference. The City hereby adopts and incorporates into this chapter, the Tacoma Electrical Code, those provisions of the Revised Code of Washington (“RCW”) contained in Chapter 19.28, and the Washington Administrative Code (“WAC”), Chapter 296-46B, that relate to approved methods of construction, repair, maintenance, use of materials, and approval of installations intended to insure the safety of life and property, except WAC Articles 296-46B-210 012 (Arc-fault circuit-interrupter protection) and 296-46B-210 025 (Common area branch circuits).

B. NEC adoption. The City hereby adopts and incorporates into this chapter, the Tacoma Electrical Code, the provisions of the 2008 National Electrical Code (“NEC”) in its entirety.

2.04.040 Standards for installations.

A. All electrical installations shall be in conformity with the provisions of this Code and with approved electrical standards for safety to life and property. Where no specific standards are prescribed by this Code, conformity with the regulations set forth in the current edition of the NEC, as amended by the WAC, shall be prima facie evidence of conformity with approved standards for safety to persons and property. If any rules in this Code are found to be not at an equal, higher, or better standard of materials, devices, appliances, and equipment than of those of the WAC, the requirements of the WAC and RCW will prevail. The current edition of the NEC shall mean the current edition of the NEC, as adopted by the City in Section 2.04.035.

B. Additional City requirements applicable to the provisions of this Code are stated in the:

1. Tacoma Power Customer Service Policies, as promulgated or revised from time to time, on file with the Clerk of the Public Utility Board,
2. Tacoma Power New Electric Service Handbook, as the same may be amended from time to time by the Light Division Superintendent or his/her designee, on file with Tacoma Power’s electrical inspection office, and
3. Tacoma Power Transmission and Distribution Construction Standards, as the same may be amended from time to time by the Light Division Superintendent or his/her designee, on file with Tacoma Power’s electrical inspection office.

2.04.050 Severability.

If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase of this chapter is for any reason held to be unconstitutional, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this chapter. The City Council hereby declares that it would have passed this chapter and each section, sentence, clause, or phrase thereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase be declared unconstitutional.

2.04.060 Enforcement of chapter.

The Chief Electrical Inspector of the Light Division of the Department of Public Utilities, hereinafter called the Chief Electrical Inspector, shall be responsible for the enforcement of this chapter.

2.04.070 Definitions.

“City” means the City of Tacoma, Department of Public Utilities, Light Division, doing business as Tacoma Power.

“Code” means this chapter of the Tacoma Municipal Code.

“Contractor” means the person, firm, or corporation performing the installation of electrical equipment as licensed by the State of Washington, and the owner doing his or her own residential work on his or her primary residence.

“Electrical Inspection Office” means the office within Tacoma Power charged with administration and enforcement of this Code under the immediate supervision of the Chief Electrical Inspector.

“Electrical Permit” means a fully paid, un-expired or terminated permit issued by Tacoma Power.

“Occupying” means moving furnishings, material, merchandise, or persons into a building or premises.

“Owner” means the legal owner of the property on which electrical work is installed or is to be installed.

“Service Point” means the point where the customer’s service conductors are connected to Tacoma Power’s service utility conductors.

“Stop Work Order” means a written notice posted by the electrical inspector ordering the electrical work to be suspended until the inspector removes the notice.

2.04.080 Duties of chief electrical inspector.

It shall be the duty of the Chief Electrical Inspector to see that the provisions of this chapter are enforced. The Chief Electrical Inspector shall, upon application, issue permits for the installation or alteration of electrical wiring, devices, appliances, and equipment, and shall make inspections of electrical installations as provided in this chapter. The Chief Electrical Inspector may delegate appropriate inspection and enforcement duties prescribed by this chapter to electrical inspectors, assistants, and other persons duly qualified and regularly employed by the City.

2.04.090 Effective date of chapter.

Any electrical work for which a permit was obtained before the date on which this chapter becomes effective may be installed and completed in accordance with the laws and regulations which were in effect at the time of issuance of any such permit.

2.04.100 Inspection of new electrical installations.

A. Rough-in wiring or installation of electrical equipment not listed for use in wet locations shall only be installed in a structure or area of a structure that is completely free of exposure to the elements.

B. Requests for inspection must be made by the electrical contractor or single-family residence owner that installed electrical equipment no later than three business days after completion of the electrical/telecommunication installation or one business day after any part of the installation has been energized, whichever occurs first.

C. Electrical wiring shall not be covered or concealed until such wiring has been approved by Tacoma Power’s electrical inspections office. Where an electrical installation is covered or concealed before approval, it shall be exposed for inspection. The City shall bear no liability for damages or costs resulting from exposing the electrical installation.

2.04.110 Inspection of existing electrical installations.

A. The Chief Electrical Inspector is hereby empowered to inspect all existing wiring, appliances, devices, and equipment coming within the scope of this chapter. When the installation of any such wiring, appliance, device, or equipment is determined to be in a dangerous or unsafe condition, the person, firm, or corporation owning, using, or operating the same shall be notified and shall make the necessary repairs or changes

required to place such wiring, appliances, devices, or equipment in a safe condition, and have such work completed within 48 hours after notification thereof, or within such further reasonable time as may be allowed by Tacoma Power upon request.

B. The Chief Electrical Inspector is hereby empowered to disconnect or order the discontinuance of electrical service to such conductors or apparatus found to be in a dangerous or unsafe condition, or to have been installed without a permit. He or she shall thereupon attach a notice, which states that such conductors or apparatus have been disconnected due to violation of the provisions of this chapter. It shall be unlawful to remove a notice of disconnect or to reconnect electrical equipment to an electrical power source without authorization from the Chief Electrical Inspector. Any person removing the notice, or reconnecting the equipment or wiring before approval to do so has been given, will be subject to the penalties outlined in this chapter.

C. Abandoned conductors, conduits, and electrical equipment shall be removed from structures unless it is de-energized, supported, capped, and enclosed or terminated by an acceptable method and tagged "For Future Use" at every accessible location.

2.04.120 Final inspection and service approval.

A. Final inspections are required on all premises before occupancy. Each unit of a multiple occupancy building or complex must have a separate final electrical inspection approval before it is occupied. It is the responsibility of the electrical permit holder to request a final inspection at the time the electrical installation is completed. The responsible party not complying with the requirements of this section shall be subject to the penalties outlined in this chapter.

B. Final approval will not be given until all fees owed on the project or permit(s) are paid. When all fees are paid, and the electrical installation is complete and in compliance with this chapter, the inspector will sign and/or post a final inspection approval notice. Building permits requiring an electrical inspector's signed approval shall be posted in a conspicuous location.

C. The Chief Electrical Inspector is hereby authorized to disconnect any electrical installation or equipment which has been connected before the approval for service has been given. He or she shall thereupon attach a notice which shall state that the wiring or apparatus has been disconnected due to violation of the provisions of this chapter. Any person removing the notice, or reconnecting the equipment or wiring before approval to do so has been given, will be subject to the penalties outlined in this chapter.

2.04.130 Temporary wiring and service connections.

A. Temporary wiring. Limited use of electricity for emergency or construction purposes may be granted. An electrical permit must be purchased and inspection approval must be given before energizing the electrical installation, except as provided in this chapter. Emergency installations shall be limited to a 30-day period. Temporary wiring for construction use is limited to the duration of construction.

B. Temporary service connections. For changing out overhead electrical services, only an electrical contractor or other qualified personnel shall be permitted to disconnect power from Tacoma Power's supply at the customer's service point and make a temporary connection to the Tacoma Power system when the work is complete. For purposes of this section, qualified personnel means one who has skills and knowledge related to the construction and operation of the electrical equipment and installation and has received safety training to recognize and avoid the hazards involved. A request for inspection must be made within 24 hours after temporary connection. A permanent connection will only be made by Tacoma Power after inspection approval.

2.04.135 Metering installations and labeling.

A. Meter height. No meter shall be installed at a height greater than six feet from the front working surface or grade to the mid-point of the meter glass and no lower than five feet from the front working surface or grade to the mid-point of meter glass, except as stated in subsections 1-4 below and as provided in the Tacoma Power New Electric Service Handbook and in the Tacoma Power Transmission and Distribution Construction Standards. The Tacoma Power New Electric Service Handbook and the Tacoma Power Transmission and Distribution Construction Standards shall apply to all electric meter installations.

1. Commercial multi-metering installed in a vertical configuration shall not be installed below 36 inches from the front working surface or grade to the mid-point of the meter.
2. Residential multi-metering installed in a vertical configuration shall not be installed below 28 inches from the front working surface or grade to the mid-point of the meter.
3. Listed service pedestals and packages containing integral meter sockets, installed according to the manufacturer's instructions, are allowed to be at the height for which they are designed.
4. Special permission is granted by the Chief Electrical Inspector.
 - B. All meters in a multiple occupancy building shall be accurately marked to identify the units they serve. Labels must be of sufficient durability to withstand removal from rubbing, fading, or environmental exposure. Label characters must be a minimum 1/2-inch tall and of a contrasting color or shade from the surface to which they are affixed so that they are easily readable.
 - C. No customer meter sockets will be placed on a pole owned and maintained by Tacoma Power. Meters shall be located on the first customer owned structure which will be the service point from Tacoma Power as further specified in the customer requirements found in the Tacoma Power New Electric Service Handbook and the Tacoma Power Transmission and Distribution Construction Standards.
 - D. The meter location shall not be concealed by materials of any kind and must be readily accessible with three feet of clearance along the front and sides of the meter at all times. Failure to meet these requirements may result in termination of service.

2.04.140 New electrical installations.

All new or altered services, feeders, circuits, circuit extensions, and installations must meet requirements of this chapter.

2.04.145 Overhead service drops.

Overhead service drop clearances are the owner's responsibility. These clearances must be free of any vegetation obstructions as further specified in the Tacoma Power New Electric Service Handbook.

2.04.150 Unlawful to alter existing wiring.

It shall be unlawful for any person to alter in any way any electrical wiring, or to permit such electrical wiring to be altered, unless done in conformity with the provisions of this chapter.

2.04.155 Variance from Code requirements.

A variance from the electrical installation requirements of this chapter may be granted by the Chief Electrical Inspector when it is assured that equivalent objectives can be achieved by establishing and maintaining effective safety. The variance request must be made in writing by the permit holder or designer, using a form provided by Tacoma Power's electrical inspection office. A variance which has been granted shall be for a specific site and time and will not be considered as a precedent for other installations. All variances must be granted in writing.

2.04.160 Move-on housing.

In addition to the requirements of WAC 296-46B-010, any structure which has been moved shall have its service upgraded to meet the requirements of this chapter and the NEC. Kitchen, bath, and laundry circuits shall comply with the NEC. AFCI protection, in compliance with the NEC, will be required on all bedroom circuits.

2.04.170 Fusing and equipment protection.

Fusing and equipment protection shall be in compliance with NEC Article 240.

2.04.180 Explanation of chapter requirements.

A Tacoma Power electrical inspector may answer relevant questions concerning interpretation or application of adopted regulations and rules outlined in this Code. No inspector shall lay out work or act in the capacity of an electrical installation consultant.

2.04.190 Right of entry.

A Tacoma Power electrical inspector shall have the right to enter any and all buildings and premises which contain electrical wiring or apparatus, at any reasonable hour, for the purpose of inspecting or testing the installation of electrical wiring, electrical devices, and/or electric materials to determine Code compliance. Consent to such entry and inspection is a condition of continued electrical service.

2.04.200 Nonliability of City for damages.

This chapter shall not be construed to alter the responsibility or liability of any person owning, designing, operating, controlling, or installing any electrical wires, appliances, apparatus, construction, or equipment for damages to persons or property caused by a defect therein, nor shall the City, or any employee or agent thereof, be held as assuming any such liability by reason of the inspection or other examination authorized herein or the notice of approval issued by the Inspector.

2.04.210 Permits required.

An electrical permit shall be purchased before electrical equipment may be installed, altered, or repaired. An electrical permit is required for the installation, alteration, or maintenance of all electrical systems or equipment, except for like-in-kind replacement of a contactor, relay, timer, starter, electronic circuit board, or similar control component, household appliance, circuit breaker, fuse, residential luminaire, lamp, snap switch, dimmer, receptacle outlet, thermostat, heating element, luminaire ballast with an exact same ballast, component(s) of electric signs, outline lighting, skeleton lighting or skeleton neon tubing where the electrical system is not modified, 10 horsepower or smaller motor, and induction detection loops described in WAC 296-46B-300(2) and used to control gate access devices.

2.04.220 Permits and inspections.

- A. An electrical permit application shall be filled in completely and accurately before it will be accepted by Tacoma Power’s electrical inspection office.
- B. Electrical permits shall expire one year after the date of issue or one year after the most recent inspection, whichever is later.
- C. The permit holder is responsible for providing or arranging access to the work to be inspected.
- D. The inspection site address shall be clearly visible from the street.
- E. Electrical code violations identified by the inspector shall be posted at the work location. Violations shall be corrected within 15 days of notification unless a written request for extension is granted by the Chief Electrical Inspector.
- F. Electrical permits shall be required for each building address of an apartment or condominium complex.
- G. Electrical permits are transferable, provided the original scope of work for the permit has not changed and there has been no electrical work or inspection activity. The permit transferee must present a statement and authorizing signature of approval from the permit transferor. The transfer must take place at Tacoma Power’s electrical inspection office within one year of the original permit issuance.
- H. Electrical permits may be canceled by the customer. Upon such cancellation, customer shall be refunded the electrical permit fee prorated based on prior inspection activity, and less an administrative process fee. Tacoma Power may cancel an electrical permit if it determines the permit holder is not qualified to perform the permitted work.

2.04.230 Permit to owner – Single-family residence.

- A. Electrical permits to perform electrical work on a new or existing single-family residence may be issued to the owner of such residence, provided that:
 - 1. The owner provides documentation that he or she is the owner of the real property to be improved, such as a copy of a deed, along with evidence of identity;
 - 2. The work shall be done by the owner who resides at the property; except that an owner may temporarily reside elsewhere during the work if he or she intends to reside at that location when the work is completed;

3. The owner signs an affidavit affirming residence at the property where the work will be performed and the intent to reside at the premises for at least two years after the final electrical inspection; and
 4. The owner and person(s) who gave assistance with the electrical installation must be present during the inspection.
- B. If it is apparent from the character of the work performed that the owner and/or person assisting the owner are not qualified to do the work under the permit issued, an inspector may require the work that is in violation of this chapter be changed, altered, or repaired by a licensed electrical contractor.

2.04.240 Filing of drawings and specifications.

- A. A completed plan review application shall be submitted with information required to complete the review process including, but not limited to, documentation specified in the Plan Review Application Instructions. Submitted plans shall be in accordance with WAC 296-46B-900 and must be stamped by a professional electrical engineer registered with the State of Washington.
- B. Electrical permit applicants are required to submit electrical plans, load calculations, and specifications for work to be performed on:
1. Commercial and industrial services greater than 400 amps and downtown network services and feeders over 200 amps.
 2. Residential services and feeders over 400 amps.
 3. Commercial projects with a scope that covers more than 2,500 square feet.
 4. All systems that have emergency generators (NEC Articles 517, 700, 701) or systems operating over 600 volts.
 5. Schools, hospitals, institutions, and other projects as specified in the WAC.
- C. Electrical plans must be submitted to Tacoma Power’s electrical inspection office for review, giving sufficient time to complete the review prior to beginning construction. A Tacoma Power approved set of drawings must be on the job site for the inspector’s use. No inspection will be performed unless the approved plans are on the job site or special written permission is granted by the Chief Electrical Inspector.
- D. Plan review fees are included in the commercial permit fees. When no permit has been purchased and the project has been canceled, or excessive time is required to review plans submitted with incomplete information or extensive errors, a fee of \$80 per hour will be charged. Shipping and handling fees of \$25 will be charged on all plans requested to be mailed back to the submitter.

2.04.250 Permit fees.

Current standard fees for connecting electrical services to the Tacoma Power system, as well as the permit fees, must be paid before the electrical permit application process can be completed. No inspection will be performed until the permit application process is completed.

Current standard fees for electrical permits and inspections by Tacoma Power are as follows:

A. Residential.

1. Table A. New and remodeled single-family, apartment, or condominium services and feeder fees are set forth in Table A below, and include branch circuit wiring from the service(s) or feeder(s). All wiring by the same contractor on residential occupancies of 400 amps or less is included under the fees from Table A.

TABLE A

Service/feeder Ampacity	Permit Fees		
	Column 1	Column 2	Column 3
	Overhead Service 2 trips	Underground Service 4 trips	Feeder Only 2 trips
1-200	\$80	\$160	\$60
201-400	\$120	\$200	\$70
Over 400	Use TABLE B.		
Where multiple inspections are required, the permit fee shall not be less than \$40 times the number of requested inspections.			

2. Circuit alterations and repairs. The fee for 1 to 4 new circuits, circuit extensions, or alterations where the service or feeder is not modified, increased, relocated, or replaced	\$50
Each additional circuit.....	\$5
3. Service alterations and repairs. Minor alterations and repairs to outdoor portions of electrical services, such as repair or replacement of, mast, weather head, service attachment bracket, or meter base.....	\$40
4. Temporary services 1-200 amps single phase.....	\$40
5. Temporary services over 200 amps or three phase and systems with feeders.....	Table B
6. Mobile homes.	
Mobile home service or service and feeder on same trip.....	\$80
Feeder only.....	\$40
7. Residential swimming pool.....	\$120
8. Residential spas and boat space.....	\$40
9. Residential well, septic system, irrigation system.....	\$40
10. Mobile home and RV parks.	
Master service and feeders	Table B
11. Portable generator transfer panel and equipment.....	\$60

B. Commercial and industrial.

1. Table B. The permit fee for all commercial and industrial work and any residential installation exceeding 400 amps shall be derived from Table B. Proof of electrical work value must be submitted at the time of application. Proof may be established by presenting a signed contract or a priced itemization of the work to be performed. The electrical work value shall be the reasonably documented value of all labor, material, fittings, apparatus, and the like, whether actually paid for or not, supplied by the permit holder and/or installed by the permit holder as a part of, or in connection with, a complete electrical system, but which does not include the cost of utilizing equipment connected to the electrical system. If a signed contract or other substantial proof of value is not submitted at the time of permit application, the value may be established by Tacoma Power’s electrical inspection office using modern construction cost-estimating techniques. If the reported work value is determined by Tacoma Power’s electrical inspection office to be significantly less than what was reported at the time the permit was purchased, the permit fee amount will be increased to reflect the corrected actual value and a charge for the time to determine such value will be assessed to the permit fee. A fee adjustment shall be made for all change orders and field changes that increase the value. All fees must be paid before final electrical inspection approval of the project.

TABLE B

Value of Electrical Construction	Permit Fees
\$0-\$1,000	\$100 for the first \$1,000 or fraction thereof.
\$1,001-\$5,000	\$100 for the first \$1,000 plus \$4 for each additional \$100 or fraction thereof.
\$5,001-\$50,000	\$260 for the first \$5,000 plus \$2 for each additional \$100 or fraction thereof.
\$50,001-\$100,000	\$1,160 for the first \$50,000 plus \$1.50 for each additional \$100 or fraction thereof.
\$100,001-\$250,000	\$1,910 for the first \$100,000 plus \$9 for each additional \$1,000 or fraction thereof.
\$250,001-\$500,000	\$3,260 for the first \$250,000 plus \$8 for each additional \$1,000 or fraction thereof.
\$500,001-\$750,000	\$5,260 for the first \$500,000 plus \$7 for each additional \$1,000 or fraction thereof.
\$750,001-\$1,000,000	\$7,010 for the first \$750,000 plus \$6 for each additional \$1,000 or fraction thereof.
\$1,000,001-\$2,000,000	\$8,510 for the first \$1,000,000 plus \$5.50 for each additional \$1,000 or fraction thereof.
\$2,000,001-\$3,000,000	\$14,010 for the first \$2,000,000 plus \$5 for each additional \$1,000 or fraction thereof.
\$3,000,001-\$4,000,000	\$19,010 for the first \$3,000,000 plus \$4.50 for each additional \$1,000 or fraction thereof.
\$4,000,001-\$5,000,000	\$23,510 for the first \$4,000,000 plus \$4 for each additional \$1,000 or fraction thereof.
\$5,000,001-\$50,000,000	\$27,510 for the first \$5,000,000 plus \$3.50 for each additional \$1,000 or fraction thereof.
\$50,000,001-\$100,000,000	\$185,010 for the first \$50,000,000 plus \$3 for each additional \$1,000 or fraction thereof.
\$100,000,001 and up	\$335,010 for the first \$100,000,000 plus \$2.50 for each additional \$1,000 or fraction thereof.
Where multiple inspections are required the permit fee shall not be less than \$40 times the number of 1/2 hour inspection units.	

2. Traffic signals.

Traffic signal and street lighting \$80

3. Signs.

Each sign or first field installed neon transformer \$40

Each additional sign or field installed neon transformer \$15

4. Carnival, circus, fair, or similar events.

First ten of rides, generators, concessions, or gaming shows \$100

Each additional \$5

Single ride, generator, concession, or gaming show \$40

C. Low voltage. Fees for low voltage control panels and devices, such as fire alarm systems, data systems, intrusion alarms, HVAC systems, thermostats, communication systems, and emergency control systems, are as follows:

Each control unit \$4

Each device \$1

Minimum fee \$40

When single-family residence low voltage wiring is installed at the same time as the power wiring by one contractor, no additional fees are required. For commercial and multi-family installations, the lesser of the fee from this paragraph or Table B may be used to derive fees for low voltage permits.

D. Overtime: Overtime inspections including, but not limited to, call outs, weekend inspections, and after hours work must be scheduled with Tacoma Power’s electrical inspection office a minimum of three business days in advance. In addition to the regular permit fee, a fee for an overtime inspection is required as follows:

1. **Unscheduled:** After normal working hours, the minimum fee for an inspection shall be \$360 for the first two hours, plus \$120 for each hour thereafter. The fee must be paid the next business day.
2. **Scheduled:** After normal working hours, the minimum fee for an inspection shall be \$240 for the first two hours, plus \$120 for each hour thereafter. The fee of \$240 must be paid 48 hours in advance of the scheduled inspection, and any remaining fee must be paid the next business day.
3. Requested inspections that extend beyond the inspector’s normal working hours shall be at the rate of \$120 per hour, portal to portal.

E. **Annual permit.** For plants, institutions, and large companies employing their own electricians who are certified in accordance with certification laws of the State of Washington, an annual permit may be purchased in lieu of individual permits for maintenance on each job performed. An annual permit is not allowed to be used for the installation of capital improvements such as new buildings, additions, new services, and/or feeders. The fee is calculated at \$47 an hour, per Table C. A minimum of one inspection request per month is required. This fee will be adjusted by Tacoma Power if the time involved is substantially disproportionate to the actual time for inspection.

TABLE C

Number of one-hour Inspection unit	Fee
12	\$564
13-24	\$1,128
25-36	\$1,692
37-52	\$2,444

F. **Miscellaneous fees.**

1. **Wrong meter address or location.**

A permit is required to correct or inspect incorrect meter addressing by the owner or his agent \$40 per 1/2 hour

2. **Service disconnect inspection.**

This fee will be charged unless the service disconnect is necessary to perform electrical work pursuant to another valid electrical permit. \$40

3. **Safety inspection.**

Permit fee for owner requested inspections of existing installations for electrical safety \$80

4. **Variance.**

A processing fee for granting an electrical installation as outlined in Section 2.04.155 of this chapter \$140

5. **Required inspection on services off for one year or more** \$40

2.04.260 Penalty fees and fee adjustments.

The following-described penalties may be assessed, or the described fee adjustments may be determined appropriate, by order of the Chief Electrical Inspector:

- A. **Trip fee (per trip)** when permit holder notifies the Tacoma Power’s electrical inspection office that work is ready for inspection when it is not \$40
- B. **The permit holder gives an incorrect inspection site address** \$40
- C. **More than one additional required inspection to inspect corrections as a result of carelessness, neglect, faulty workmanship, or materials** \$40
- D. **Failing to complete corrections within 15 days as required by this chapter** \$40
- E. **Removal of Stop Work Order** \$40
- F. **Occupying a building, living unit, or business space without final electrical approval** \$275
- G. **Work performed without a permit**..... 4X regular permit fee

This provision does not pertain to emergency work where a permit is purchased the next business day.

H. Failure to provide or arrange access for requested inspection	\$40
I. Late charge for nonpayment of penalty fees.....	\$25
J. Permit cancellation administrative process fee	\$10

2.04.270 Penalty and adjustment fee appeals.

Penalty and permit adjustment fees are due at the time of assessment unless the assessed party makes an appeal to the Chief Electrical Inspector within 15 business days pursuant to Section 2.04.360 . If payment or appeal is not made within the 15 days, an additional \$25 late fee will be assessed and inspection activity will be stopped until the fee and late charges are paid.

2.04.300 Protection of electrical workers.

All clearances per the State of Washington rules contained in WAC 296-155-428 must be maintained while working around overhead electrical lines.

2.04.350 License requirements.

A Except as provided in subsections B, C, D, and E of this section, no person or entity shall in any manner undertake to perform any work involving the installation, maintenance, alteration, or repair of any electrical wiring, devices, appliances, or equipment for which a permit is required by this chapter unless such person or entity has an unrevoked, unsuspended, and unexpired electrical contractors license issued by the State of Washington.

B. Persons having a current State of Washington journeyman or electrical specialty certificate for the classification of work being performed on his or her employer’s business premises are exempt from the license requirements of this section, provided that:

1. The electrical work is not for construction of or remodel in a building or space intended for rent, lease, or sale; and
2. The employee performing the work is a regular, full time employee of the premises owner.

C. An employee of a governmental entity performing maintenance of pump stations, flood control stations, and wastewater treatment plants under the ownership of that entity may receive an exemption from electrician’s certificate. Request for exemption must be made in writing to the Chief Electrical Inspector and must contain proof that the individual meets the definition of a “Qualified Person” per NEC Article 100.

D. A utility or any person, firm, partnership, corporation, or other entity employed by a utility that is license exempt per RCW 19.28.091 shall be exempt from the license requirements of this section.

E. A single-family residence owner in compliance with section 2.04.230 of this chapter shall be exempt from the license requirements of this section.

2.04.360 Appeal process.

A. Any decision of an inspector may be appealed in writing to the Chief Electrical Inspector. The appeal must be made within 15 business days of the initial decision. The Chief Electrical Inspector shall respond in writing within ten business days.

B. Any decision of the Chief Electrical Inspector may be appealed to the Light Division Superintendent or his/her designee. The appeal must be made in writing and within ten business days of the Chief Electrical Inspector’s decision. The Light Division Superintendent or his/her designee shall make a decision on the appeal request within a reasonable time, which decision shall be in writing. Except for criminal and civil penalties imposed pursuant to section 2.04.400 of this chapter, the written decision of the Light Division Superintendent or his/her designee is final and conclusive unless appropriate legal action is filed with the Pierce County Superior Court within 30 days of the issuance of said decision.

2.04.370 Additional rules may be made by director.

The Director of Utilities may make such rules and regulations governing the operation of this chapter as are not inconsistent with its provisions. The Director may grant reasonable minor adjustments in cases where the terms of this chapter place an injustice upon a customer if after written evidence has been presented to the Department it is shown that irregular circumstances of the customer's load, service, and/or other conditions warrant such adjustment.

2.04.380 Classification of occupancies and wiring methods.

A. 200 ampere service capacity shall be required for all new single-family and duplex residential units of 500 square feet or more. An entire service upgrade shall not be required when only replacing a meter base, or mast, or panel, unless the load requirement is greater than the rating of the existing service and/or specific electrical safety concerns associated with said equipment are detected.

B. Service entrance conductors for commercial occupancies shall have an ampacity not less than the rating of the service equipment they supply. For multiple-dwelling occupancies, the minimum service conductor ampacity shall not be less than the calculated service load.

C. Commissioning of all new Emergency Legally Required Standby, and/or Health Care systems fed by a 150 kw or larger generator shall be in compliance with NEC Sections 700, 701 and 517, respectively. A copy of the commissioning report shall be presented to the electrical inspector prior to the final electrical inspection

D. Customer-owned systems that are metered at 12.5 kV or higher, known as primary metered systems, shall be installed as outlined in NEC 215.2(B)(3) and Tacoma Power's Transmission and Distribution Construction Standards. Such systems must be designed and certified by a Washington State registered electrical engineer and reviewed by Tacoma Power's electrical inspection office. These systems must be tested per manufacturers' published instructions and certified as free of short circuits and ground faults prior to approval for energizing.

E. Each newly constructed or remodeled dwelling unit, as defined in NEC 100, shall be independently metered by Tacoma Power.

F. Use of Type SE cable is limited to feeders and branch circuits.

2.04.400 Violations – Notification – Penalties.

A. Any person, firm, or corporation that violates, disobeys, neglects, or refuses to comply with or resists or opposes the enforcement of any of the provisions of this chapter, or who persists in occupying any building or structure, and/or maintaining operation of any equipment or appliances, in which the electrical wiring has been declared to be in violation of this chapter, after having been notified of such violation, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof, shall be punishable by a fine not to exceed \$1,000, together with the cost of prosecution, or by imprisonment of not more than 90 days, or by both such fine and imprisonment. Each day such violation, disobedience, neglect, or refusal continues after notification of violation shall be deemed a separate offense and shall be subject to the penalty of this section. Such person, firm, or corporation shall be deemed to have been duly notified by posting of notification on the premises, equipment, or appliances by the inspector or by the sealing out of the service, of circuits, of equipment, and/or of appliances by the inspector, or by notification in writing by the inspector, mailed to the owner and/or occupant at the premises involved.

B. At the option of the City, in lieu of proceeding with criminal sanctions, violations of this chapter may result in a civil penalty of up to \$1,000 for each violation. A civil penalty may be imposed by written notice issued by the Chief Electrical Inspector or his or her designated assistant. The civil penalty shall be paid prior to final approval of the premises involved. Appeals of the civil penalty may be made by a party or firm adversely affected by filing a notice of appeal with the City Hearing Examiner within ten days of receipt of the notice of civil penalty. The decision of the Hearing Examiner is final and conclusive, and is only subject to review by the Pierce County Superior Court by filing appropriate legal action within 30 days of the issuance of the Hearing Examiner's final decision. If such fine or civil penalty remains unpaid more than 60 days after said amount has been imposed and all appeals thereof have been exhausted, or the time has expired for an

appeal, then said amount may be transferred to the electric utility bill account for said person or firm, and the remedies for collection for electric utility shall apply.