

DIVISION OF LABOR STANDARDS ENFORCEMENT
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Electrician Task Force Meeting Minutes

November 3, 2015

Attendees:

Jack Yapp – NLCAA & CETI
Christine Hall - WECA
Luisa Martinez - DLSE
Eric Rood - DLSE
Diana Limon – IBEW Local #11
Don Simonich – San Joaquin County of Education
Jason Schaefer - PSI
Clinton Kelly – PSI
Charles Vernocy – ABC NorCal
David Brooks – San Joaquin & Calaveras JATC
Mark Bowden – Central Valley JATC

Introductory Comment:

The Task Force was an Advisory Task to the Chief of DAS in 2006/2007 and now to the DLSE - Electrician Certification Unit. It is strictly advisory. We do not make any decisions or any policies. The purpose is to try to get consensus on any issues that are outstanding regarding certification, and it is a good forum for discussion. We have no authority to tell the Labor Commissioner what to do, and the minutes are posted on the web site.

Jack Yapp: Spanish Exam high fail rate. Candidate receives a PDF file of codebook in Spanish. Should receive physical copy. Translation of exam is difficult to understand, very literal.

Jason (PSI): Can review translation. Need expertise beyond language, for things that may be lost in translation. No NEC 2011 Spanish translation, last was 2008.

Luisa Martinez: accepting volunteers to review Spanish exams.

Christine: ET Renewal Process, how strict on 150 hour requirement.

Donna Hintzen: not strict, only a small percentage actually comply with 150 hour requirement. Most average only 40-50 hours per year. Issues: Classes dropped due to low enrollment, student retakes classes for renewal, students that apply for renewal with fee and no classes completed, student can have enrollment for a class that begins in six months would then not be completing 150 hours in one year.

LM: Issue with those who continually enroll with no goal of graduation.

Charles (ABC): Programs not accountable for ET withdrawals. Should be done and monitored regularly. Monthly, quarterly, etc.

Mark/David: What about those that change schools, no proper procedure.

Chrisine: no guidance for ETs such as they have for apprenticeship

Diana: Can ET monitoring/tracking be done through annual notice.

LM: The State does not monitor, responsibility of the schools

Charles: are there specific guidelines, are withdrawals required? No all schools are withdrawing students.

LM: withdrawals are required

JY: Contractor is liable for employees to be licensed/certified

Eric Rood: enforcement nonexistent, done by a separate department

Diana: ET registration does not designate type of classification

LM: only way to know at the moment is by school and what program(s) the school offers. Trainee is general term encompassing all types

DH: ET completion allows them to sit for any exam

Diana: ET can test after completion and become certified.

DH: No, certification is not issued until proof of hours is submitted

Diana: quickest route for ET to be certified is completion of NRLT curriculum to continually register as trainee

DH: often enrollment letters and completion certificates also do not state what course or classification

JY: California residential code will require net zero energy by 2020, need to start adapting building and energy codes to exam and curriculum.

Diana: by 2020 33% renewable energy for buildings, 50% by 2030

LM: programs must be reviewed every 5 years

Don Simonich: Continue discussion electronically to address other issues and questions not brought up at meeting. Need experts to revisit crosswalks and review sites.

JY: more participation from schools on task force issues

Diana: Trainees are unaware of what they are and are not allowed to do as a registered trainee

Christine: Partial curriculum providers, timeline for them to become whole or partner with whole?

LM: no timeline, legislation does not set forth required timeline or dates

ER: Rule making done by CAC, need someone with clout to bring up issues for legislation to clarify regulations

DH: multiple applications for ET in one packet from large companies. Employees are not attending classes only enrolled to complete one job. Then enroll again next time there is a job to be done in California. Especially in Southern California, Imperial County.

Diana: can be attributed to all the solar work being done in that area

Diana: proposing random visits rather than scheduled visits of schools, to properly monitor

LM: changes in apprenticeship curriculum, can apply to ET curriculum, need updated standards. No apprenticeship for NRLT

DH/ND: CE for more specialized fields (NRLT, FLS, VDV). Candidates submit CE hours from manufacturer, work, etc. that is highly relevant to their industry but not considered approved provider. Current approved providers more pertinent to General and Residential electricians.

Submitted by,

Alther Sunga
Electrician Certification Unit