

Legislative Outreach Webinar
Electricians
December 9, 2010, 1:30pm

Questions and Answers

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Section 1: Basic Requirements

Q: Will webinar be available for viewing by others at a later date?

A: The slides will be posted on the Board Website at www.dora.state.co.us/electrical.

Q: I hold a master license now. Have the renewal requirements changed? If so what is required to renew my license?

A: The short version: Yes, renewal requirements have changed. In order to renew your license in 2011, you need to participate in a Continuing Competency Individual Assessment offered at any Pearson Vue location. Your performance on the Assessment does not affect your ability to renew your license; you simply need to complete the Assessment prior to renewing your license.

Your performance on the Assessment will determine how many additional Professional Development Units (PDUs) you will need to complete during the cycle that runs from 2011 – 2014. If you are required to complete additional PDUs, you must do so prior to renewing your license in 2014.

Q: What are the changes for Contractors?

A: The new renewal date affects Registered Electrical Contractors. The CC requirements do not affect electrical contractors. Only Residential Wireman, Journeyman and Master Electricians need to participate in Continuing Competency.

Q: How does this affect our contractor's licenses if any?

A: Electrical Contractor Registrations are not affected by the Continuing Competency (CC) program. However, a Master Electrician must first complete all CC requirements and renew the Master Electrician License prior to renewing the Contractor Registration.

Q: How does one show proof of completed competency for DORA and receive confirmation?

A: The Continuing Competency program requires licensees to participate in the Individual Assessment which is based on the most recent National Electrical Code. By performing well on this Assessment, you demonstrate your continuing competence to practice as a licensed electrician. If you do not perform well on the Assessment, you will be required to accrue additional Professional Development Units (PDUs). By completing your assigned PDUs, you demonstrate your continuing competence to practice as a licensed electrician.

If you are required to accrue additional PDUs, you should retain documentation of your courses and/or training. This can be in the form of a certificate of completion. See Board Rule 9.7(l) for additional details. As a rule of thumb, your documentation should state the course/training name, time, day, provider, description and speaker/instructor. Retain your documentation for 7 years. You may be selected for a random audit at which point the Board will require you to submit your documentation.

Q: Will we still have to take the online renewal test with 25 multiple choice questions as required in previous years?

A: No. The online renewal test you took previously will be discontinued effective January 1, 2011. You only need to take the Individual Assessment to renew your license going forward.

Q: Do results have to be received from Pearson Vue before renewing my license online through DORA? Will DORA know the results of my Individual Assessment automatically?

A: Pearson Vue will transfer all Individual Assessment scores once a day. For that reason, you may wait 1 business day to renew your license online after taking the Individual Assessment. Results may be transferred faster than that. You can check to verify your results were received by logging into your user account on the CC website that will be launched in early 2011.

Q: Will the Pearson Vue test replace the current renewal exam?

A: Yes

Q: So if assessment is taken in 2011, and you don't not complete required PDU's the first time your license could be suspended would be after November 30, 2014 .

A: Correct. You do not need to demonstrate your PDUs until you renew your license in 2014. At that time, if you have not completed your PDUs, your license will lapse and you may be subject to further discipline by the Board.

Q: What kind of actions can DORA take against your license if you don't comply with the new requirements?

A: If you do not take the Individual Assessment, you will be unable to renew your license. Your license will lapse at the end of the renewal period. You may not practice on a lapsed license. If you are found to have falsified your PDUs in any way, you may be subject to further discipline by the Board.

Q: Why was September 30 of a new code year picked? That is not enough time to learn the new code.

A: Many variables were considered in selecting the new renewal date of September. Given that the new code is released every 3 years (in January, at the beginning of the year...??), the new renewal date allows licensees (9 months??) to acquire, read and learn any code changes.

Q: If you do nothing and you do have a Masters License, when does that license expire?

A: All Electrical licenses, including the Master's license, expire on September 30, 2011. If you cannot meet the CC requirements, you are encouraged to inactivate your license. This is better than allowing your license to expire. You cannot practice on an expired or inactive license. If you have specific concerns, please contact us directly at Continued.Competency@dora.state.co.us

Q: Why has the renewal date changed from February to September 2011?

A: The change in the renewal date and cycle was done to better coincide with the release and adoption of the National Electrical Code (NEC). The Electrical Board will adopt the new NEC

effective July 1 of the release year (NEC is released every 3 years).

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Section 2: Costs and Fees

Q: The cost of the assessment is in addition to the license fee?

A: Yes, see the fee schedule below.

Q: What is the cost for the Individual Assessment?

A: It depends when you take the Individual Assessment. The schedule of fees is:

July 1 - August 15	\$30.00
August 16 - October 15	\$45.00
October 16 - November 30	\$60.00
Reinstatement/Reactivations	\$35.00

Q: Is the price for this year only or is that for all renewal years?

A: Renewal fees are subject to change every renewal cycle. They may increase or decrease depending on what is cost to regulate your profession.

Q: If I have both Journeyman and Masters, my assessment is done off my Masters, but do I pay for both during renewal?

A: You only pay for the Individual Assessment for the Master Electrician license. The renewal fees are separate however. You will need to pay a renewal fee for each license you wish to renew.

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Section 3: Dual Licensure

Q: If someone carries both a Journeyman and a Master Electrician license, do you have to do an assessment for both?

A: No, you will take the Assessment and participate in CC only for the highest license. In your case, you would take the assessment for the Master Electrician license.

Q: If you hold a masters license do you need to renew your journeymen's to continue to work in the field?

A: It is not necessary to renew your journeymen's license if one holds a masters license. An individual can hold both licenses however.

Q: I have a master's license. Do I have to maintain my journeyman also?

A: No.

Q: If I hold a Residential and a journeyman's Licenses both, do I need to take both Individual Assessments or just one to renew my licenses?

A: You only need to take the Individual Assessment for the highest license you hold.

Q: Is there any State requirement to carry a Journeyman's if you have a Masters?

A: No

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Section 4: Individual Assessment

Q: Will we be able to see our scores on the individual assessment?

A: No. A Learning Plan will be created on your individual user account showing the categories in which you will need to accrue additional PDUs, if any.

Q: I just went to Pearson Vue's website to find a location near me. I don't see an option for Colorado Electricians.

A: The Continuing Competency Individual Assessment for Electricians in Colorado is not currently posted on the Pearson Vue website. Look for further details sometime in the Spring of 2011.

Q: Will there be an assessment every cycle?

A: Yes, you will need to take a new Individual Assessment prior to renewing your license each cycle. The Individual Assessment will always be updated per the most recent NEC and made available to licensees on July 1 every three years (coinciding with the adoption of the most recent NEC).

Q: Can you please define "Ace" the test?

A: The Board will establish an "Acceptable Level of Performance" for each of the four sections in the Individual Assessment. This is the score they Board would like you to achieve. If you do not achieve the Acceptable Level of Performance, you will need to accrue additional PDUs over the next renewal cycle in that section. If you do achieve the Acceptable Level of Performance, you will be automatically awarded PDUs for your performance in that section. You can consider yourself to have "aced" the Assessment if you achieved the Acceptable Level of Performance in each of the four sections.

Q: If I blow the test completely, and need 24 PDU's will my license still be renewed?

A: Yes. It is possible to answer incorrectly on every single question on the Individual Assessment and still renew your license. Your performance on the Individual Assessment only determines your PDU calculation.

You will be automatically awarded PDUs for achieving the "Acceptable Level of Performance" in any section on the Assessment. You may be awarded up to 24 PDUs for your performance.

If you do not achieve the "Acceptable Level of Performance" in one or all of the sections on the Assessment, you will be required to accrue additional PDUs over the next renewal cycle. If you do not achieve the Acceptable Level of Performance in:

- 1 section = accrue 8 PDUs
- 2 sections = accrue 16 PDUs
- 3 or more sections = accrue 24 PDUs

As you can see, if you answer every single question on the assessment incorrectly you will need to accrue 24 PDUs. Your license will still be renewed as normal in 2011. You will

need to accrue the PDUs prior to renewing your license in 2014.

Q: Is open book just mean the Code Book or can you use other books?

A: No, you may only use the Code Book. Additionally, your code book must be free of any markings or notes.

Q: Does initiating the assessment test at Pearson Vue automatically take care of the DORA updated license process and paper work eventually arriving as a new license in the mail?

A: No. You need to complete the Individual Assessment at a Pearson Vue location. Once you finish, Pearson Vue will transfer your score electronically to your personal user account on DORA's Continuing Competency Website. Once your user account has a record of your Assessment score, you may renew your license online using the normal online renewal process as in past years.

Q: What happens if you fail the next test in the same way you failed the prior one?

A: There is no pass/fail on the Individual Assessment. You can always renew your license regardless of your performance on the Assessment. Depending on your performance in each of the four categories, you may be required to accrue additional PDUs over the next renewal cycle. When you renew your license next time, you need to demonstrate that you have accrued any PDUs you were assigned and take the new Individual Assessment based on the new NEC. Your performance on the Individual Assessment never affects your ability to renew your license. However, if you were required to accrue additional PDUs and did not, you will be unable to renew your license.

For example, let's say you answered every single question incorrectly on the 2011 Individual Assessment. You will need to accrue 24 PDUs prior to renewing your license in 2014. You must log your courses and training on the Learning Plan on your user account through the Continuing Competency website. To renew your license in 2014, you will need to have a completed Learning Plan (with your 24 PDUs logged) and completed the 2014 Individual Assessment.

Q: If a previously licensed electrician fails his 2011 assessment, then takes 24 PDU hours, then again fails his 2014 assessment test, will he ultimately lose his license in 2014? Can a previously licensed electrician ever lose his license, as long as he takes his PDUs every 3 years?

A: As long as an electrician follows the rules and takes the assessment there will be no disciplinary measures against their license. If PDUs are required then as long as the electrician completes these PDUs before the 2014 assessment no disciplinary measures will happen. As long as an electrician follows the Continued Competency requirements the license will never be revoked.

Q: Are the assessments different for the 3 license levels?

A: Yes. The assessment for Residential Wireman, Journeyman and Master Electrician license types are all different.

Q: Will the 25 questions be in a similar format as the past renewal exam?

A: Yes, except that now you will need to go to a Pearson Vue location.

Q: Will the assessment in September 2011 be based on the 2011 NEC?

A: Yes, the Individual Assessment which will be released on July 1, 2011 will be based upon the 2011 National Electrical Code (NEC). You must take this Assessment prior to renewing your license which expires on September 30, 2011.

Q: What about a pre-assessment refresher of some sort?

A: There are many classes offered throughout the State that cover changes to the most recent National Electrical Code. This would be an excellent way to study for the Individual Assessment. You may not count your participation in those pre-assessment courses as PDUs however. Courses you take to fulfill a PDU requirement must be taken in the area in which your PDUs are assigned and must be completed *after* taking the Individual Assessment.

Q: Is it 25 questions per group or total for the assessment?

A: There are 25 questions total on the Individual Assessment. They are broken down into four different sections. That averages to be 6.25 questions per section.

Q: Will this be a multiple choice question and if so will we be able to see the test and answers?

A: The Individual Assessment will be a multiple choice examination. You will not be able to see the questions or answers after completing the Individual Assessment. Your score will be made available to you.

Q: What were the 4 areas on the Individual Assessment?

A: Wiring Methods
 Grounding and Bonding
 National Electrical Code Changes
 Theory and Calculations

Q: Is there another assessment if you are an Electrical Contractor, beyond master electrician?

A: No, Electrical Contractors are not subject to the Continuing Competency requirements.

Q: Will the competency assessment examination be available overseas?

A: No. Individuals who find themselves overseas have a few options.

First, if they are not practicing in the State of Colorado, they can always request their license be placed on "Inactive" status pursuant to Board Rule 9.8.

Second, they may request a hardship exemption pursuant to Board Rule 9.7(m). This specifically requires the licensee submit a written request along with evidence demonstrating they were out of the country for a period of one year or longer during the renewal cycle.

Q: Where can I find the locations of the testing agency out of state?

A: You can find those on Pearson Vue's website directly: www.pearsonvue.com The option for the Colorado Electrician Individual Assessment is not currently posted to their website (as of December, 2010). The option will be made available closer to when the Individual Assessment is launched on July 1, 2011. Sign up to receive alerts from DORA! Add your email address to your license by updating your information at the following link: <http://www.dora.state.co.us/registrations/NameandAddressChanges.htm>

Q: Is there a course to get us up to speed before the assessment?

A: There may be courses offered throughout the state regarding updates in the most recent NEC. DORA does not help to promote any course or PDU provider. You may search on the internet or ask your local association or union for additional resources and study material. It is recommended that you read through the new NEC in preparation.

Q: Why do we physically need to go to the testing center? Electricians in rural Colorado will have to incur much more expense to travel to a testing center

A: Due to security reasons the Continued Competency Assessment must be taken at a proctored site.

Q: Will we get a reminder e-mail when we can schedule time to take the Individual Assessment?

A: Yes! DORA will send a reminder to licensees via email prior to July 1, 2011 when the Assessment will be made available at Pearson Vue. To ensure you receive these emails, please add your email address to your license by updating your information at: <https://www.dorads.state.co.us/>.

Q: I can't find the Colorado Electrical Individual Assessment on the Pearson Vue website.

A: If you are looking for the locations for the Colorado Electrical Individual Assessment, you are correct that this is not listed yet on Pearson Vue's website. You can view their locations in general however or call their main phone number. Look for the Colorado Electrical option to be made available in 2011.

Q: Are the questions on the Individual Assessment available?

A: No.

Q: Can a holder of a Colorado license currently living out of state take his assessment in the state he is currently living?

A: Yes. Pearson Vue has locations across the nation that will offer the Colorado Electrician Individual Assessment.

Q: Are the assessments the same test every time a person takes it? For instance, if we have 10 journeyman licensees at our business will each journeyman see the same assessment?

A: No, the Individual Assessment is not the same for everyone. Each license type (Residential

Wireman, Journeyman and Master Electrician) will have a pool of questions. From the respective pool, 25 questions will be selected at random and evenly distributed over the four core competency categories. This means that 2 Journeyman will not take an identical Individual Assessment.

Q: It seems that 1 hour is a short duration and that the sit down tests used to be 3 hours. And the 3 hours did not even seem to be enough.

A: The Individual Assessment is not as long as a licensure exam. The Individual Assessment is designed by professional psychometricians. Psychometricians determine the time frame and number of questions allowed for the Assessment by evaluating the complexity of the questions and how long the average Assessment-taker would require to complete it.

Q: To clarify, one cannot "fail" an assessment. As long as you keep meeting your PDU's, you can continue to renew your license, correct?

A: Correct!

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Section 5: PDUs

Q: If you take a course at the local community college that issues credit hours, how does that equate into PDU's?

A: You will need to calculate the PDUs simply by calculating how much time you spent in the course. One PDU equals 50 minutes of instruction or training. For example, if you take a one day course for 8 hours that has a one hour lunch break, you can count that as 8.4 PDUs (7 hours of class instruction / 50 minutes).

Q: Do we send any PDU training confirmation to DORA?

A: No, you do not need to send your documentation to DORA in order to renew your license. You will need to log your courses on the Learning Plan online as you accrue them. If you are selected for a random audit, you will be asked to submit your documentation.

Q: How many minutes per PDU?

A: 1 PDU = 50 minutes

Q: Will a list of suggested PDU training be made available?

A: No, the Board will not approve any PDU provider. Board Rule 9.7(h and i) state the following:

H. Continuing Competency Activity Criteria. To qualify for PDU credit, Continuing Competency activities must be structured educational efforts meeting all of the following criteria:

- 1. Include technical and practical applications which impact Core Competency areas identified by the Board;*
- 2. Improve, expand or enhance the quality of the electrician's existing technical knowledge; or develop new and relevant professional skills and knowledge;*
- 3. Have clear purposes and objectives;*
- 4. Be well-organized and provide evidence of pre-planning;*
- 5. Be current and presented by qualified and technically competent instructors; and*
- 6. Provide certificates of completion or other documentation for the electrician and maintain records of electrician attendance.*

I. No Pre-Approval of Continuing Competency Activities. The Board will not pre-approve courses or programs. It is within the discretion of the Board to deny credit for any activity that does not meet the Continuing Competency criteria in Board Rule 9.7(I) or the definition of a Core Competency subject in Board Rule 9.7(c)(2).

Q: How do we know if a certain course is an approved PDU? Is this stated in the course headers?

A: Courses are not approved by the Board. You may select the course of your choosing so long as it complies with Board Rule 9.7(i) which can be found on the Electrical Boards website and is also restated above.

Q: How does one know if a PDU provider is "legit" as you say?

A: See Board Rules and the above answers.

Q: Is there a pass fail or grade (if you will) for PDU training?

A: Some PDU providers may give you a pass/fail grade or otherwise evaluate your comprehension of the course/training material. This is not a requirement however in order to accrue PDUs for the time you spent in the course/training. In that case, a pass/fail grade would only be for the instructors benefit. It has no effect on your compliance with the Continuing Competence program or your accrual of PDUs.

Q: Is there a pass/fail for the PDU training. In other words, all you have to do is show up at PDU training?

A: No, you do not need to attain a “passing” grade in order to accrue PDU. You are correct that “all you have to do is show up.”

Q: If I blow the test completely, and need 24 PDU's will my license still be renewed?

A: Yes. It is possible to answer incorrectly on every single question on the Individual Assessment and still renew your license. Your performance on the Individual Assessment only determines your PDU calculation.

You will be automatically awarded PDUs for achieving the “Acceptable Level of Performance” in any section on the Assessment. You may be awarded up to 24 PDUs for your performance.

If you do not achieve the “Acceptable Level of Performance” in one or all of the sections on the Assessment, you will be required to accrue additional PDUs over the next renewal cycle. If you do not achieve the Acceptable Level of Performance in:

- 1 section = accrue 8 PDUs
- 2 sections = accrue 16 PDUs
- 3 or more sections = accrue 24 PDUs

As you can see, if you answer every single question on the assessment incorrectly you will need to accrue 24 PDUs. Your license will still be renewed as normal in 2011. You will need to accrue the PDUs prior to renewing your license in 2014.

Q: Can a company hire a trainer for all of their employees to train at their company?

A: Yes. As long as that trainer follows the criteria of what is acceptable. Acceptable criteria can be found in 9.7(h).

Q: Do NFPA update classes count as PDUs?

A: If they comply with Board Rule 9.7(i) and if you were required to accrue PDUs in the “NEC Changes” section, then yes, you may use those classes for PDU accrual. Your performance on the Individual Assessment may not require you to accrue PDUs in the “NEC Changes” section. You may need to accrue PDUs in one of the others: Grounding and Bonding; Wiring Methods; Theory and Calculations. If you are required to accrue PDUs, they must cover the sections that are assigned to you based upon your performance on the Individual Assessment.

Q: Can you give us the website for PDU verification again please?

A: PDU providers will not be approved by the Board. You can read Board Rule 9.7(i) if you are looking for guidance on selecting a PDU provider.

When you are accruing PDUs, you will log them on your Learning Plan which will be contained in your online user account. The Continuing Competency website where you may access your user account is not available until January, 2011. Your Learning Plan on your user account will not be created until *after* you have completed the Individual Assessment.

Q: How much does training count toward your PDU. So if I need 8 PDU's how many class or how much training do I need?

A: 1 PDU = 50 minutes of instruction or training. Your PDU accrual amounts are determined by your performance on the Individual Assessment.

Q: Do IAEI monthly meetings give you any credit. I am in Ohio.

A: Yes, if the monthly meeting specific is a training session for a specific category listed in electrical rule 9.7 © (2). Criteria for these training sessions must also meet the requirements in electrical rules 9.7(h).

Q: Does one PDU = 1-hour of education?

A: One PDU equals 50 minutes of instruction.

Q: If competency PDU's are required before the next renewal, do those PDU's need to be shown before the next periods assessment test is taken, for instance, if the renewal is taken in July and the proof of PDU's are finished by Nov 30th, is that sufficient?

A: You do not need to accrue any PDUs to renew your license in 2011. Licenses expire on September 30, 2011. If your performance on the Individual Assessment requires you to accrue additional PDUs, you must accrue them prior to renewing your license in 2014. You may not renew your license in 2014 until you have accrued any PDUs assigned to you.

Q: If there are NO approved providers for the PDU Education what prevents ANY of us from telling you that we have provided 8 hours (PDUs) of 16, or 24 in order to satisfy the requirements?

A: There will be random audits of compliance in which the Board will require you submit documentation of your PDUs at which time the auditor will ensure you have participated in activities that meet the criteria set forth in Board Rule. If you are found to be in non-compliance with Board Rule, you may be subject to discipline. Board Rule 9.7(h) states:

Continuing Competency Activity Criteria. To qualify for PDU credit, continuing competency activities must be structured educational efforts meeting all of the following criteria:

1. *Include technical and practical applications which impact Core Competency areas identified by the Board;*
2. *Improve, expand or enhance the quality of the electrician's existing technical knowledge; or develop new and relevant professional skills and knowledge;*
3. *Have clear purposes and objectives;*

4. *Be well-organized and provide evidence of pre-planning;*
5. *Be current and presented by qualified and technically competent instructors; and*
6. *Provide certificates of completion or other documentation for the electrician and maintain records of electrician attendance.*

Q: Can I accrue PDUs outside the State of Colorado?

A: Yes! Because there are no approved providers, you can source your PDUs from anyone you would like so long as you comply with Board Rules. Board Rule 9.7(h) specifies what you should look for in a PDU provider.

Q: Can I use PDUs accrued for my Colorado license to comply with training requirements for my license held in a different state?

A: That depends on that state. The Colorado Electrical Board only has jurisdiction to establish licensure requirements for the State of Colorado. Other states may choose to either accept or reject the training you do. In general, you should always check with each respective state where you may hold a license. They may stipulate your participation in training with a specific provider in that state. However they may allow you to source your training from the provider of your choice, as the Colorado Electrical Board does.

Q: Will the cost of obtaining PDUs from an approved provider be regulated by the state?

A: There are no approved providers for PDUs in Colorado. You are welcome to choose the provider of your PDUs so long as you comply with Board Rules. You will need to pay whatever cost they charge.

Q: How will DORA be able to verify PDU's?

A: All licensees must log their PDU information on their online Learning Plan. You will not be able to renew your license without completing your Learning Plan. Individuals who are awarded the full 24 PDUs for their performance on the Individual Assessment will still have a Learning Plan online. These individuals will not be required to accrue any additional PDUs in order to renew their license. Any award of PDUs for performance on the Individual Assessment will be noted on your Learning Plan.

A random audit of compliance will be conducted each renewal cycle. Those selected for an audit will be notified by mail. At that time, those selected for an audit will be instructed to submit documentation of their PDUs. The auditor will review the documentation to ensure it complies with any PDU accrual requirements and Board Rule. A licensee is subject to discipline if they are found to be in non-compliance.

Q: Can PDUs be completed through online courses?

A: Yes, so long as the course complies with the requirements set forth in Board Rule 9.7(h).

Q: What is the specific criteria for PDU providers? For example, if John Q Public wants to start a program to provide PDUs.

A: Board Rules specify what criteria a course or training must meet in order to qualify as a Continuing Competency Activity. Please see the Board Rules for full details. An excerpt has

been copied below that deals with this topic:

Continuing Competency Activity Criteria. *To qualify for PDU credit, continuing competency activities must be structured educational efforts meeting all of the following criteria:*

1. *Include technical and practical applications which impact Core Competency areas identified by the Board;*
2. *Improve, expand or enhance the quality of the electrician's existing technical knowledge; or develop new and relevant professional skills and knowledge;*
3. *Have clear purposes and objectives;*
4. *Be well-organized and provide evidence of pre-planning;*
5. *Be current and presented by qualified and technically competent instructors; and*
6. *Provide certificates of completion or other documentation for the electrician and maintain records of electrician attendance.*

Q: How will DORA be able to regulate online PDU training?

A: Any Continuing Competency Activity undertaken to accrue PDUs must meet the criteria specified in Board Rule. Please see Board Rule 9.7 (h and i) for further details.

Q: How long will one need to keep proof of PDU's?

A: You need to keep documentation of your PDUs for 7 years. Start counting your 7 years on the expiration date of the renewal cycle during which the PDUs were accrued. For example, if you accrue PDUs during the cycle that runs from 2011 – 2014, you need to retain your documentation for 7 years after the expiration date of that cycle. In this example, you would keep it until August 31, 2021.

Q: Will we be able to see the requirements put on teachers for continuing education courses. That way we can pick the best training program?

A: The Board has established requirements for Continuing Competency Activities. You can view those requirements in Board Rule 9.7(h).

Q: Will DORA let you know if the PDU's you've taken weren't acceptable, prior to the 2014 license expiration?

A: No, it is up to the licensee to select PDUs that meet the criteria set in Board Rule. Licensees need to log their PDUs on their personal Learning Plan prior to renewing in 2014.

Q: Is Pearson Vue going to be a provider of PDU's?

A: No, Pearson Vue only proctors the Individual Assessment.

Q: Does an exam preparation class count for CC hours and or the 288 hours for the journey mans hours?

A: Criteria for courses can be found in electrical rule 9.7(c)(2) and 9.7(j). The exam preparation class if counted for PDUs must follow the specific categories and PDU criteria in the electrical rules. This goes for the additional 288 hours as well.

Q: When do you expect all courses to become available for PDUs, online?

A: Online courses that meet the criteria set forth in Board Rule may qualify for PDU accrual. It

is up to the licensee to decide if they are interested in taking online courses as opposed to tradition coursework or industry training programs. If you find an online provider for your PDUs, you are more than welcome to use their course for compliance with the CC program.

Q: Is a certificate from the class (PDU's) all that is required as proof of compliance?

A: Yes, a certificate of completion would be sufficient. The Board Rules provide further details and options as well.

Q: Can you "build-up" PDU credits and use them in the future?

A: No. Your performance on the Assessment will determine how many additional PDUs you need to accrue and what topics they should cover. For that reason, you cannot "save" PDUs or "roll" them forward from one renewal cycle to another.

Q: How does one show proof to DORA of completing required PDU's requested by DORA and the Assessment test results?

A: The assessment scores will be transferred to DORA automatically. Pearson Vue will do this. If you are selected for an audit, you will be notified by mail. At that time, you will receive instructions on how to submit your documentation including the address and contact person. You will likely need to submit hard copies of your documentation.

Q: What is a PDU?

A: A PDU is a Professional Development Unit. Board Rule 9.7(c)(9) further specifies:

***Professional Development Unit (PDU):** One PDU shall consist of not less than fifty (50) minutes of instruction, presentation, or activity, spent in structured educational efforts intended to increase the electrician's knowledge and competence in Core Competencies identified by the Board.*

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Section 6: Miscellaneous

Q: Are other States going to reciprocate still on Colorado licenses?

A: The CC requirements will not affect any reciprocity agreements currently in place.

Q: Which license is higher? Master or Contractor?

A: Electrical Contractor Registrations are not subject to Continuing Competency. You only need to participate in the program for the Masters license. So in this case, you take the assessment for the Master license.

Q. I live in a rural area. How will I comply with the new CC requirements?

A: The CC program is designed to be completed from wherever you may find yourself in the State of Colorado or across the nation. Pearson Vue has many locations in each state. In Colorado, they have locations in:

- Bayfield
- Colorado Springs
- Grand Junction
- Greeley
- Greenwood Village
- Pueblo
- Westminster
- Wheat Ridge

You will need to take the Individual Assessment at a Pearson Vue location. If you are required to accrue additional PDUs, you may do so through any provider. Just ensure that they meet the standards set in Board Rule 9.7(h). Online courses and training programs are allowable as well.

Q: How far back can an audit go, is it renewal date to renewal date?

A: Audits will typically occur immediately after a renewal cycle closes. So the first audit will likely occur sometime in October, 2014. Audits are retroactive and will look at your Learning Plan and Documentation for the renewal cycle that just closed. Board Rule requires you to retain your documentation for 7 years however.

Q: When will the next code update class be held for the 2011 code?

A: Classes for code update concerning the NEC 2011 are currently being held throughout the state.

Q: Can you confirm that if a person is issued a new license within 120 days of September 30, 2011 it will reflect an expiration date of September 30, 2014.

A: Yes, this is part of the Licensing Policies at DORA. If you are interested in further details, please email us and we will put you in touch with a licensing specialist directly.

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Section 7: Inactive Status

Q: If an individual is not currently doing electrical work but would like to keep his/her license, is there a way to put the license “on hold” and then do the new requirements when restarting in the electrical field?

A: Yes! With the onset of Continuing Competency, licensed electricians in Colorado have the option to place their license on “Inactive Status.” This essentially allows you to keep your license and renew as normal without completing the Continuing Competency requirements. You may not practice in the State of Colorado with an Inactive license. See Board Rule 9.8 for further details.

9.8 Inactive License Status and Reactivation.

Pursuant to § 12-70-101, C.R.S., any licensee may apply to the Board to transfer his or her license to inactive status. Such application shall be in the form and manner designated by the board. The holder of an inactive license shall not be required to comply with the continuing competency requirements for renewal so long as his or her license remains inactive.

- a. Each holder of an inactive license shall register once every three (3) years with the Board in the same manner as active license holders and pay a fee pursuant to §12-23-112, C.R.S.
- b. During such time as a licensee remains in an inactive status, he or she shall not perform any acts restricted to active licensed electricians pursuant to §12-23-118, C.R.S. The Board shall retain jurisdiction over inactive licensees for the purposes of disciplinary action pursuant to §12-23-119, C.R.S.

Q: If I chose to put my license in Inactive status, do I have to pay any fees?

A: Yes, even an inactive license needs to be renewed online each renewal cycle as normal. You will be required to pay a renewal fee at that time. Because you are not required to participate in the Continuing Competence program, you will not need to take the Individual Assessment and therefore you will not pay the fee for the Assessment.

Q: If you let your journeyman license expire or inactive and then decide to reinstate are you going to have a really extensive requirements because you let it be inactive? Lots of classes or more hours requirements?

A: If you submit an application to move your license to Inactive Status, you may apply to “reactivate” your license at any time. Reactivation is to inactive licenses as reinstatement is to expired licenses. It is recommended that you apply to inactivate your license if you cannot comply with the CC program. If you choose to allow your license to expire, you may be subject to discipline by the Board upon reactivating your license.

There are requirements to reactivate or reinstate your license. You can view those requirements in Board Rules. In both circumstances, you will need to take the Individual Assessment based on the most recent NEC. If you are found to need improvement in one or more of the four core competency categories, you will need to complete your additional PDUs prior to the expiration of your reinstated/reactivated license.

If your license has been inactive or expired more than 2 years, there are additional requirements. Please see Board Rules for those requirements.

Q: How, when and where will the Individual Assessment test be given?

A: The Individual Assessment will be offered at all Pearson Vue locations across the nation. You can take that beginning July 1, 2011. You must take the Assessment prior to renewing your license which expires on September 30, 2011.

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Section 8: Apprentices

Q: If the apprentice is registered before January 1, 2011 and leaves one contractor for another, and is re-registered after January 1, 2011 at the new contractor do they need to do the 288 hours?

A: No, the new training hours do not apply to anyone *originally* registered prior to January 1, 2011.

Q: What constitutes 288 training hours for apprentices?

A: The criteria for what constitutes 288 training hours is in rule 5.2(e).

Q: I have both a Residential Wireman and a Journeyman license. Do I need to take both assessments to renew them both?

A: No, you only need to take the Individual Assessment and participate in the Continuing Competency program for the highest level of licensure you possess. In this case, you Journeyman license is higher than the Residential Wireman so you would take the Journeyman Individual Assessment.

Q: Where will apprentices registering after January 1, 2011 go to get their 288 hours of additional training?

A: There will be no pre-approved courses for the additional 288 hours. The criteria can be found in the electrical rules 5.2(e)

Q: Does it matter if the 288 hours are in commercial or residential?

A: As long as the additional hours meet the criteria listed in the rules it does not matter.

Q: Will a diploma from a vocational school count for 288 hours of additional training?

A: Vocational schooling will count as long as it follows the criteria in 5.2 and 5.3.

Q: Can apprentices take online courses for their 288 training hours?

A: Yes, online courses are allowed. Course criteria can be found in Electrical Rule 5.5.

Q: Are the 288 training hours only required for apprentices to test for a journeyman? Or are they in addition to the current minimum 8000 hrs required?

A: Please see rule 5.2(e). It states that the 288 hour requirement is required for an apprentice who wants to take the journeyman's exam. The current minimum of 8000 required hours is on the job training. The additional 288 hours of training is classroom activity.

Q: Will training received in other states - i.e. New Mexico qualify for the 288 training hours if the trainer meets the other qualifications you mentioned?

A: Yes.

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