

State Board of Electricity

Proposed Experience Requirements for License Applicants and Maximum Credit and License Definitions

Statement of Need and Reasonableness

The Board of Electricity issues 10 types of individual electrical licenses that require different types of experience. Minnesota Statutes § 316.242 and State Board of Electricity Rule Elec 29 define seven of these licenses. The reference made in each definition "experience acceptable to the Board" requires a varying degree and type of work experience for each class of license. In order for the applicants to know what "experience acceptable to the Board" means, and so the Board may limit the amount of various work experience for each type of license, the Board is promulgating a rule covering minimum experience requirements for license applicants and maximum credit allowance in months. The specific maximum and minimum requirements for each class of license have been established based upon past experience and inspections conducted by the Board. Those requirements also take into consideration the various types of work which licensees will be able to perform under the various licenses issued by the Board. The requirements are established so that the applicant will have the diversity of practical experience necessary for licensure under the license for which application is made.

From past experience and field investigations, the Board has determined that certain work experience such as experience gained prior to the age of 16, experience gained in the military service, and experience gained in foreign countries should be limited to a maximum amount towards credit of work experience for each class of license issued by the Board. Such work has been found to be of limited practical application. In addition, the Board has not been able to verify the type of electrical work actually performed in such circumstances. Also, work in foreign countries would not be subject to the National Electrical Code which governs safety standards in Minnesota. The Board allows one year of credit experience towards an "A" Journeyman and Maintenance license for the successful completion of a two year post high school electrical course approved by the Board. It was brought to the Board's attention, some schools were allowing students an early release if they had found employment with an electrical contractor. Some students were employed by an electrical contractor during the time of scheduled classes, which is in conflict with the school term. There is no practical way that a full time student can work during the school term. The Board will accept practical work experience during school vacations, but not during the school term.

Verfying work experience with a licensed electrical contractor or with an employer who is not required to be licensed and the work is inspected has been no problem. Work experience exempt from licensing and inspection, such as work performed on Federal property by Federal employees has been difficult to verify that it is substantially equal to that gained in performing work while in the employ of an electrical contractor. The Board will make a personal inspection by no less than two Board members and one staff employee of the Board on the premises where the applicable work was performed. Experience credit while performing electrical work outside the State of Minnesota which has been determined to be substantially equivalent to the work performed while in the employ of a licensed electrical contractor in the State of Minnesota will be based on verification by the employer of the type of work performed.

Minnesota Statute § 326.242 Subdv. 1(1)(a). The Board has always interpreted the term "a graduate of a four year electrical course" to mean that the applicant hold a Bachelor of Electrical Engineering degree from an accredited university or college. There has been some misunderstanding in this area because the statement "a graduate of a four year electrical course" does not spell out Bachelor of Electrical Engineering degree.

Elec 29. There has been some misunderstanding regarding the limitation of the Maintenance electrician's license. State Board of Electricity Rules and Regulations Elec 29 limits the Maintenance electrician's license to maintaining and repairing electrical wiring, apparatus and equipment. It does not include the installation of new wiring, apparatus and equipment or additions, alterations or extensions to existing wiring, apparatus or equipment.

The Board of Electricity issues three licenses that are not defined in either statute or rule - Master Elevator Constructor, Elevator Constructor and Lineman. The Board is now defining these licenses and the limitations and qualifications for each. Because of the limited and specific nature of these activities, a special license is appropriate. The work experience required is consistent with the scope of the license.