



## **ELECTRICAL CODE CITY OF FORT ATKINSON, WISCONSIN**

### **Section 18-151**

These regulations shall be known as the Electrical Code for the City of Fort Atkinson, and cited as such, and shall be construed to secure their express intent as to ensure public safety and welfare insofar as they are dependent upon electrical installations.

### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this code is to provide minimum standards, provisions, and requirements for safe and stable design and installation of electrical wiring, equipment, appliances and other matters related thereto. Also, to establish and enforce requirements and definite procedures relative to the licenses and tests required to obtain such a license in the City of Fort Atkinson.

Comm. 5 and Comm. 16 of the State of Wisconsin Codes are hereby adopted as the standard for all electrical work done in the City of Fort Atkinson.

### **(A) Electrical Inspector**

- (1) There is hereby created the office of Electrical Inspector. Such inspector shall be appointed by the City Manager and shall hold office until removed by the City Manager or until his successor shall have been duly appointed and qualified. He shall receive such salary as prescribed by the City Manager, subject to the approval of the City Council.
- (2) During any period when this office is not filled and until such time as a full-time Electrical Inspector is appointed in accordance with the provisions of this ordinance, the City Manager may designate or hire another certified individual to act in such capacity, in addition to his other duties, and such person shall be vested with all the power conferred upon the Electrical Inspector by this ordinance.
- (3) It shall be unlawful for the Electrical Inspector to engage in any business in the City, which requires an electrical permit and inspection.
- (4) It shall be the duty of the Electrical Inspector to issue all permits pertaining to electrical work and see that all electrical light, power and heating installations and all other electrical apparatus connected with the same, are in strict conformity with provisions of this ordinance, the Statutes of the State of Wisconsin, the rules and regulations issued by the Department of Industry, Labor & Human Relations under the authority of the Statutes and also are in conformity with the latest and most approved methods of construction for safety of life and property; the regulations as laid down in the National Electrical Code of the Bureau of Standards shall be prima facie evidence of such latest and most approved methods. It shall be his duty to see that all of the above mentioned rules, regulations, Statutes of the State of Wisconsin and ordinances of the City of Fort Atkinson are enforced.

- (5) The Electrical Inspector shall make a thorough examination of all electrical wiring and appliances installed within the City of Fort Atkinson and when such wires or appliances are found to be in a dangerous or unsafe condition, he shall notify the person, firm or corporation owning, using, operating or installing the same, to make the necessary repairs. Any person, firm or corporation failing or refusing to make the necessary repairs or changes and have such work completed within fifteen (15) days, or any longer period which may be deemed reasonable by the Electrical Inspector, after the receipt of such notice, shall be subject to the penalties hereinafter imposed and the Electrical Inspector is hereby empowered to order the discontinuance of electrical service to such defective wires or appliances until they have been repaired, removed, or changed as directed by the Electrical Inspector, subject to the limitations of this ordinance.
- (6) Said Electrical Inspector shall make inspections, at any reasonable time, and consistent with due process of law and existing statutory and ordinance authority at the time of passage of this code, or as amended in the future, to determine the condition of the electrical wires and appliances contained therein, and shall have the authority to cause the turning off of such electrical circuits or wires where such electrical circuits or wires are dangerous to life or property.
- (7) The Electrical Inspector shall keep adequate and complete records of all permits issued and inspections made and other official work performed under the provisions of this ordinance.

**(B) Definitions**

- (1) Electrical Work: “Electrical work” means and includes the installation, superintending or inspection of electrical wiring and equipment for the production, modification, utilization, or safeguarding of electrical energy as covered by the Wisconsin State Electrical Code, the provisions of which are hereby adopted by reference thereto together with amendments hereafter validly made.
- (2) Master Electrician: The work of a “master electrician” consists of the planning or superintending and the installation, altering, or repairing of electric wiring and equipment, as covered by the Wisconsin State Electrical Code. Before any person shall be licensed as a mater electrician, he must have served at least three years as a journeyman electrician, must pass the examination for a master electrician license as provided in section C and shall have complied with all requirements for a master electrician license.
- (3) Journeyman Electrician: The work of a “journeyman electrician” consists of the installing, altering, or repairing of electrical wiring and equipment as covered by the Wisconsin State Electrical Code. Before any person shall be licensed as a journeyman electrician, he shall have completed a four-year apprenticeship in the trade and must pass the examination for a journeyman electrician license as provided for in section C and shall have complied with all requirements for a journeyman electrician license.
- (4) Electrical Apprentice: An “electrical apprentice” is any person sixteen years of age or over who shall enter into any contract of service, expressed or implied, whereby he is to receive from or through his employer in consideration of his services, in whole or in part, instruction in the electrical craft. All apprentice electricians shall be indentured and serve an apprenticeship under Chapter 106 of the Wisconsin Statutes before being eligible to make application for a journeyman electrician license.

- (5) Plant Electrician: A “plant electrician” may be journeyman or master electrician regularly employed by a person, firm, or corporation and whose electrical work for such employer is limited exclusively to the plant or shop of his employer.

(C) **License Required**

- (1) No person shall perform the work of master electrician unless licensed per Comm. 5.
- (2) No person, other than an indentured electrical apprentice, shall perform for any of the work of a journeyman electrician unless licensed per Comm. 5.
- (3) A master electrician license shall entitle the holder to all the rights and privileges conferred by a journeyman electrician license. Every master and journeyman electrician, while actually performing the work to which this section applies, shall carry such credentials as may be prescribed by the City of Fort Atkinson.
- (4) A homeowner may install wiring in a home which he/she owns and occupies. No owner may install wiring in any commercial, two-family or multi-family building unless properly licensed. No homeowner may repair, install or upgrade a building electrical service unless properly licensed.

(D) **Application - Issuance**

An electrical contractor’s license shall be issued by the City of Fort Atkinson upon receipt of proof of the appropriate State licensure and insurance.

(E) **Insurance**

Every electrical contractor of the City of Fort Atkinson who is engaged in this work as his principal occupation, shall be required to have public liability insurance of \$25,000/\$50,000 and public property liability insurance of at least \$5,000. Certificates of insurance shall be filed with the Department of Building Inspection as necessary to insure such coverage is in force.

(F) **Working Without License**

- (1) Employees of electrical, telephone, telegraph and railway utilities may perform the planning or superintending, and installation operations and maintenance of equipment and materials required for the operation of the business of such utilities without a license, but when said employees perform said work on property or premises of other persons, firms, or corporations, except when making service connections and installing and testing transformers, meters, and other equipment ordinarily furnished by and remaining the property of the utility, they shall be licensed in the manner provided by this ordinance and failure to be so licensed shall constitute a violation of this ordinance.
- (2) The operating engineers and their assistants in charge of power generating plants, prime movers, equipment and appliances connected therewith, shall be exempt from this ordinance in the supervision, maintenance, repairs, and operation of the electrical work that is limited exclusively to the plant or shop of his employer.
- (3) A homeowner may wire in his own single family home, but a permit must be procured and work inspected and approved in the same manner as it done by a licensed electrician.

**(G) License Fees**

- (1) The initial fee for a master electrician license shall be thirty dollars (\$30) and shall expire on the 30<sup>th</sup> day of June. For each yearly renewal of such license in the month of June, a fee of fifteen dollars (\$15) shall be paid.
- (2) The initial fee for a journeyman electrician license and plant electrician license shall be twenty dollars (\$20) and shall expire on the 30<sup>th</sup> day of June. For each yearly renewal of such license in the month of June, a fee of ten dollars (\$10) shall be paid.
- (3) All such licenses shall be issued for one year commencing on July 1<sup>st</sup> and expiring on June 30<sup>th</sup> following, unless sooner revoked. The fees for such licenses shall be paid to the City Treasurer.
- (4) All journeyman electricians and master electricians shall be required to pay the same fees as set forth in paragraphs (1) and (2) herein.

**(H) Revocation of License**

Any license granted under the provisions of this chapter may be revoked by the Board of Electrical Examiners if the licensee violated any ordinance or law relating to electrical work or is guilty of installing electrical construction which is a hazard to life and property. When a license is revoked, a new license shall not again be granted to the same licensee for a period of thirty (30) days nor until the licensee shall have corrected the faulty construction in accordance with the provisions of this ordinance, shall have made application and paid the fees as required for the original license. The Board of Electrical Examiners shall have discretionary power to withhold the granting of a new license for cause for a period not to exceed six months.

**(I) Board of Electrical Examiners**

- (1) The Board of Electrical Examiners shall consist of five members, four of whom shall be appointed by the City Manager for a term of two years ending the last day of June, one to be chosen from each of the following groups:
  - (a) A member of the Council (Chairman) to be elected by the Council annually.
  - (b) An electrical engineer from a utility company operating in the City of Fort Atkinson.
  - (c) A master electrician.
  - (d) A homeowner.
  - (e) A plant electrician.
- (2) On the original Board, the last two members shall serve for one year in order that all terms will not expire at one time. After the first year all terms except that of the Council representatives shall be for two years.
- (3) The Electrical Inspector shall be Secretary of said Board, but shall not have voting power.
- (4) Four members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. All applications for license shall be referred by the Electrical Inspector to the Board of Electrical Examiners, who shall properly investigate and report to the Electrical Inspector as to the qualifications and competency of the applicants in the installation and electrical wiring and equipment. The Board shall meet the second Wednesday of each month for the consideration of such application, when necessary.

- (5) Said Board of Electrical Examiners shall also act as an Arbitration Board.
- (6) Regular examinations shall be held during the month of June of each year, but special examinations may be held, at any time selected by the Board. The examinations shall be practical and elementary in character but sufficiently strict to test the qualifications of the applicant.

**(J) Permits Required, Etc.**

- (1) The Electrical Inspector shall issue permits for all electrical installations for light, heat or power upon the filing of proper application which shall be made on forms furnished by the Inspector, and shall prescribe the nature of the work as well as such other information as required for inspection. In no case shall any electrical work be started unless a permit has been obtained, unless the same be expressly exempt for the effect of this ordinance.
- (2) On applying for permit for temporary work, a specified period of time for which such wiring is to remain in service must be stated. Service shall be cut off at the end of this period and shall not again be connected without permission from the Electrical Inspector. Temporary work is not to exceed thirty (30) days.
- (3) No fees or permits are required for the installation of equipment on the lines of the utility company for transforming, transmitting, controlling or safeguarding the transmission, conversion or distribution of electrical energy.

**(K) Reserved for future use**

**(L) Inspection**

Per Comm. 5 and Comm. 16.

**(M) Certificates of Inspection**

Current shall not be turned on for any electrical installation until a certificate of inspection has been issued by the Electrical Inspector. However, in occupied buildings where a permit for lighting fixtures has been issued, the Electrical Inspector may authorize the installation of meters for electric service after the wiring has been inspected and approved.

**(N) Construction Requirement**

- (1) No certificate of inspection shall be issued unless the electric light, power, or heating installation and all other electrical apparatus connected with it are in strict conformity with the provisions of this ordinance, the rules and regulations of Comm. 16, and the rules of the electric utility company.
- (2) All material and appliances used or designed to be used in connection with the utilization of electricity for light, heat or power shall be of standard design and according to the list of standard material per Comm. 16.
- (3) No person, firm or corporation shall keep or offer for sale or sell within the City of Fort Atkinson any equipment or fixtures designed or intended to be used for the production, transmission or utilization of electrical current or power, if said apparatus, equipment or fixtures, when installed

for use, would be in violation of any of the provisions of this ordinance or would be unsafe or dangerous.

- (4) In the event that 50% or more of the structure, as deemed by the Electrical Inspector, is rewired, said structure shall be completely rewired to meet current code standards.
- (5) All conductors in public, commercial, industrial and multi-family buildings shall be in approved raceways, such as but not limited to EMT, ENT, etc. Use of MC cable is prohibited except by special permission of the Electrical Inspector. This requirement shall not apply to multi-family buildings under the scope of Comm. 66, Uniform Multi-Family Building Code. (07-02-02).
- (6) On all sizes of rigid heavy wall conduit, insulated bushings must be used.

On EMT connectors of all sizes, bushings, or insulated throat connectors must be used.

Running threads on rigid conduit shall not be used at any time.

**(O) Liability of City**

This ordinance shall not be construed to relieve or lessen the responsibility or liability of any party owning, operating, controlling or installing any electrical equipment for damages to anyone injured or any property destroyed by any defect therein or shall the City be held as assuming any such liability by reason of the inspection authorized herein or certificate of inspection issued as herein provided.

**(P) Arbitration**

Per Comm. 5 and Comm. 16.

**(Q) Penalties**

Per City ordinances.

**(R) Legal Status**

- (1) Conflict With Other Laws: Whenever the provisions of this ordinance imposes more restrictive standards than are required in or under any statute or other legal document, the requirements of this ordinance shall govern. Whenever the provision of any other statute or legal document require more restrictive standards than are required by this ordinance, the provisions of such statute or document shall govern.
- (2) Validity: Should any section, clause of provisions of this ordinance be declared by the courts to be invalid or unconstitutional, such declaration shall not affect the validity of the ordinance as a whole or any part thereof, other than the part so declared to be invalid or unconstitutional.
- (3) In instances where through the development of new electrical equipment, or other situations which are not specifically covered within this code, the Electrical Inspector shall establish the interim installation standards.

Amended: 07/02/02