

CONSTRUCTION

TIPS



Published Quarterly
by the **Construction
and Bridge Divisions**

**September
2011**

**Enforcement of
Electrical
Certification**

**Contact Information
2**

Back in October 2002 at a D/D/O meeting in College Station, plans to improve the quality and safety of TxDOT electrical work were reviewed.

Wes Heald, the executive director at the time, asked what could be done to improve TxDOT's electrical systems. The following plan was developed:

1. Improve the plans to show better grounding.
2. Follow the National Electrical Code.
3. Improve the qualifications of our inspectors and contractors.

Fast forward to 2011 and we see that this plan is being realized.

This is being accomplished by:

1. Using the Electrical Review Team (ERT) to assist and train district inspectors.
2. Producing training videos on electrical systems.
3. Improving the electrical systems training courses for inspectors and contractors. A person passing the test for an Electrical Training Course can become a "certified person" (CP).

Item 7 of the *Texas Standard Specifications for Construction and Maintenance of Highways, Streets, and Bridges* requires a CP or licensed electrician to directly supervise or perform electrical work.

The current Special Provision to Item 7 (007-806) has redefined the continuing education requirements for a CP:

A certified person is a person who has passed the test from the TxDOT course TRF450, "TxDOT Roadway Illumination and Electrical Installations" or other courses as approved by the Traffic Operations Division. Submit a current and valid TRF certification upon request. On June 1, 2011, Texas Engineering Extension Service (TEEX) certifications for "TxDOT Electrical Systems" course will no longer be accepted. All TRF450 certifications that have been issued for "TxDOT Roadway Illumination and Electrical Installations" course that expire before June 1, 2011 will be accepted until June 1, 2011.

June 1, 2011, has come and gone. In order to verify that contractors meet certification requirements, inspectors or contract managers need to obtain copies of the certificates or licenses from the contractor employees, or request a letter from the contractor that identifies the CPs for the project by name. The specification requires suspension of electrical work if there is not a certified or licensed person either doing the work or directly supervising those who are performing the work. Work being performed without the proper supervision is not in accordance with the specifications, and TxDOT has the authority to withhold or delay payment until the work is carefully inspected and approved or redone.

For more information on TxDOT electrical training courses, please visit

<http://www.dot.state.tx.us/hrd/tdp/tdp.htm>.

You can contact the TxDOT Human Resources Division to enroll in one of the electrical systems courses, sponsored by the Traffic Operations Division.

All 23 TxDOT electrical training videos are now available on the internet at

http://www.dot.state.tx.us/business/cert_training.htm.

Contact Information

If you need further clarification concerning certification or licensing requirements, contact Gary Counts, Traffic Operations Division, at 512/416-3143 or gary.counts@txdot.gov.