

Electrical Inspection Procedures for Portable and Temporary Electrical Power Distribution

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What is the responsibility of the Department of Labor & Industry?

The Department has the responsibility for inspection of all electrical wiring and equipment for transient events such as carnivals, circuses, inflatables, festivals, film and TV production sites and road construction projects. Portable generators and power distribution must be inspected at each setup. Each ride, concession or similar unit must be inspected at or before its initial operation each season. Equipment must be in compliance before it is energized and put into use.

2. What is the responsibility of the user?

Users of portable power distribution systems are responsible for notifying the Department fourteen days before the first engagement or setup in order to permit completion of the inspection, the correction of code violations and re-inspection if necessary.

3. Is inspection of equipment necessary before the unit can be energized or used?

Equipment must not be energized until it has been inspected and approved.

4. Does the Department of Labor & Industry perform electrical inspections in all areas of the state?

The Department is the electrical inspection authority statewide, except for certain cities that have made provisions for electrical inspections within their jurisdiction. A list of all electrical inspectors and contact information is available at the Department's website <https://workplace.doli.state.mn.us/jurisdiction/>

5. How do I request an electrical inspection?

The request for electrical inspection form is completed and the appropriate inspection fee is collected at the time of the inspection.

6. Do I need an inspection every year?

An initial inspection is required at or before the first setup each season. Portable generators with power distribution systems must be inspected at each setup.

7. Can the inspection be requested and made before the first appearance of the season?

Inspections of concession trailers or similar units can be arranged in advance by contacting the Department. Inspections can be performed at any mutually agreeable time and location.

8. What if the inspection identifies code violations?

Identified code violations are documented on an inspection report form and a copy is provided to the user of the equipment. Equipment must be in compliance before it is energized and put into use.

9. Are there restrictions about who can perform electrical work?

All on-site electrical wiring including installation, repair and correction of code violations must be performed by licensed electrical contractors. Equipment owners are not allowed to perform any electrical wiring once the equipment is on-site. Persons other than licensed employees of electrical contractors are strictly limited to plugging portable electrical equipment into receptacle outlets.

10. How is the equipment marked to indicate that it has passed inspection?

When equipment is in compliance, an inspection sticker is placed on the equipment with the date of inspection and the inspection number. This sticker also has an identification number that is specific to each concession or ride. The owner’s copy of the inspection form is another record of compliance, which should be kept with the equipment for the remainder of the season.

11. In addition to electrical inspections, are mechanical inspections required for amusement rides?

Amusement rides must be inspected by a level II or III AIMS or NAARSO certified amusement ride inspector in the same calendar year and prior to July 1st or the first operation in Minnesota, whichever is later. Please refer to Minnesota Statute 184B.

<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/184B>

12. How much does an electrical inspection cost?

The inspection fee for each generator or source of supply is:

0 to and including 400 amp capacity	\$35
401 to and including 800 amp capacity	\$60
Above 800 amp capacity	\$100

In addition to the generator inspection, there must be an inspection of all feeders and distribution equipment at each setup. This fee is at the \$80 hourly rate with a one-hour minimum charge.

The inspection fee for each amusement ride, device, concession, attraction, or similar unit with a supply is:

up to and including 60 amperes	\$35
over 60 amperes	\$40

In addition to the above fees, inspections made on Saturdays, Sundays, holidays, or after regular business hours will be charged at the \$80 hourly rate with a one-hour minimum charge. If re-inspection of corrections is necessary, there is a \$35 charge for each re-inspection.

Inspection fees must be paid by check or cash. Credit cards are not accepted.

CAUTION: THIS INFORMATION IS NOT INTENDED TO BE YOUR ONLY ELECTRICAL INFORMATION RESOURCE. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND KNOWLEDGE ARE NECESSARY FOR AN ELECTRICAL INSTALLATION THAT COMPLIES WITH THE NATIONAL ELECTRICAL CODE (NEC) AND IS FREE FROM FIRE AND ELECTRIC SHOCK HAZARDS.

Examples of temporary portable electrical distribution equipment

NEC 525.23(D) GFCI Protection for Receptacles Supplied by Portable Cords

Is listed open neutral protection required?

Feeder Cord

NO

Branch Circuit Cord

Yes

GFCI receptacles in do-it-yourself quad-box not allowed

Feeder Cord

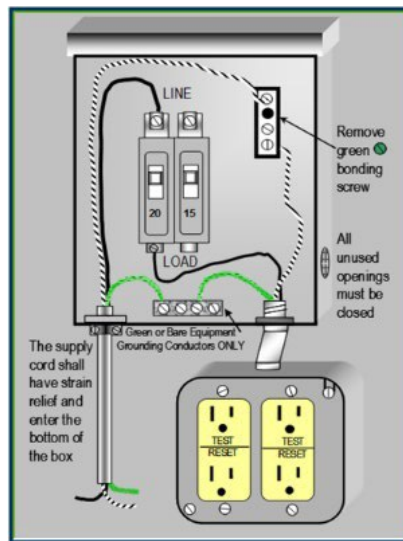
NO

Feeder Cord

NO

Permanent Branch Circuit Wiring

mi DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY



National Electrical Code Article

Disconnecting Means

Every concession, game, or similar attraction or unit must have an enclosed fusible disconnect switch or circuit breaker in or adjacent to each exhibitor's space which will disconnect all power

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Disconnecting Means

- Must be readily accessible, within sight of, and within 6 feet of the operator's station
- Fuse-holders with switches mounted on box covers and switch controlled multi-outlet strips are **NOT ACCEPTABLE**
- Enclosures for disconnects installed outdoors must be rainproof, unless otherwise protected from the weather

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