



# DIVISION OF INDUSTRY SERVICES QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES | WINTER 2025

## Moving Forms to an Online Experience

We're excited to share that most of DSPS's forms are transitioning from PDF to an online platform called AccessGov. While any change can feel unfamiliar at first, this shift brings meaningful improvements that make completing our forms easier.

AccessGov helps us meet federal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements by offering improved navigation, screen-reader compatibility, and a more user-friendly layout. These updates ensure every customer can complete our forms with greater comfort and independence.

This update also introduces other advantages that weren't possible with PDFs such as dynamic selections, notification of missing required information, and automated collection of signatures. Additionally, a selection of forms can now be submitted directly within the system - no printing or emailing needed. This means a more streamlined process, fewer steps, and quicker submission. Even forms that still require extra steps will follow a cleaner, more digital workflow to help reduce errors and save time.

Lastly, you have the option to create an AccessGov account (using a MyWisconsin ID) where you can save and track a form's progress. Accounts are in no way required but you may find it beneficial if you frequently use DSPS forms.

The screenshot shows the AccessGov website interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with the AccessGov logo, a search bar, and links for Home, Directory, and Log In. Below the navigation bar, there's a blue banner with the text "Log in to store your form." and a close button. The main content area is titled "SBD-8101, Modular Dwelling Plan Submittal". On the left, there's a sidebar with a list of steps: Introduction (selected), Modular Dwelling Information, Plan and Document Uploads, and Review. Below the sidebar, there are two buttons: "Sign and Submit" and "Delete". The main content area on the right is titled "Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services" and "Modular Dwelling Manufacturer Program". It contains a paragraph of text explaining the program's purpose and requirements, followed by a link to the "UDC program page" for more information. At the bottom of the page, there's a footer with the text "Form SBD-8101, Modular Dwelling Plan Submittal".

We appreciate your flexibility during this transition and are confident AccessGov will offer a more modern, accessible, and efficient experience. If you have questions or need support, please contact the program area responsible for the form.

### Resources

[Optional AccessGov Account Instructions](#)

[MyWisconsin ID Information](#)

[DIS Program Contacts](#)

# Understanding Partition Loads under IBC 1607.5

The International Building Code (IBC) Section 1607.5 establishes requirements for partition loads in buildings where walls and partitions may change locations over time. These partition loads ensure that floors are designed to safely support potential future wall configurations – not just those shown for the initial construction.

When interior partitions are subject to reconfiguration, such as in office buildings and other flexible-use occupancies, the code requires designers to account for a minimum uniformly distributed live load of 15 pounds per square foot (psf) unless the floor is already designed for a live load of 80 psf or greater. This helps protect building users and owners from later structural constraints or costly reinforcements.

While this provision is commonly applied to offices and open commercial spaces, it is also relevant to R-2 residential occupancies such as apartment buildings, student housing, and multi-family dwellings. Modern R-2 developments often rely on lightweight, non-load-bearing partitions that can be modified during renovations, tenant improvements, or unit reconfiguration over the building's lifecycle. Designing floors to accommodate this potential change ensures long-term safety, future adaptability, and consistency with the IBC's intent.

From a plan review perspective, DIS looks for clear documentation addressing how partition loads are incorporated into the structural design, particularly in R-2 projects. Structural notes should indicate whether the general live load is already 80 psf or greater, or if the supplemental 15 psf partition live load is included. Accurate documentation helps streamline review and supports code compliance throughout construction and future alterations.

Ultimately, partition load provisions protect the flexibility and usability of buildings as they evolve over time. In R-2 occupancies, where unit renovations and layout changes may occur over the life of a building, properly accounting for partition loads ensures continued safety and maintains the structural integrity of the building. DIS encourages designers, owners, and contractors to coordinate early and include these important considerations in their plans and submittals.

## Questions?

Send partition load code questions to  
[DSPSSBldgtech@wisconsin.gov](mailto:DSPSSBldgtech@wisconsin.gov)

For more complicated plan designs, submit a preliminary plan review to DIS via [esla.wi.gov](http://esla.wi.gov).

## SUBSCRIBE TO DIS NEWS

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[Latest Quarterly Webinar](#)

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UPCOMING TOPICS

Help improve the quarterly calls and newsletters by taking the survey linked below.

[Survey for Future Topics](#)

## DIS PROGRAM INFO

DIS PROGRAMS

[See the list of DIS program webpages](#)

DIS TECHNICAL QUESTIONS

Each program maintains separate communication inboxes.

Find these email addresses on the  
[DIS Contact page](#).

CREDENTIAL LOOK-UP

All credentials should now be searched using the NEW Credential Look-Up Tool

[license.wi.gov/s/license-lookup](http://license.wi.gov/s/license-lookup)

## ESLA CORNER

USER GUIDE AND HELP PAGE

[dsps.wi.gov/Pages/eSLAResources.aspx](http://dsps.wi.gov/Pages/eSLAResources.aspx)



# Warming Up this Winter with a Reporting Reminder

As the temperatures drop, we're sending a little warmth your way in the form of a seasonal reporting reminder. DIS requires annual reporting and fees from municipalities, fire departments, and businesses. Certain information can only be submitted in these winter months so make note of the deadlines below!

	INJURY AND ILLNESS REPORTING	SELF-CERTIFICATIONS FOR FIRE DUES	MINE SAFETY SERVICE FEES
<b>Who is responsible?</b>	Public Employers	Fire Chiefs and Municipal Clerks	Operators responsible for the equipment used at a mine, pit, or quarry
<b>Submission Window</b>	Jan. 1 - Mar. 1	Jan. 1 - Mar. 31	Before Mar. 1 of the year following operation
<b>Submission Method</b>	Online at <a href="https://esla.wi.gov">esla.wi.gov</a>	Online at <a href="https://esla.wi.gov">esla.wi.gov</a>	Online at <a href="https://esla.wi.gov">esla.wi.gov</a>
<b>What is it for?</b>	<p>Public employers must submit a summary of their previous year's injuries and illnesses. This summary was previously submitted on Form SBD-10710.</p> <p>After submitting, you will receive a confirmation email with a printable version of the summary which must be posted in your workplace from February 1 - April 30.</p>	<p>To be eligible to receive a fire dues payment from DSPS, clerks and Fire Chiefs must each submit a self-certification for the previous calendar year, providing info on the fire department's services.</p>	<p>Persons or firms responsible for the crushing, screening, or washing equipment used on materials from a mine, pit, or quarry must pay a Safety Service Fee for operations conducted.</p> <p>If you performed these operations this year, check your eSLA fee cart and pay the related Safety Service Fee before March 1.</p>
<b>Need More Information?</b>	Contact your area's Public Sector Safety Inspector. See the <a href="#">Inspection District Map</a> .	Visit the <a href="#">Fire Prevention/Safety &amp; Health</a> program page or email <a href="mailto:DSPSSBFireDues@Wisconsin.gov">DSPSSBFireDues@Wisconsin.gov</a>	Send an email to <a href="mailto:DSPSMineSafety@wisconsin.gov">DSPSMineSafety@wisconsin.gov</a> .

**New to eSLA?** Use the [Customer Setup User Guide](#) to get started. Then check the [eSLA User Guides and Videos](#) site for helpful instructions on your submission.



## Year-Round Reporting to Note!

**UDC** - Don't forget to submit UDC permit data to DSPS! Municipalities are required to submit approved UDC permits to DSPS by the 15th of the month following the approval date. We offer 3 methods of providing this data. Visit the [UDC program](#) page for more information.

**PLAN REVIEWS** - Delegated agents performing expanded commercial building, fire protection, and HVAC plan reviews are required to remit fees and a report of projects to DSPS on a regular basis. Check your delegation approval letter or visit our [Delegated Agent](#) page for more information.



## Get Ready for the 2026 Commercial Building Code Refresher

This annual event is a valuable forum for professionals from many disciplines. Get current information to understand and use the Wisconsin Commercial Building Code in your work. This conference is beneficial to architects, engineers, trade professionals, inspectors, and many others who use the Commercial Building Code in their careers.

DSPS will be in attendance and provide presentations across multiple commercial program areas.

The conference will be February 16-18, 2026 at the Alliant Energy Center in Madison, WI.

Visit the UW-[Madison College of Engineering webpage](#) for registration and additional details.

### POWTS: The Year in Review

As we near the end of the year, it is good practice to take stock of accomplishments. Teamwork and cooperation defined the POWTS program's efforts in 2025. Whether providing DSPS-initiated training such as Soil Pop-Ups and POWTS Chat, or collaborations with other organizations or government agencies, the POWTS program filled a critical need. Experts in the industry, including DIS POWTS staff, shared their knowledge with credential holders at these events.

What did we accomplish? Over the year, we held:

- **11** monthly POWTS Chats
- **4** soil pop-ups
- **2** two-day beginner soils, virtual soils, virtual design
- **1** two-day county agent training

When adding trade groups, private organizations and local governments, we were part of 52 events this year! Total contact hours were 13,772 with POWTS staff providing 5,356 credit hours of instruction.

Continuing education is not only required for license renewal but it promotes professional and personal growth, and helps individuals to acquire new skills, adapt to industry changes, gain confidence, and network with peers. We are pleased to be a part of fulfilling continuing education needs!

We plan on continuing these offerings and more in 2026. Visit the POWTS program webpage or check BookWhen to view and sign up for upcoming training opportunities.

In addition to training, we also have been busy with plan reviews. POWTS staff have reviewed nearly 3,500 plans in 2025. Review numbers give us insight into the health of the industry, although not as good as issued sanitary permit totals but those won't be available until local agent audits in January. Early December plan review totals put us just a few plans behind 2024, which was our busiest year since 2008. It will be close, but we may surpass that total by the end of the month.

#### Resources

Keep track of monthly plan review numbers on the [DIS plan review webpage](#).

Check the [BookWhen website](#) for training opportunities.

Visit the [DSPS YouTube channel](#) for saved presentations and webinars.

# Submitting a Plumbing Plan Review?

Survey results are in, and we heard your request for more information about submitting plumbing plan reviews! To submit a plumbing plan review to DSPS, you must use the Electronic Safety and Licensing Application (eSLA).

## Before You Begin

### 1. Check Municipality Delegation

- Verify if your local municipality has been delegated by DSPS to perform plumbing plan reviews. If they have, depending on your project type, you may need to submit your plans to them instead of DSPS.

### 2. Gather Required Documents

- Ensure all plans and supporting documents are prepared as PDF files. Required documents typically include:
  - Completed application form, such as the Plumbing Checklist (SBD-10577).
  - A single PDF file containing all signed and stamped plans (e.g., site plans, floor plans, isometric diagrams).
  - A single PDF file containing all supporting documents (e.g., water distribution sizing calculations, fixture specifications, soil and site evaluation forms).

## Submission Steps

### 1. Access the eSLA Portal

- Go to the eSLA Customer Portal to create an account or log in to your existing account. We recommend using Chrome, Firefox, or Safari for the best experience.

### 2. Start a New Application

- From your dashboard, click on "New Application."
- Select "Plan Reviews" as the program area.
- Choose the appropriate permit type/plan review and application type (e.g., New, Addition/Alteration).

### 3. Enter Project Information

- Provide all personal and project information, including the property owner's details.
- Add the building-specific information, answering all questions prompted by the system.

### 4. Upload Documents

- In the "Attachments" section, upload your:
  - Single PDF of plan documents under the "Submit Plan Building Specific" attachment.
  - Single PDF of supporting documents file under the "Additional Supporting Documentation" attachment.

### 5. Pay Fees

- Once the application is complete, fees will appear in your cart.
- Follow the prompts to your payment cart and pay the required fees online to complete your submission.

## Resources

[Plumbing Program Webpage](#)

[DSPS Plan Review Webpage](#)

[eSLA User Guides and Videos](#)

# A Fine Line: Getting Clear on Zero Lot Line Separation

Questions, confusion, doubt, and misinterpretations continue for the prescriptive code requirements on the fire separation as it applies to the Uniform Dwelling Code (UDC) and "Zero Lot Line." These questions and misinterpretations remain on the application of the fire separation criteria established in SPS 321.08 as it applies to duplexes with a Zero Lot Line division at the party wall that separates the dwelling units. The term Zero Lot Line first appears in the 2009 edition of the UDC under Table 321.08. This is the only instance of its use in the body of the code.

The application of the fire separation rules between dwelling units differs in subtle ways when there is single ownership of the land on which the duplex dwelling is built, and when there is a legal property division of the land itself running along the party wall that separates the dwelling units.

Zero Lot Line refers to the condition where an actual legal property division divides both the structure of the dwelling between dwelling units as well as the land that the dwelling is built on, including the surrounding area of the separate lots. This situation differs from that of a condominium where there is a property division at the party wall separating the dwelling units, but the land which the dwelling is built on belongs to a single owner (typically the condominium association). A key item to note is that in all cases, garage spaces are considered part of the dwelling unit. Where garage spaces are adjacent to one another, fire separation must be provided as per the criteria for dwelling unit separation.

Table 321.08 refers to subpar (2)(d) of this code section for specific criteria that applies to the Zero Lot Line scenario. This requires that the fire separation material to be installed on BOTH sides of the separation wall from foundation to roof deck. In this scenario, there is no option to satisfy these criteria by installing the fire-rated gypsum board horizontally across the ceiling.

**SPS 321.08(2)(d) Walls.** Walls in the dwelling unit separation shall be protected by not less than one layer of 5/8-inch Type X gypsum wallboard, 2 layers of 1/2-inch gypsum wallboard, or equivalent on each side of the wall with joints in compliance with sub. (1) (a) 2.

**SPS 321.08 Fire separation and dwelling unit separation. (1) FIRE SEPARATION.** Dwelling units shall be separated from garage spaces, accessory buildings, property lines and other dwelling units in accordance with Table 321.08 and the following requirements:

**Table 321.08**

Between Dwelling And:	Distance Between Objects <sup>1</sup>	Fire Rated Construction <sup>2,5</sup>
Detached garage or accessory building on same property	Less than 5 feet	3/4-hour wall <sup>1</sup>
Another dwelling on same property	Less than 5 feet	1/3-hour door or window <sup>3</sup>
Detached garage, accessory building, or other dwelling on same property	5 to 10 feet	3/4-hour wall <sup>4</sup>
Detached garage, accessory building, or other dwelling on same property	5 to 10 feet	1/3-hour door or window <sup>4</sup>
Property Lines	More than 10 feet	3/4-hour wall <sup>1</sup>
Property Lines	Less than 3 feet	No requirements
Zero Lot Line	3 feet or more	No requirements
Zero Lot Line	None	Follow sub. (2) (d) requirements

<sup>1</sup>Distance shall be measured perpendicular from wall to wall or property line, ignoring overhangs.

<sup>2</sup>Fire rated construction shall protect the dwelling from an exterior fire source.

<sup>3</sup>Fire rated construction may be in either facing wall.

<sup>4</sup>Fire rated construction shall be in both facing walls.

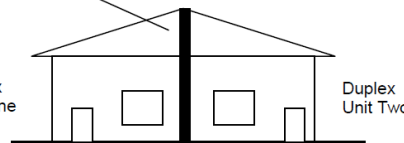
<sup>5</sup>The methods for garage separation in par. (a) 1. are examples of ¾ hour wall construction.

**321.08 Zero Lot Line Duplex Sometimes Identified as Twin Homes**

Dwelling Unit separation from foundation to roof deck, exterior wall to exterior wall, and into eaves consisting of:

- 5/8" Type "X" gypsum wallboard,
- 2 layers 1/2" gypsum wallboard,
- or, equivalent layers on each side of the wall

Duplex Unit One



Duplex Unit Two

The fire separation criteria for duplexes whose *land is under single ownership* can be found in subpar (2)(a) and (b). Under this scenario, the code allows for either complete separation of the units from the foundation to the roof deck, or vertical and horizontal separation per par. (b) which allows the fire separation to extend vertically from foundation to ceiling, then horizontally across the ceiling of the dwelling, including the garage space, provided that draft stopping is provided per SPS 321.085 from the ceiling to roof deck.

**Continued on next page**

### SPS 321.08(2) DWELLING UNIT SEPARATION.

(a) *General.* In 2-family dwellings, units shall be separated from each other and from shared tenant spaces including attics, basements, garages, vestibules, and corridors.

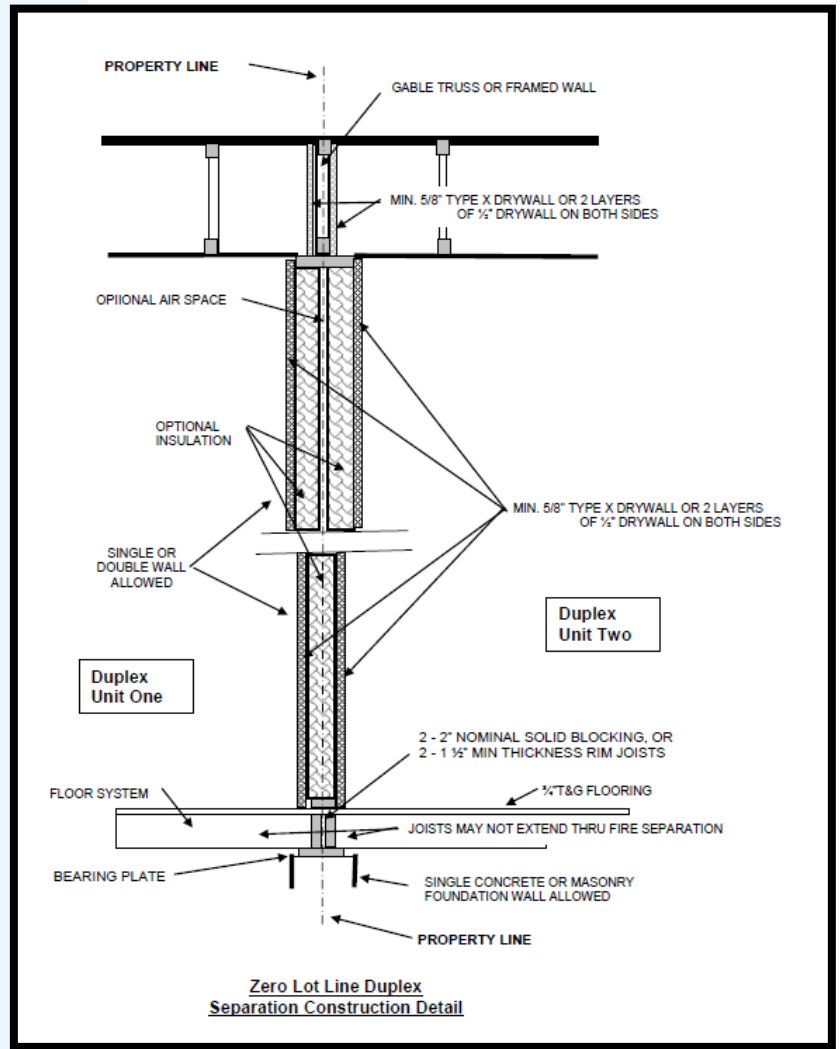
(b) *Attic separation.* Dwelling units with attic space that extends over both units shall be separated in accordance with one of the following:

1. Complete Separation. The units shall be provided with wall construction under par. (d) that extends all the way to the underside of the roof deck.

2. Vertical and Horizontal Separation.

a. The units shall be provided with wall construction under par. (d) that extends to the dwelling unit ceiling and ceiling construction under par. (e).

b. Dwelling units using this method of separation shall provide attic draft stopping under par. (f) that extends all the way to the underside of the roof deck above and in line with the separation wall.



## Past and Upcoming Trainings for our WI Fire Service

This year, our Fire Prevention/FD Safety & Health Program conducted 14 in-person and virtual training presentations throughout the state for our annual Fall Outreach Training. This included speaking at three technical colleges and the WI Fire Inspectors Association Conference. Our Fall trainings saw another year of record-breaking attendance.



Gary Peck, DSPS Fire Prevention Coordinator, presenting at a 2025 Fall Outreach Training.

In early 2026, our team will present at the [2026 WI Society of Emergency Services Instructors Conference](#) in Rhinelander, WI, on Feb. 20 and 21. Topics include how SPS 330 fits into your Fire Department's training schedule as well as the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF) Attributes of Leading Class. Soon after, we will share Wisconsin's Community Risk Reduction Strategic Plan at the [2026 National Vision 20/20 CRR Symposium 9](#) in Concord, NC, Feb. 24-26.

Submit ideas for next year's trainings by emailing [dspssfireprevention@wisconsin.gov](mailto:dspssfireprevention@wisconsin.gov).

# Plumbing Alternate Approval Updates

DIS has recently updated three plumbing alternate approvals:

1. Vista Water Group, LLC - Dual Check Backflow Preventers (Versachecks) [Revised 09/11/2025]
2. IPS Corporation dba Provent Systems - Provent Single Stack [Revised 08/07/2025]
3. Uponor, Inc. - PEX-A Pipe and Fittings [Revised 09/02/2025]

*DISPS is in no way endorsing any of these products or systems and is not responsible for any situation which may result in its use.*

Use the [eSLA Public Look-Up](#) tool to view approval documents of plumbing, POWTS, and pool products.

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## *Vista Water Group, LLC Versachecks*

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1. All Versacheck products are now tested and certified to the ASME A112 18.1 and ASME A112 18.3 standards.
2. Revised Table 2 of 2 (high & low hazard situations).
3. Introduced Table 3 of 3 (acceptable and unacceptable applications).
4. All information can be found on Document PP-102200019-PTOAA.

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## *IPS Corporation dba Provent Systems*

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1. Revised Section 3.4 within the Provent Systems manual to address vertical drops in horizontal branches.
  - a. Changes in elevation less than 45° are permitted without an increase in pipe size.
  - b. A horizontal drop of less than 45° of a branch drain shall not exceed 40 inches of developed vertical elevation.

1. All information can be found on Document PP-022500001-PTOAA.

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## *Uponor, Inc. PEX-A Pipe and Fittings*

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1. Revised to indicate that a dedicated fixture supply pipe to be of the same nominal size as the single fixture being supplied regardless of the calculated velocity.
2. All information can be found on Document PP-022300004-PTOAA.

## DIS Staff Updates

### Welcome new employees!

Troy Evenson  
UDC Consultant

Alanna Andrade  
Occupational Safety Inspector

**The following individuals are no longer with DIS. Check the [District Maps](#) for new contact information in your area**

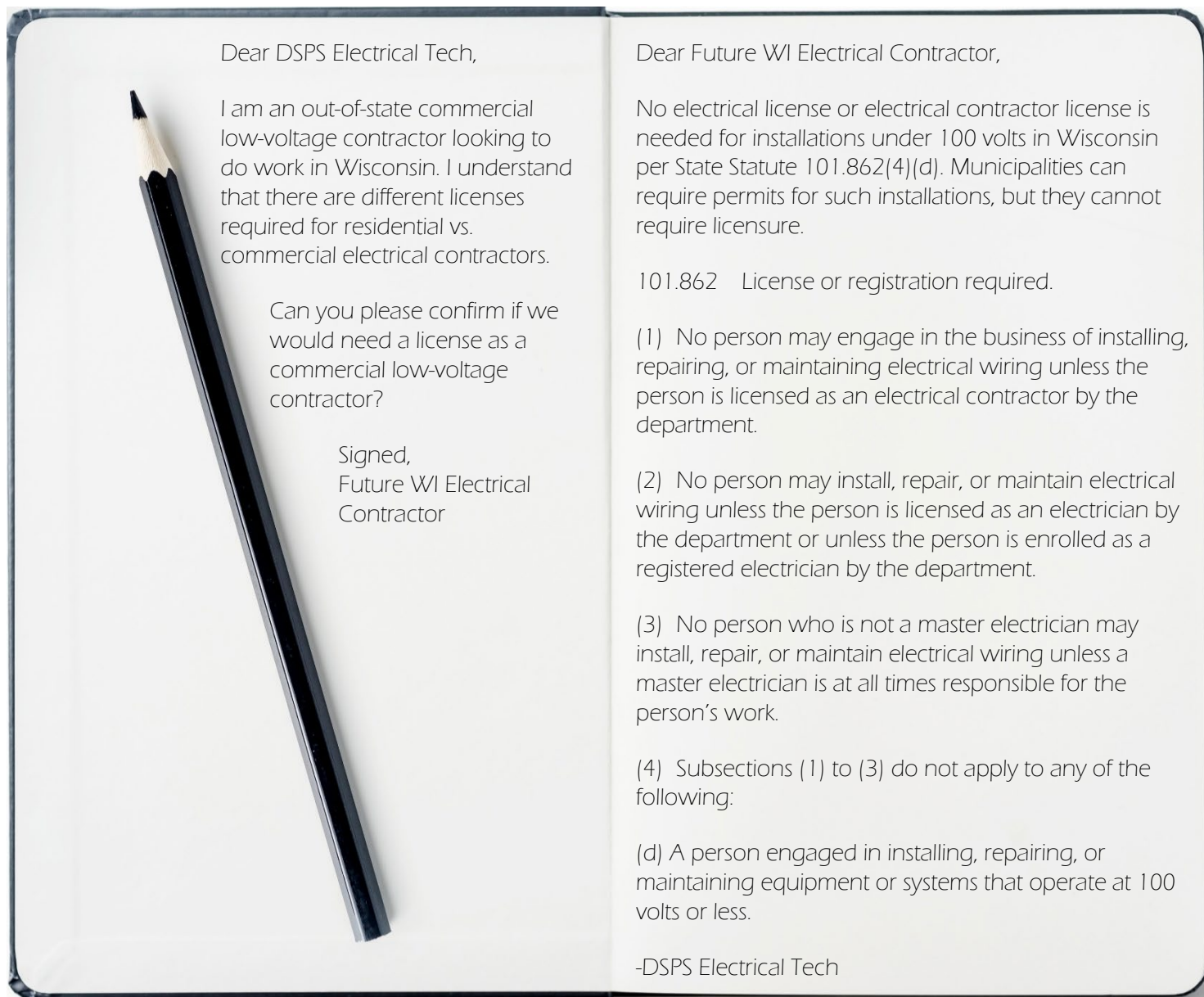
Jane Dienger  
Occupational Safety Inspector

Dennis Beggs  
Policy Initiatives Advisor



# Tech Box Question

DIS maintains program-specific email inboxes (tech boxes) to provide a general code answer or direct you to an appropriate code section. Non-technical questions for eSLA, permits, delegated agents, and invoices have their own tech boxes! Use the appropriate email to ensure a timely response to your question. View the [full list of tech box emails](#). See an example below of a real customer question submitted to one of our tech boxes!



## DIS Open Positions

Visit [wisc.jobs](https://wisc.jobs) to apply today!

### Electrical Inspection Consultant

This position requires independent statewide travel throughout Wisconsin to be a primary consultant on technical and complex code issues related to electrical permitting and installation. Qualified candidates have the Wisconsin Commercial Electrical Inspector credential and the Wisconsin Master Electrician credential at the time of application. *Job ID 14648*

## Recent Enforcement Actions

- The Department placed limitations on a Suamico Electrical Contractor credential as allowed by Wis. Admin. Code Sec. SPS 305.10.
- The Department placed limitations on a Wausau Welder credential as allowed by Wis. Admin. Code SPS Sec. 305.10.
- The Department suspended an Antigo Journeyman Electrician license for violating the terms of a limited license agreement.
- The Department entered a Notice of Violations and Order against Stanley Fire Department for failure to comply with Wis. Admin. Code SPS Chapter 330.
- The Department entered a Notice of Violations and Order against a Town of Manchester manufactured home community for failure to comply with Wis. Admin. Code SPS Chapter 326.
- The Department placed limitations on a Green Bay Electrical Apprentice license as allowed by Wis. Admin. Code Sec. SPS 305.10.