



# DIVISION OF INDUSTRY SERVICES QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES | SPRING 2026

## Wisconsin Electrical Code Update

The proposed Wisconsin Electrical Code (SPS 316) has been approved by the Governor and submitted to the Wisconsin State Legislature as of March 16, 2026. The proposed Wisconsin Electrical Code package is listed under Clearinghouse Rule CR 26-016.

For more information on the status of the proposed SPS 316 updates and where to find a draft of the proposed changes, you can review the document in multiple places online.

1. DSPS website: <https://dsps.wi.gov>. The DSPS website provides updates and the status of all rule-making projects that fall under DSPS's jurisdiction.
2. Wisconsin State Legislature website: <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/>.

The rules adopted in the Wisconsin Electrical Code update package will take effect on the first day of the third month following publication in the Wisconsin Administrative Register.

### Looking for more code update info?

See the Plumbing Code Update article on page 3 of this newsletter.

Check out the quarterly call and newsletter this summer.

## Manufactured Housing Rehabilitation and Recycling Program Grant

DSPS opened applications for the Manufactured Housing Rehabilitation and Recycling (MHRR) Program grant on Monday, March 30.

The MHRR Program awards funding to non-profit organizations for environmentally sound disposal of abandoned manufactured homes and critical repairs to owner-occupied manufactured homes. The grant is funded through fees collected from the titling of manufactured homes.

DSPS will award up to \$80,000 in MHRR funds. Homes repaired with MHRR funds must meet all applicable state and local codes, rehabilitation standards and ordinances, and zoning ordinances.

Applicants must have all materials submitted to DSPS by April 13. DSPS expects to announce the winner later this Spring.

For more information, review the [2026 application packet](#) on the MHRR Program webpage.

# Submitting Special Inspector Information

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DSPS recognizes that special inspections may be new and challenging for many stakeholders. Special inspections, as addressed in Chapter 17 of the International Building Code (IBC), were adopted in Wisconsin's implementation of the 2021 ICC codes with Wisconsin amendments in September 2025.

Due to the difficulty some applicants may have in identifying special inspectors at the time of plan submittal, DSPS has adopted a policy allowing special inspector information to be provided at a later date. However, applicants are still required to indicate in eSLA whether special inspections are required for the project.

## Permission to Start (PTS)

PTS is allowed for projects requiring special inspections. If PTS is requested, you must include, at minimum, soils and footing/foundation special inspector information with your plan submission.

## Deferring Special Inspector Information

If special inspectors have not yet been identified when completing the SBD-8102, Statement of Special Inspections, form, answer "No" to the question: *Is special inspector information available at the time of plan review?*

When "No" is selected, the following notice will appear:

*Prior to starting construction, all Special Inspector information must be provided to the agency performing commercial plan review. If plans are submitted without Special Inspector information, you must wait until conditional approval is provided and then submit a new SBD-8102, Statement of Special Inspections, as a Plan Revision via esla.wi.gov. A \$175 revision fee applies to special inspector information provided after Conditional Approval of the plan.*

If the special inspector information is not provided with the plan review, one of the Conditions of Approval will require submission of a complete SBD-8102 form identifying all required Special Inspectors. This updated SBD-8102 must be submitted to DSPS as a plan revision via esla.wi.gov prior to the start of construction.

## DSPS-Delegated Municipalities Performing Plan Review

If a DSPS-delegated municipality performs the plan review, the SBD-8102 form must be submitted directly to the delegated municipality. Revision fees established by the delegated municipality may apply.

### More Information

Check the [Guidelines for Special Inspections](#).

Review the [SBD-8102 form instructions](#).

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UPCOMING TOPICS

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

[Survey for Future Topics](#)

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## 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](https://license.wi.gov/s/license-lookup)

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## ESLA CORNER

USER GUIDE AND HELP PAGE

[dps.wi.gov/Pages/eSLAResources.aspx](https://dps.wi.gov/Pages/eSLAResources.aspx)



# Wisconsin Plumbing Code Update

The Wisconsin Plumbing Code (SPS 381-387) update package has been approved by the Governor and submitted to the Wisconsin State Legislature as of March 16, 2026. The Wisconsin Plumbing Code update package is listed under Clearinghouse Rule CR 26-019.

The Wisconsin Plumbing Code update package includes, but is not limited to, the following changes.

- ◆ Repealing SPS 325.01 and replacing those provisions within SPS 382.
- ◆ Providing clarifications to the campground piping definitions.
- ◆ Updating health care and health care-related facilities definitions.
- ◆ Updating the “lead-free” definition including new provisions within SPS 384 on how to calculate lead amounts.
- ◆ Providing clarifications to the manufactured home community piping definitions.
- ◆ Updates to various cross connection control terminology and practices which match ASSE and CSA definitions and national practices.
- ◆ Added emergency showers, eyewashes, eye/face washes, and combination units.
- ◆ Elevator threshold drains are moved out of SPS 382.33 and placed in SPS 382.30.
- ◆ The vertical distance measurement from the top of the fixture drain to the horizontal center line has been changed to now be measured from the top of the fixture drain to the trap weir.
- ◆ New provisions for campgrounds and manufactured home community piping systems such as clean out requirements, burial requirements, and inspection requirements.
- ◆ Updated temperature control requirements to include various situations in which an ASSE 1016, 1017, 1069, 1070, and 1071 are used.
- ◆ Updated Table 382.41-1 to reflect methods, devices, and assemblies used for cross connection control.
- ◆ Updated various code sections to clarify cross-connection control “device” or cross-connection control “assembly.”
- ◆ New requirement for a check valve for expansion tanks serving health care facilities.
- ◆ Corrected incorrect national standard references and eliminated standards that have been withdrawn or no longer valid.

The effective date of the Wisconsin Plumbing Code update package will take effect on the first day of the third month following publication in the Wisconsin Administrative Register.

## Looking for more code update info?

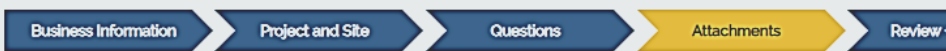
Check out the quarterly call and newsletter this summer.

# Changes to eSLA Uploads

Technology is ever changing. This is true from the tools we use in the field, to the vehicles we drive around a project site, to the computers we use in the office. Sometimes the changes are monumental and other times, you may not even notice. Much like an app on your phone, the DSPS online portal, eSLA, is a cloud-based system that must be updated periodically to maintain efficiency and implement upgrades.

Later this month, customers who upload files in an eSLA application will notice the changes below. Remember to contact [eslasupport@wisconsin.gov](mailto:eslasupport@wisconsin.gov) with questions about your eSLA submittals. We appreciate your patience as these changes are implemented and our guidance documents are updated.

**1 Attachments page.** You will need to click a new button to access the upload portal.



## Attachment

Click the Review / Upload File button to open a pop-up window where you can review attachment requirements and upload files. Within this window, you can manage the attachments including uploading new files and removing previously uploaded files, as needed. When you have finished managing your attachments, close the pop-up window to return to this page and continue with your application.

REVIEW / UPLOAD FILE

**2 Upload files.** You will be able to drag and drop files, or navigate folders to select them.

## Review / Upload Files

Click the **Upload Files** button below the relevant attachments folder to open file manager on your device to select files to upload. To select multiple files -

- CTRL + Click if you are on a Windows machine.
- CMD + Click if you are on a Mac machine.

You can also drag and drop files over the **\*Or drop files\*** button.

Upload your required documentation for **DIS-03261157**. Ensure that -

- Each document is *no larger* than 1GB in size.
- You may *upload up to 25* files to each document submission folder.
- Please *do not upload zip* files.

### Attachment(s) for DIS-03261157:

Owner's Manual, Soil Test and Plot Plan, and POWTS Plan \*

Upload Files Or drop files

**3 Attachment Requirements.** You will be able to see/remove uploaded files. Note that zip files will no longer be accepted however you will be able to upload multiple files per required attachment.

### Attachment(s) for DIS-03261157:

Owner's Manual, Soil Test and Plot Plan, and POWTS Plan \*

Upload Test.docx X

Letterhead - with program.docx X

Upload Files Or drop files

# Spray Foam vs. Plastic Sheeting as a Vapor Retarder

Building one- and two-family dwellings in Wisconsin has its challenges. Dealing with long cold winters, warm humid summers, and significant swings in moisture levels puts a well-constructed home to the test. Because of this, controlling vapor movement in wall and ceiling assemblies is critical to preventing mold, rot, and energy loss. Two of the most debated and popular approaches are spray foam insulation and polyethylene (plastic) vapor retarder. Both can play a role in managing moisture, but they behave very differently.

One question DSPS receives quite often is: "If we use spray foam in our walls, do we need a vapor retarder behind the drywall?" The answer is: "it depends."

Some argue that using closed cell spray foam and adding a 4-mil vapor retarder causes problems.

Two vapor retarders can be an issue however spray foam isn't considered a vapor retarder until it meets 50% of the required R-value in the cavity. (i.e. If R21 is required in the cavity, at least R-10.5 must be satisfied with a spray foam product.)

The key is that the vapor retarder needs to be on the warm side of the wall. Closed cell foam, that averages R-6 to R-7 per inch, can be applied to the inside of the exterior sheathing and if enough is applied, can satisfy the vapor barrier requirement. This stems from [Wis Admin Code SPS 322.38\(2\) and \(4\), Vapor Retarders:](#)

(2) FRAME ASSEMBLIES. (a) General. Except as provided under par. (c), all frame walls, frame floors and frame ceilings that comprise the thermal envelope, shall have a vapor retarder installed on the warm-in-winter side of the thermal insulation.

(4) No vapor retarder is required over cavities that have at least 50% of the required R-value provided by spray-applied foam having a perm rating of 1.0 or less, unless required by the foam manufacturer.



Photos courtesy of the Department of Energy's Building America Solution Center (<http://basc.energy.gov>)

Essentially, both spray foam and plastic vapor retarders can be effective in Wisconsin's challenging climate, but they must be used correctly. Closed-cell spray foam is a robust option, providing insulation, air sealing, and vapor control in one product. Plastic sheeting remains viable for conventional fiberglass or cellulose insulated walls.

## DIS Staff Updates

### Welcome new employees!

Theresa Tomich  
Boiler Safety Inspector

Philip Edison  
Occupational Safety Inspector

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

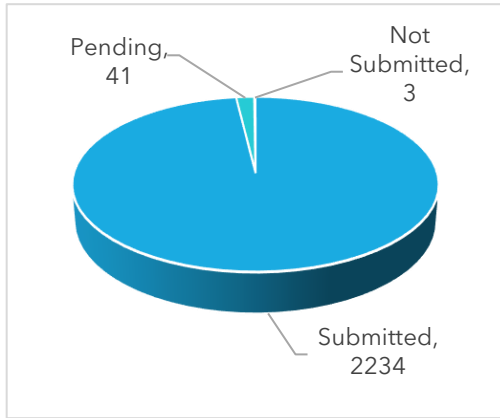
Jason Stubble  
Fire System Plan Reviewer

# 2% Fire Dues Metrics

The Fire Prevention/FD Safety & Health team is hard at work administering this year's 2% Fire Dues Self-Certifications Process and conducting fire dues funding audits to verify that our Wisconsin Fire Departments are complying with state requirements. Check out these program metrics as of April 1!

## Self-Certifications

Opened Jan 1 at midnight and closed on April 1 at midnight.



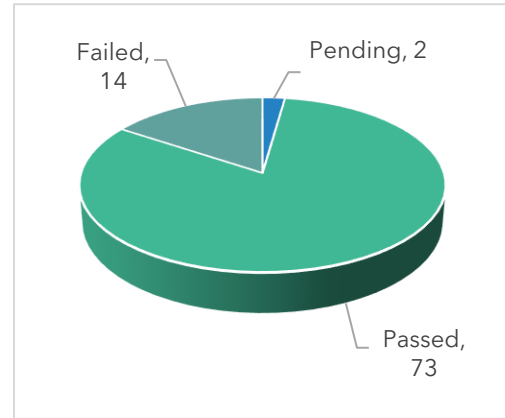
Submitted: Fire Chief/Municipal Clerk that have both submitted their self-certification.

Pending: Fire Chief or Municipality Clerk needing to submit their certification.

Not Submitted: Neither the Fire Chief nor the Municipal Clerk has submitted their certification.

## Funding Audits

Began in January and will end May 15. To date, 187 audits have been scheduled.



Passed: In compliance, no violations were found.

Failed: Not compliant, violations found.

Pending: Audit completed but still coordinating documents to determine compliance.

For those Fire Departments that were found to be not compliant, DSPS Fire Coordinators will be working with, helping, and supporting them to assist in resolving the violations found.

## Additional Contacts

Please use the [District Map](#) to identify your DSPS Fire Coordinator.

## Upcoming: Boiler Industry Days 2026

The Wisconsin Boiler Inspector's Association (WBIA) is taking registrations for this year's Boiler Industry Days!

The conference takes place over 2 days and will provide DSPS and OSHA updates, as well as cover topics such as AI and emerging technology.

**When:** April 22 and 23

**Where:** La Crosse Center, 300 Harborview Plaza, La Crosse, WI 54601

Visit <https://www.thewbia.org> for more information.

# Tech Box Questions

DIS maintains program-specific email inboxes (Tech Box) 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 Box! Use the appropriate email to ensure a timely response to your question. View the [full list of Tech Box emails here!](#) See examples below of actual customer questions submitted to our tech boxes!

Dear DSPS Building Tech,

I am designing a project with a 50-unit (R-2) apartment and 80 parking stalls. 40 are surface stalls and the other 40 are under the building. There is 1 accessible surface stall and another accessible stall under the building. Can the van accessible stall be placed outside?

Signed,  
Parking Stalls

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Dear Parking Stalls,

It is correct that at least one surface parking space and at least one garage parking space shall be accessible. Of the two spaces, at least one shall be a van-accessible parking space. In the scenario provided, the van accessible parking space may be provided with the surface parking.

For additional information, please see IBC 1106.3 for Groups I-1, R-1, R-2, R-3, and R-4, and IBS 1106.6 for Van Spaces.

- DSPS Building Tech

Dear DSPS Boiler Tech,

My company is working through the construction permitting requirements to install a standby diesel generator system for a commercial building and have been instructed to complete Form SBD-9656.

This form is specific to gas systems and I don't think I should sign and certify a Gas System Certificate of Installation form as it does not relate to my project scope. Please provide guidance on how I should proceed.

Signed,  
Diesel Generator Project

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Dear Diesel Generator Project,

The SBD-9656 form is not required due to this being a diesel generator and the tank not being pressurized. The Gas Systems Code, SPS 340, pertains to LPG, LNG, CNG, LH2, and GH2 systems, as well as the vehicle fueling systems associated with those fuels.

I recommend reviewing the Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP) [registration requirements](#) for your project.

- DSPS Boiler Tech

# Wisconsin Sound Off: Transforming Fire Safety Through Student Education and Home Action

DSPS is proud to highlight the impactful implementation of the National Sound Off Program, a research-based initiative designed to reduce fire fatalities through a unique "school-to-home" connection. Funded by FEMA and the Michigan Public Health Institute, this program targets second and third-grade students, empowering them to become "Fire Safety Officers" within their own households. By focusing on three core pillars: education; action; and hardware, Sound Off ensures that young learners understand the life-saving difference between a smoke alarm's "beep" (fire) and its "chirp" (low battery) while providing the tools necessary to keep their families safe.

The necessity of this program is underscored by a sobering reality - many fire fatalities occur in homes lacking functional smoke alarms. Our most vulnerable population, children and seniors, are at significant risk. Sound Off addresses this gap by utilizing a data-driven approach. Students participate in classroom activities that meet educational standards, then bring home a Safety Patrol checklist. This process allows families to identify safety deficits and request professional assistance, bridging the gap between classroom theory and real-world home protection.



During the 2023-2024 initiative, DSPS collaborated with a "Core Five" group of partner cities to pilot this life-saving model. Fire departments in Madison, Wausau, Appleton, West Allis, and West Bend, serving as our primary administrators, deliver direct education to local schools and conduct home installations in high-risk neighborhoods. These pilot sites have been instrumental in refining the program's delivery, ensuring that the curriculum is both culturally relevant and effectively integrated into the daily operations of Wisconsin's fire service professionals.

The program's mechanics are designed for maximum community impact and equity. Once a student identifies a missing or non-working alarm through their home patrol, the local fire department schedules a Home Safety Visit. During these visits, firefighters install free 10-year lithium battery smoke alarms, which eliminate the common "chirping battery" issue for a full decade. This, with the cost of modern safety hardware, is provided with the highest standard of protection and a personalized two-minute escape plan tailored to their specific home layout.

For our fire departments, Sound Off represents a sophisticated shift toward Community Risk Reduction (CRR). Rather than focusing solely on fire suppression, departments are using real-time data from the Sound Off Online (SOO) platform to track installations and measure effectiveness. This proactive engagement fosters deep trust between firefighters and the families they serve. By standardizing the curriculum across the state, Wisconsin is building a unified front against fire-related tragedies, ensuring that every department has access to proven, high-quality educational resources.

Looking ahead, the vision for DSPS is to expand this successful model beyond the initial five cities to every fire department across the state. Through continued collaboration and the availability of new eLearning courses for fire instructors, we are committed to making fire safety education a universal standard. Our goal in Wisconsin is where every child is equipped with the knowledge to protect their home, and where every household is secured by a working alarm. As we often say, "A smoke alarm only works if it is heard and understood. Sound Off ensures both."



# DIS Open Positions

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

## Fire System Plan Reviewer

This position is responsible for consultation and review of complex technical applications of fire protection systems, regulation issues, and enforcement of the contractor certification, fire alarm, detection, and suppression codes. Qualified candidates have experience with the design, installation, and/or the review of systems for automatic fire sprinkler, building fire alarm, or alternate fire extinguishing. *Job ID 20446*

## New 2025 Wisconsin Amendment with 2021 ICC Code adoption

### Inspection and Testing of Fire and Smoke Dampers

The new 2021 ICC Code adoption now includes initial testing of fire and smoke dampers per Wisconsin amendment SPS 361.03(16), as required under NFPA. Persons conducting initial inspections and testing shall be certified by a program accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). The ANSI certification is a stand-alone requirement not associated with a DSPS license or credential. Initial inspection and testing documentation shall be onsite and available to the AHJ upon request.

**SPS 361.03(16) Inspection and Testing of Fire and Smoke Dampers.** The initial inspection and testing of fire and smoke dampers required under NFPA 1, NFPA 80 - 2019, and NFPA 105 - 2019 shall be conducted by a person with current fire life safety certification from a program accredited by the American National Standards Institute.



## Recent Enforcement Actions

- A Notice of Violations and Order was entered against a fire department concerning fire safety violations.
- A Stop Use Order was entered against a City of Mosinee commercial building for sprinkler system and fire alarm violations.

*Recent enforcement actions continued on next page*

## Recent Enforcement Actions Continued

- A Stop Use Order was entered against a City of Green Bay commercial pool due to pool code violations.
- A Notice of Violations and Order was entered against a town of River Falls commercial building that had undergone a change of use, construction, and alterations without the proper plan submittal and code compliance.
- A Notice of Violations and Order was entered against a town of Hixon commercial building that had been constructed without submitting building plans and having no inspections.
- A Notice of Violations and Order was entered against a town of Kinnickinnic commercial building that had undergone a change of use without proper plan submittal and no inspections.
- A Notice of Violations and Order was entered against a town of Hillsboro commercial building that had been constructed without submitting building plans and having no inspections.
- A Stop Use Order was entered against a City of Arcadia commercial building for electrical and plumbing code violations. Additionally, a Notice of Violations and Order was entered against the site as it had also undergone a change of use, construction, and alterations without submitting building plans.
- The Department limited a journeyman electrician license due to a criminal conviction related to their profession.
- The Department limited a welder registration due to a criminal conviction related to their profession.
- A Stop Use Order was entered against a City of Prairie du Chien commercial building relating to stairs that were in extreme disrepair.
- A Notice of Violations and Order was entered against a City of Prairie du Chien commercial building relating to the building falling out of compliance with the commercial building code.
- A Notice of Violations and Order was entered against a fire department concerning fire safety violations.
- The Department limited an automatic fire sprinkler apprentice credential due to a criminal conviction and impairment that may impact their profession.
- The Department limited a registered electrician credential due to a criminal conviction and impairment that may impact their profession.
- The Department limited a plumbing apprentice license due to a criminal conviction and impairment that may impact their profession.
- A Notice of Violations and Order was entered against a City of Menomonie manufactured home community concerning manufactured home community code violations.
- The Department entered a forfeiture against a De Pere individual for engaging in plumbing and advertising plumbing services without a license.
- The Department limited a registered electrician credential due to a criminal conviction and impairment that may impact their profession.
- The Department limited a dwelling contractor qualifier credential due to a criminal conviction and impairment that may impact their profession.