

Electrical inspection procedures for portable and temporary power distribution

Frequently asked questions

1. What is the responsibility of the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry (DLI)?

DLI is responsible for inspecting all electrical wiring and equipment for transient events such as carnivals, circuses, inflatables, festivals, film and television production sites, and road construction projects. Portable generators and power distribution must be inspected at every setup. Each ride, concession or similar unit must be inspected at or before its first operation of the season. Equipment must be in compliance before it is energized and used.

2. What is the responsibility of the user?

Users of portable power distribution systems are responsible for notifying tDLI 14 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 DLI 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 in the online [Jurisdiction Directory](#).

5. How do I request an electrical inspection?

Before requesting an electrical inspection, complete a transitory permit application online. For more information, visit the DLI [portable and temporary power](#) webpage. After receiving your permit, you can schedule an inspection with the electrical inspector.

6. Do I need an inspection every year?

An initial inspection is required at or before the first setup of 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 1 or the first operation in Minnesota, whichever is later. Please refer to [Minn. Stat. § 184B](#).

12. How much does an electrical inspection cost?

The inspection fee per generator or source of supply at each setup.

| Generator or other source of supply | Inspection fee |
|---|----------------|
| 0 amp to and including 400 amp capacity | \$35 |
| 401 amp to and including 800 amp capacity | \$60 |
| Above 800 amp capacity | \$100 |

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

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

| Unit ampere capacity | Inspection fee |
|----------------------------|----------------|
| Up to and including 60 amp | \$35 |
| Over 60 amp | \$40 |

Inspections made on Saturdays, Sundays, holidays or outside regular business hours are billed at the hourly rate of \$80, with a one-hour minimum, in addition to the previously stated fees.

Additional charges apply if a reinspection is required.

CAUTION: This information is not a complete resource for electrical work. Additional training and guidance are required to ensure installations comply with the National Electrical Code and to reduce fire and electric shock hazards.

Examples of temporary portable electrical distribution equipment

National Electrical Code Article

Disconnecting Means

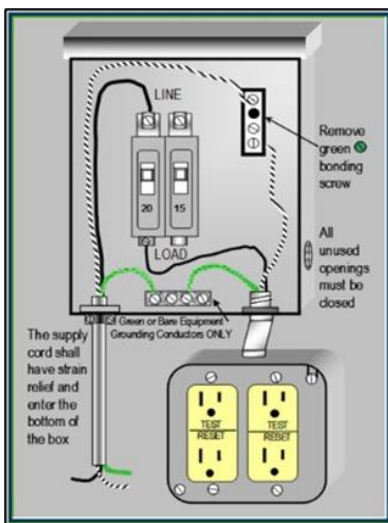
Every concession, game, or similar attraction or unit must have an enclosed fusible disconnect switch or circuit breaker in or adjacent to each exhibitor's space which will disconnect all power

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

Is listed open neutral protection required?

mi DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY

