

Electrical inspection requirements for transitory operations

Vehicles and trailers requiring electrical inspection at transient events

The Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) is responsible for inspecting all electrical wiring and equipment for transient events such as carnivals, circuses, inflatable amusements, festivals, film and TV production sites and road construction projects. Large portable mobile generators and power distribution cables, or cords must be inspected at each setup. Each ride, concession, food truck, mobile food unit or similar that is part of the above-mentioned transient event must be inspected at or before its initial operation each year. Equipment must comply before it is energized and put into use.

Vehicles and trailers exempt from inspection

- Vehicles or trailers that don't use portable or site distribution power at transient events and have built-in or self-contained generators or power sources.
- For manufactured vehicles and/or trailers that contain electrical equipment that are utilized outside of transient events. The department is only responsible for inspecting the receptacle(s) or distribution terminations supplying the portable unit(s).
 - The department will not require an independent testing agency, listing or approval for the transient vehicle or trailer. The wiring installation and reliability of the electrical system is the responsibility of the owner and manufacturer of the unit.

Can an operator request an electrical inspection for units not being utilized at a transient event?

Yes, inspections of food trucks, concession trailers, mobile food units or similar units can be arranged in advance at any time of year by contacting the department. Inspections can be performed at any mutually agreeable time and location. Identified code violations will be documented on an inspection report form and a copy is provided to the user of the equipment. Equipment must be in compliance and reinspected before it is energized and put into use. The following items will be verified during the electrical inspection:

Checklist

- Check for separation of grounds and neutrals.
- Check continuity to ground on the frame.
- Point to point ground continuity inside food trailer or truck.
- Cord size and type when connected to shore power.
- GFCI protection.

- Make sure cover plates are installed, junction boxes are covered, panel covers are installed and all openings are closed.
- Open the panel cover to verify conductor size, conductor type and size of overcurrent protection. Also verify that all unused openings are closed and how they enter the panel.
- All exposed wiring methods are compliant and secured properly.
- Inspections will be limited to the events listed above that will have attendance of 100 or more people.

IMPORTANT: The department is not liable for any concealed wiring.

Are food trucks subject to yearly electrical inspection?

Yes, a minimal inspection of food trucks connected to shore power at events listed above is required.

Checklist:

- GFCI protection.
- Make sure cover plates are installed, junction boxes are covered, panel covers are installed and all openings are closed.
- Point to point ground continuity inside food trailer or truck.
- All exposed wiring methods are compliant and secured properly.

IMPORTANT: This is a visual inspection. The department is not liable for any factory wiring or any concealed wiring.