DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY

Permanent holiday/accent lighting

This bulletin addresses common questions regarding the installation of permanent roofline lighting systems, including systems marketed as permanent holiday lighting. These systems typically consist of LED modules or light strips mounted along rooflines, eaves, soffits or other building surfaces and are intended to remain installed year-round.

Licensing requirements are based on the classification of the power source. Any equipment not specifically labeled with a class shall be considered Class 1. Equipment must be listed and approved for the intended installation and installed in accordance with the applicable electrical code and manufacturer's instructions.

These licensing requirements also apply to plug-in permanent lighting systems. The use of a plug-in power supply does not exempt an installation from electrical licensing requirements.

Electrical work and licensing requirements

Permanent holiday/accent lighting systems, whether Class 1 (line voltage) or Class 2 and Class 3 (low voltage), constitute electrical work and are subject to Minnesota electrical licensing requirements.

Minnesota Statutes, section 326B.31, subd. 17, defines electrical work as follows:

> *Subd. 17.Electrical work. "Electrical work" means the installing, altering, repairing, planning, or laying out of electrical wiring, apparatus, or equipment for electrical light, heat, power, technology circuits or systems, or other purposes. The installing, altering, repairing, planning, or laying out of electrical wiring, apparatus, or equipment for electrical light, heat, power, technology circuits or systems, or other purposes includes, but is not limited to, the performance of any work regulated by the standards referred to in section 326B.35.*

No company or business shall perform or offer to perform the installation of permanent holiday/accent lighting systems without being a licensed electrical contractor per Minnesota Statutes, section 326B.31, subd. 14:

> *Subd. 14.Contractor. "Contractor" means a person who performs or offers to perform any electrical work, with or without compensation, who is licensed as a contractor by the commissioner. A contractor's license does not of itself qualify its holder to perform or supervise the electrical work authorized by holding any class of electrician's or other personal license. Contractor includes electrical contractors, satellite system contractors, and technology system contractors.*

Businesses performing or offering to perform permanent holiday/accent lighting installations must hold the appropriate Minnesota electrical contractor license. Individuals performing the work must also meet applicable personal licensing, registration and supervision requirements under Minnesota Statutes, section 326B.33.

Electrical work must be performed by an appropriately licensed individual (master electrician or journeyworker electrician) or a registered unlicensed W-2 employee working under the required supervision of a licensed individual employed by a Minnesota Class A electrical contractor or Minnesota technology systems contractor, as applicable.

Class 1 lighting systems

Electrical permits and inspections are required for Class 1 lighting systems. These systems must be installed by appropriately licensed individuals or registered unlicensed W-2 employees working under the direct supervision of a licensed individual employed by a Minnesota Class A electrical contractor.

Class 2 and Class 3 lighting systems (low voltage)

Electrical permits and inspections are generally not required for qualifying Class 2 and Class 3 lighting systems installed in residential dwellings. However, applicable electrical licensing requirements still apply.

These systems must be installed by appropriately licensed individuals or registered unlicensed W-2 employees working under supervision of a licensed individual employed by a Minnesota Class A electrical contractor or Minnesota technology systems contractor, as applicable.

Equipment listing and classification

The classification of a lighting system must be determined in accordance with the applicable electrical code and the equipment's listing. Voltage and wattage alone do not establish that a system qualifies as Class 2 or Class 3.

The power supply and associated equipment must be listed for the intended application, and the installation must comply with applicable electrical code requirements and manufacturer's instructions.

View equipment approval requirements here.

Additional licensing information

Additional information regarding technology systems licensing requirements and inspections is available in the following documents:

- General summary of licensing and inspections.
- Electrical licensing and inspection chart.
- Important information for power-limited technicians.
- Important information for technology system contractors.