

Effective October 10, 2008

A long awaited change to the Electrical Code was approved by City Council effective September 1, 2008. This involves a shop inspection for those signs that are electrically wired to standards of an approved agency.

The Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratories (NRTL) is designated by Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) which is part of the U.S. Department of Labor. The NRTL web site will provide a listing of all approved agencies. Visit <http://www.osha.gov/dts/otpca/nrtl/index.html>, or perform a browser search for "NRTL" (case-insensitive).

This change allows Sign Administration to not charge for a shop inspection for an electrical sign that has an approved agency label, as long as it is declared at the plan review stage. The approved agency label number(s) must be indicated on the applicable drawing(s). The number(s) must match the label(s) on the sign, as the electrical inspector will be verifying for the approved agency label(s) on the sign. In an effort to expedite your installation, you will not be required to call in a shop inspection.

If a decision is made to exercise this option after plans pass review, the assigned Reviewer, or their supervisor, must be notified in-writing (e.g., email) so that arrangements can be made for a Plan Reexam (fee required).

Some contractors may choose to bypass this process and elect for a shop inspection even if the sign has a label. Complete your electrical application to indicate both shop and install inspection; business as usual. A ship-in sign, and a sign built to an approved agency standard, will be treated the same.

For a sign that spans several raceways/wireways: Each separate raceway/wireway as well as each remote power supply/transformer will require a separate approved agency label.

For individual letters: Each letter will require an approved agency label, as will each transformer/power supply.

If using the no-shop process (approved agency label), the label has (or labels have) to be visible from the ground, as this is the only way the electrical inspector can validate the label(s) during the electrical final inspection. There will be some of your customers who will not want a label seen; in that case, you will need to proceed with having a shop inspection performed and pay for a shop inspection.

An install/final inspection continues to be required.