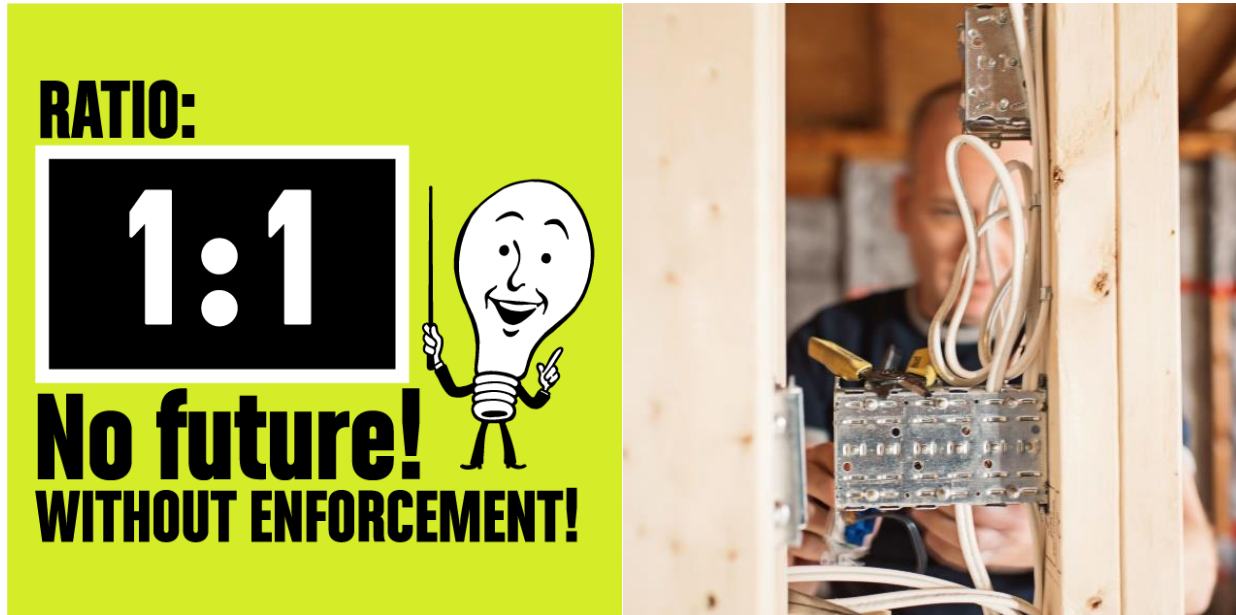


**The Inspector of Wires Duties in MA – MGL 166 s. 32, MGL 166 s. 32A,
MGL 143 s. 3L**



There are several hundred Inspectors of Wires in Massachusetts's 294 towns and 57 cities, with ten of them in Boston alone.

In Massachusetts, the Inspector of Wires has many roles:

- Working with town, city, and state officials
- Inspecting new electrical installations in his appointed city/town.
- Protecting the consumer from electrical hazards, both new and old.
- Investigating electrical fires
- Going to court
- Keeping a frontline eye and ear out for unlicensed work taking place in his/her town or city, thus keeping the electrical industry strong and safe, as well as keeping the work for the profession's licensed electricians.

- Reporting unlicensed work to State Investigation Unit and County criminal court
- Educating the electrician about his/her State Laws and Board Regulations
- Enforcing State laws and Board regulations
- Ensuring that Journeyman electricians, Master electricians, electrical corporations, and electrical partnerships follow their own State Laws and Board Regulations.
- Reporting electrical hazards to owner of property
- Filing complaints with State Investigation Unit and county criminal court
- Acting as front-line eyes and ears for the electrical industry
- Protecting the consumer
- Staying current on the electrical code by completing the required twenty-seven hours MCE
- Checking for electrical permits
- Working with local electrical utilities
- Providing education on a variety of topics at inspector meetings
- Tending to electrical emergencies twenty-four hours per day
- Acting professional at all times

The Inspector's job is not easy. In fact, if it is, you are probably not doing something right.

Inspectors are doing a great job and should continue to educate electricians in a few areas:

1. **The big Ratio problem in MA.** Increasingly fewer electricians at jobs sites are licensed, due to lack of enforcement in the state. This can make it a challenge to monitor the enforcement of MGL 141 s. 8 law. The 1:1 Ratio problem currently affects the whole electrical industry today. Every day the MGL 141 s. 8 law is broken, and it needs to stop now! The trade will be without electricians if we don't enforce the law today! We can't overstate the importance of education about this matter.

- 2. Keeping boundaries between the Inspector and the electrician.** Is it in your interest to become friends with the electricians on the job site? It is okay to be friendly with electricians on the site. However, a clear boundary needs to exist between the inspector and the electrician. An inspector has the right to walk on any job site and make sure electricians are following State Laws and Board Regulations. If you become close friends with an electrician and then need to take him to court, it doesn't look good for any city or town official. It is important, therefore, to stay neutral in order to enforce state laws and regulations necessary to make jobs safe and legal.
- 3. Liability.** As an electrician, you must follow State Laws and Board Regulations. Could the Inspector of Wires be liable for NOT following and enforcing his/her State Laws and Board Regulations? The answer is yes.
- 4. Conflict of interest.** An Inspector of Wires shall not inspect his own work.
- 5. Unlicensed workers.** It is a problem that an electrician loses a bid on a big job due to the winning bidder planning to use apprentices instead of licensed electricians on the job. Licensed electricians who go to work will lose opportunities for work.
- 6. Young apprentices.** Young apprentices are not getting the proper training today. Our Inspectors of Wires enforce the State Laws and Board Regulations today, ensuring a future for licensed electricians for tomorrow. Unfortunately, too many apprentices are working on Massachusetts job sites. MGL 141 s. 8 says the apprentice should be under direct supervision of a licensed Massachusetts electrician at all times. It is unsafe for an apprentice to not be under direct supervision of a licensed electrician. Additionally, because this is against state law, the apprentice compromises his chance to become licensed. This begins with YOU! We have NO future for licensed electricians unless YOU, the Inspector of Wires, enforces state laws in Massachusetts today! We all wonder why young apprentices don't choose the electrical trade. It is because a future career for licensed electricians in Massachusetts does not exist if the State Laws and Board regulations are NOT enforced in Massachusetts. Please enforce State Laws and Board Regulations today!

The Inspector of Wires may choose to only inspect new electrical installations and not to educate electricians on the job site or to enforce state laws. While this would satisfy some consumer protections policies, the electrical industry would not get the help it needs. The future of the profession starts with educating everybody today. This includes the Inspector of Wires, electrical teachers, electrical associations, electrical unions. They must support and protect the electrical industry for all! Let's not get caught up in the past. The future of the electrical industry starts today.