



Oregon

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Building Codes Division Statewide Interpretation

PROGRAM: Electrical Program
SUBJECT: GROUNDING ELECTRODES
SOURCE: 2005 Oregon Electrical Specialty Code
REFERENCE: OAR 918-305-0160(4)
DATE OF ISSUE: Re-Issue April 1, 2005
PREPARED BY: John Powell
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QUESTION: Is it permissible to install two rod or pipe electrodes to ground a service for a newly constructed building where the connection to the reinforcing bar of the concrete encased electrode is removed?

ANALYSIS:

OAR 918-305-0160(4) states that “ On new construction where concrete reinforcing bars or rods are installed in the concrete footing, a concrete encased grounding electrode system shall be installed per Section 250.50. When a concrete encased electrode system is used, a minimum size of ½-inch reinforcing bar or rod shall be stubbed up at least 12 inches above the floor plate line or floor level, whichever is the highest, near the service entrance panel location.”

DETERMINATION:

Rod or pipe electrodes shall not be used in place of a required concrete encased electrode. It shall be permissible to use any of the grounding electrodes allowed in 250.52 of the 2005 NEC, where the inspection of the required concrete encased electrode did not occur.

It is not recommended to damage the integrity of a footing by jack hammering sections to expose reinforcing bars for the purpose of connecting an grounding electrode conductor.