



Building Codes Division's
Northwest Regional Office
serves contractors
and local building
departments in
Clatsop, Columbia,
Clackamas, Multnomah,
Washington, Tillamook,
and Hood River counties.

Portland-area phone:
(503) 872-6731

BCD to hold electrical code forum

The state Building Codes Division is sponsoring an electrical code forum on Wednesday, April 18, from 1-5 p.m. in the Board Room of the Multnomah Building, 501 SE Hawthorne St., Portland.

This forum is the first of a three-part series presented by the division's acting chief electrical inspector, Dennis Clements. Upcoming forums are scheduled for July 25 and Nov. 14 (time to be announced). The series will address rule and law updates, grounding and bonding, wiring methods, and "Common Misconceptions Parts I, II, and III."

Qualified participants may earn four hours of code-related credit for continuing education (master builders), four hours of Construction Contractors Board (CCB) credit (home inspectors), or four hours of code-change credit for BCD electrical licensees.

The purpose of forums is to discuss code applications and reach consensus on acceptable installation and inspection standards for the tri-county region and for the state. All area electricians, contractors, remodelers, architects, and building-department personnel are invited. ▲

BCD issues an alternate method ruling

Snap switch with non-conductive yoke

No.: EL 07-01

Code section: 404.9(B)

Code edition: NFPA 70, 2005 National Electrical Code

Date: March 22, 2007

Subject: Snap switch with non-conductive yoke

Requested by: Cheetah USA

Background

Current language in article 404.9(B) reads in part, "Snap switches ... shall be effectively grounded, and shall provide a means to ground metal faceplates, whether or not a metal faceplate is installed."

Cheetah USA proposes an alternate method of installing its patent pending, proprietary assembly of snap switches. This integral system of box, device, and plate has no conductive part to ground, and the device and plate are not interchangeable with any other electrical products.

The Cheetah product is Electrical Testing Laboratory (ETL) certified. This alternate method recognizes that since the device yoke is not conductive, there is no need to attach a grounding conductor, just to meet the requirement of code section 404.9(B).

Advisory Board

The Electrical and Elevator Board was consulted. The board approved the technical and scientific facts pertinent to the use of this alternate installation method.

Division Ruling

The snap switch assembly developed by Cheetah USA and certified by ETL may be used without the attachment of a grounding conductor as an alternate method to NEC code section 404.9(B), and ORSC article E37- 404.9(B). Provisions of 250.148 must be met.

Contact

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News flash

Upcoming
electrical code
forums:

July 25
and
Nov. 14

Lake Oswego, Cannon Beach, and Corvallis join state's e-permitting site

Contractors throughout Oregon can now save time, miles, and construction delays by obtaining permits online. The Building Codes Division's one-stop e-permitting Web site, www.buildingpermits.Oregon.gov, allows contractors to apply and pay for permits from home, the office, or even the job site.

The City of Cannon Beach became the first north coast jurisdiction to offer mechanical and plumbing permits through the site in February. Lake Oswego joined the site in March, and Corvallis joined in April offering over-the-counter electrical, mechanical, and plumbing permits.

These three jurisdictions join 11 other building departments across Oregon that are partnering with the state to offer online permitting.

The e-permitting program is part of Gov. Kulongoski's regulatory streamlining initiative. House Bill 2405, introduced at the request of the governor during this legislative session, would expand the existing pilot program to create the nation's first comprehensive statewide e-building program to allow contractors to conduct more building department activities, such as receiving plan approval and scheduling inspections, online, morning, noon, and night, with any city or county in the state.

Other building departments that are participating in www.BuildingPermits.Oregon.gov include seven jurisdictions in the Portland metropolitan area, three in Lane County, and the City of Medford. Salem, Marion, Yamhill and Jefferson counties, Redmond, Newberg, and Woodburn are just a few of the jurisdictions that are in the process of joining.

Both the participating jurisdictions and contractors praise the e-permitting program. City and county building officials enjoy providing enhanced customer service, and contractors report that the site saves them time and the hassle of faxing forms and driving to the permit office. ▲

Buy *multiple* permits from these building departments at BuildingPermits.oregon.gov:
Portland, Hillsboro, Milwaukie,
Corvallis, Eugene, Springfield,
Beaverton, Oregon City,
Medford, and Lane,
Multnomah, Clackamas, and
Washington counties.

440-2725 (4/07/COM)

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