



Clackamas
Multnomah
Washington
COUNTIES

A BCD field office, the Tri-County Service Center administers the minor label program and coordinates forms, processes, and application of code for building programs in Clackamas, Multnomah, & Washington counties.

Tri-County Service Center

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Building Codes Division

Web site www.oregonbcd.org



News *Flash*

A quarterly newsletter for electricians and electrical contractors

April-June 2004

NECA to sponsor April 28 code forum

The National Electrical Contractors Association is sponsoring a free forum on electrical code issues, 4-7 p.m., Wednesday, April 28, in the Board Room of the Multnomah Building, 500 S.E. Hawthorne St., Portland.

Architects may earn three hours of HSW credit for attending; master builders may earn three hours of continuing education credit; home inspectors may earn three hours of CCB credit; and electrical licensees may earn two hours of continuing education credits from BCD. The Electrical Board has approved tri-county code forums for continuing education units under certain circumstances: Because Oregon Administrative Rules allow for credit only in four-hour increments, the Electrical Board has agreed to allow

hours to accumulate for these forums, but credits can be claimed only if the person seeking CEU credit participates in four hours or more of forums.

The purpose of the forums is to discuss code applications and reach consensus on acceptable standards for the tri-county region. All area electricians, contractors, remodelers, architects, and building-department personnel are invited and may submit questions to the code forum by sending e-mail to joanie.m.stevens.schwenger@state.or.us or faxing questions to the center, (503) 872-6735. An answer-request form is available on the BCD Web site, www.oregonbcd.org. Click on "Tri-County" and then "Code Forum Program." ▲

Code chief issues interpretations

The state's electrical code chief, John Powell, issued the following interpretations for statewide application.

Tri-County Temp Control posed this question for interpretation at the Nov. 20, 2003 code forum. The interpretation was issued February 1, 2004.

REFERENCE: Oregon Revised Statute

QUESTION: OAR 918-282-0040(c) allows limited maintenance specialty contractors HVAC/R (LHR) to make electrical modifications. Does this mean a licensed LHR contractor can add a switch or receptacle for an air cleaner or condensate pump to a 125-volt rated HVAC appliance?

ANALYSIS: The specific language of OAR 918-282-0040(c) states a limited maintenance specialty contractor HVAC/R (LHR), "shall only make electrical modifications or install electrical products where the modification, the size or the type of the product installed is approved by the manufacturer for the equipment involved."

DETERMINATION: This interpretation applies to HVAC appliances rated 125-volts or less and does not allow the LHR contractor to install a

new branch circuit or modify, replace, either the branch circuit or overcurrent protective device located in the panelboard.

A properly licensed LHR contractor may install a 125-volt, 15- or 20-amp rated receptacle or disconnect switch to an existing 125-volt, 15- or 20-amp rated HVAC appliance branch circuit. The receptacle or switch shall be installed for the purpose of the HVAC appliance and used for an electronic cleaner, humidifier, condensate pump, etc. The receptacle or switch shall be installed on or adjacent to the associated HVAC appliance and shall be installed only for the purpose of the HVAC appliance. Additionally, the total connected load, including the HVAC appliance, shall not exceed 80 percent of the rating of the branch circuit.

Fault Current — This Building Codes Division Statewide Interpretation was issued February 9, 2004. The question was submitted by NECA and Washington County

REFERENCE: 110.9, 110.10 of the 2002 National Electrical Code, Oregon Administrative Rule 918-311-0040

Continued ...



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News flash

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"Notify!"

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Questions? Call Mark Munson, Web coordinator (503) 373-7404.

QUESTION: How are the requirements of 110.9 and 110.10 concerning fault current ratings applied?

ANALYSIS: 110.9 of the 2002 National Electrical Code (NEC) provides equipment intended to interrupt current at fault levels shall be sufficient for the current that must be interrupted. 110.10 requires that over-current protective devices, total impedance, short-circuit current ratings and other characteristics of the circuit to be protected shall be selected and coordinated to permit the circuit protective device to clear a fault without extensive damage to the electrical components of the circuit. Additionally, Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) 918-311-0040(c)(C) requires that available fault current at the service equipment be noted on electrical plans submitted for plan review.

The purpose of this interpretation is to provide general guidelines to the inspector and contractor/electrician/owner.

DETERMINATION: The requirements to calculate and mitigate fault current set forth in 110.9 and 110.10 of the 2002 NEC shall be met by the methods described below and include all contributions induced by utilization equipment. This interpretation applies to voltages of 600 volts or less, phase to phase. For installations over 600 volts, follow the requirements of the design engineer.

1) Calculate the available fault current at the service equipment and at all required overcurrent protection devices where the available fault current is found to be more than 10,000 amps. Calculation of circuits with an available fault current 10,000 amps or less shall not be required.

Overcurrent protection devices shall be fully rated or series-rated for the available fault current.

- 2) Where the calculated available fault current at the last required branch-circuit overcurrent protection device intended to protect wiring or equipment exceeds 10,000 amps, required branch-circuit overcurrent protection devices shall be fully rated or series-rated for available fault current.
- 3) System design, layout, and/or current limiting devices, while not required, may be used to mitigate the available fault current at utilization equipment and thus reduce the possibility of equipment damage should a fault occur. Inspectors shall note any concerns on the inspection report to the contractor.
- 4) Although designers may be required to demonstrate that these requirements have been met, Oregon Administrative Rule does not require fault current calculations beyond the service equipment as part of a plan review. ▲

Mark your calendar
for the Fall & Winter
code forums!

• September 9 • December 9

Electrical code forums take place on Thursdays, 4-7 p.m, at the Multnomah Building, 501 S.E. Hawthorne St., Portland. ▲

Sun	Mon
1	2
8	9

440-2725 (4/04/COM)

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