



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

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NECA to sponsor September 9 code forum

The National Electrical Contractors Association is sponsoring a free forum on electrical-code issues, 4-7 p.m., Thursday, September 9, in the Board Room of the Multnomah Building, 500 SE Hawthorne Street, Portland.

Qualified attendees may earn three hours of HSW credit (architects), three hours of continuing-education credit (master builders), three hours of CCB credit (home inspectors), or two hours of continuing-education credits (electrical licensees) from BCD, which can be claimed only if the person seeking CEU credit participates in four or more hours of forums.

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. ▲

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April 28 code forum update

The state's electrical code chief, John Powell, gave the following update on administrative rules:

918-261-0036 – Exemption for Transformers: Exempts from certification transformers over 600 volts that are built to or conform with IEEE C57.12.00 standards or standards used by a public utility as defined in ORS 757.005.

918-261-0037 – Exemption for Traffic Management Systems: Exempts from certification traffic management systems approved by ODOT and maintained on ODOT's qualified-products list.

918-261-0038 – Exemption for Manufactured Construction Services: Exempts from licensing the placement of manufactured construction services of 100 amperes, 240 volts single-phase or less. This exemption only applies to manufactured services used during construction.

918-261-0039 – Exemption for Products Located on the Load Side of a Listed Class 2 Transformer: Exempts from product certification for installation Class 2 products, other than wiring, located on the load side of a listed Class 2 transformer.

918-309-000 – Electrical Permits: Adds telecommunication providers to the list of those who may purchase electrical permits. It was noted that corrections are still required, even if the permit has expired.

918-309-0210 – Use of Minor Installation Labels: Adds to the list of those who may purchase minor installation labels:

- A limited renewable energy contractor
 - A limited pump installation specialty contractor
 - A limited energy contractor
 - A registered telecommunications service provider
- Minor labels shall not be used for underground installations; installations that require a cover inspection; installations involving GFCI or AFCI devices other than 15 or 20 amp, 125-volt receptacles and circuit

breaker; and installations that are covered by Chapter 5 or Article 680 (swimming pools, fountains, or similar installations).

918-309-0220 Scope of Electrical Work Allowed with Minor Installation Label: Under Section 1 Subsection (c), it was noted that pulling a meter is not considered a reconnect. Under Section 1 Subsection (e) it was noted that contractors are no longer required to send a letter to the jurisdiction regarding GFCI devices allowed under the minor label scope of work. John reported that GFCI devices should be installed where needed, such as kitchens and bathrooms when doing replacements in older homes built prior to the GFCI requirement.

Re: Changing a plug or switch: Specialty Code does not require new wiring when changing a plug or switch. GFCI is required on a two-wire system replacement but not on a three-wire system. A minor label may be used.

Section 2 Subsection (f): Replacement of defective ballast. Replacement includes "like for like," not T5 for T12, etc.

Section 3 Subsection (a): Expands scope of work allowed for installation, repair, and replacement in new or existing construction of one- and two-family dwellings to include HVAC; telephone; garage door; vacuum systems; doorbells; burglar and fire alarm and security systems; and audio/stereo systems not exceeding 100 volt-amperes, in Class 2 or 3 installations.

Section 5: Adds repair and maintenance of renewable electrical Section 6: Adds repair, replacement, and maintenance of installed pump or irrigation systems of the same horsepower and voltage as set forth in ORS 479-630(13).

Powell reported that Pacific Power and Light will no longer energize a panel that does not have a hard cover installed.

Continued ...



News flash

Contractors and building-department personnel may submit questions to the code forum by sending e-mail to christie.l.triplett@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."

Q and A

Powell approved the following for statewide application.

Q When changing out a panel with a main breaker and 25 branch circuits, would a contractor have to permit the 25 branch circuits?

A No, unless branch circuits are extended or altered. Please see OAR 918-309-0040 (6), 918-309-0060.

Q A 200-amp service will be changed out in a house in which the circuit breakers are in the meter main. Is a "branch-circuit" permit required for each branch circuit that goes into the old panel and is spliced?

A Yes, because the circuits were extended or altered. Please see OAR 918-309-0040(6) and OAR 918-309-0060.

Q Can you clarify the definition of tub space dimension in 404.4 and 406.8?

A The footprint of the tub space is used for determination. Due to the many types of tubs and tub spaces, the AHJ will determine tub space. Communication between the installer and the inspector will help reduce code conflicts.

Q Can gypsum-board screws be used to mount devices?

A No. Such screws are designed for sheet rock.

Q Under the minor label rules, we're allowed to make changes to a meter if the work does not require a disconnect. What is the definition of a disconnect? I recently failed a minor label because the meter required resealing. Are disconnect and resealing essentially the same thing?

A A disconnect is a device, or group of devices, or other means by which the conductors or a circuit can be disconnected from their source of supply. The answer to the question is no, disconnect and resealing are not the same thing.

Q Minor labels: Under (1)(a), contractors are allowed the extension of two branch circuits and the connection of an appliance. Does that mean the connection of an appliance to each of the repaired circuits?

A Yes, two appliances can be connected.

Q Is it permissible to extend a two-wire (no ground) 110-volt circuit to install a GFCI-protected exterior weatherproof outlet?

A Yes. Refer to NEC 2002 Article 250.130(c).

Q When counting up the total degree of bends in a conduit run that can be installed before a pull/junction device is required, should you take into account the flex and the 90-degree flex connector at the end of the run that goes to the motor? (hot-tub circuit). Common sense dictates that the flex and connector will be removed if new wiring has to be installed.

A Yes. Refer to NEC 2002 Article 358.26.

Q There is electrical work being done using a minor label on a remodel that will be covered with wallboard. Is this permitted under the present code? The electrical contractor says it is done all the time.

A No, if it's an electrical system installed after April 1, 2004, except for One- and Two-Family Dwelling limited-energy systems. If the walls are opened up, an inspection should occur. If the walls are not opened up, "fishing" the cable in the wall is still allowed.

Q Is it ok to use flexible metal conduit for a whip for an air conditioner compressor in a wet location?

A Yes, if using wet insulation wire. ▲

Please check www.oregonbcd.org for a full text of the April 28 Q and A. Click on Code Programs, then Electrical, then the Tri-County Q and A.

440-2725 (8/04/COM)

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