



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

123 NE 3rd Ave., Ste. 440
Portland, OR 97232-2901
Phone.....(503) 872-6731
TTY.....(503) 373-1358
Fax(503) 872-6735

Joan Stevens-Schwenger
..... manager
E-mail Joanie.M.
Stevens-Schwenger@state.or.us



Building Codes Division

Web sitewww.bcd.oregon.gov
Mark Long.....administrator



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NECA and IEC to sponsor September 15 code-change session

NECA and IEC are co-sponsoring the fourth class of a four-part code-change series on Thursday, September 15, 4-8 p.m., in the Board Room of the Multnomah Building, 501 SE Hawthorne Street, Portland.

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

The purpose of the 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 electricians, contractors, remodelers, architects, and building-department personnel in the tri-county area are invited.

Sept. 15 code-change class agenda

State Electrical Code Chief John Powell conducts this session, focusing on law changes and code interpretations. Topics:

- New interpretations
- End of Chapter 4 through Chapter 8
- Open forum Q&A ▲

Don't stand in line! BCD launches new online services for permits and licenses



Saving time means saving money. BCD offers two new online services for contractors: electronic permitting and license application and renewal. Both services allow you to access and pay for a service from your home or office.

Online permitting: Building Permits.Oregon.gov allows contractors to apply and pay for over-the-counter electrical permits in multiple jurisdictions through one Web site using a Visa or Mastercard. Right now, electrical contractors can pull permits online for jobs in the site's

participating jurisdictions: Hillsboro, Portland, Milwaukie, Beaverton, and Clackamas and Washington counties. Minor labels, which contractors can use statewide, are also available through the site.

Online licensing: Electricians and electrical contractors can now apply and pay for licenses online. You will find the link to the "My License" system on the division's home page at bcd.oregon.gov. ▲

Code chief issues interpretation and alternate method ruling

Because the ongoing code-change classes have not followed the tri-county code forum "question and answer" format, we are publishing the chief's recently issued interpretation and alternate ruling instead of the Q&A.

Program: Electrical Program
Subject: Temporary Services

Source: M&W Electric
Reference: 2005 Oregon Electrical Specialty Code
Date of issue: July 1, 2005
Prepared by: John Powell, Chief Electrical Inspector

Continued ...



Clackamas
Multnomah
Washington
COUNTIES

News flash

Apply and pay for your over-the-counter electrical permits online at BuildingPermits.Oregon.gov.

Participating jurisdictions include Portland, Hillsboro, Beaverton, Milwaukie, and Clackamas and Washington counties.

Question:

Is it required to install ground-fault-circuit interrupters (GFCIs) as part of a temporary power service for use on construction sites or for temporary demonstrations? Are “weatherproof covers” required?

Analysis:

The purpose of the ground-fault-circuit interrupters is to prevent a person from receiving an electrical shock due to an electrical short or excessive moisture. The GFCIs are designed to operate at a fault of 4-6 milliamps or greater. OSHA and the National Electrical Code require the use of GFCI protection for personnel at all construction sites.

Determination:

Article 590.6 of the 2005 National Electrical Code requires the use of GFCI protection as part of the temporary service. The GFCI protection can be part of the temporary service through the use of GFCI breakers or receptacles. However, the use of GFCI breakers or receptacles is not mandatory if other GFCI devices are being used. Cord-sets or other devices that utilize incorporated, certified ground-fault circuit interrupters are permitted in place of devices used in the temporary service. A request to energize a temporary service cannot be denied due to the lack of GFCI devices as part of the temporary service. An inspector can request a temporary service be disconnected and/or place a phone call to OSHA to ensure compliance with Article 590.6. Additionally, the use of “weatherproof covers” is required by Article 406.8 of the 2005 National Electrical Code.

440-2725 (9/05/COM)

Alternate Method Ruling No. 05-03e

Underground Splicing of Equipment Grounding Conductors for Traffic Signal Installations

Petitioner: Bill Coburn, E C Company

Applicable Specialty Code: 2005 OESC (NEC § 110.14)

Proposed material, design or method: Connecting several equipment grounding conductors used in traffic signal and street lighting under one connector or lug.

Requested alternate method: Utilize an appropriately sized copper butt splice connector crimped with an approved hydraulic crimping tool.

Petitioner’s description of facts and circumstances: Current methods utilize either exothermic welding processes or the use a split bolt. Exothermic welding in various weather situations with multiple conductors is difficult and expensive. The use of split bolts to splice conductors will work provided the split bolt is held by a vice and a large wrench is used to sufficiently torque the fitting. In the field common practice is to use two wrenches or pliers, frequently the split bolt is not tight enough to prevent loose connections.

Division recommendation: This method applies only to copper equipment grounding conductors used for traffic signal and street lighting. A butt splice connector rated for copper only use shall be used. The wire insulation shall be stripped to the proper length, extend through the entire length of the connector. Two crimps shall be made equidistant from the ends of the connector using a appropriately listed hydraulic crimping tool. The inspector shall verify the effectiveness of the crimp by visually and mechanically testing the crimped wire looking for loose connections. ▲

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