



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, and Washington counties.

Tri-County Service Center

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Building Codes Division

www.oregonbcd.org



News *Splash*

A quarterly newsletter for plumbers and plumbing contractors

June/July/August 2002

Plumbing code forum scheduled July 25

The Plumbing and Mechanical Contractors Association is sponsoring a free forum on plumbing code issues from 4-7 p.m., Thursday, July 25, at the Clackamas County Auditorium, 9101 S.E. Sunnybrook Boulevard in Clackamas.

Qualifying participants may receive three hours of code-related credit from BCD or three hours HSW credit for AIA members.

The purpose of the forum is to discuss regional code applications and reach consensus on acceptable standards for the tri-county region. All

area plumbing contractors, plumbers, architects, and building-department personnel are invited. Forum organizers welcome questions and encourage contractors and building departments to submit questions to the center before the forum.

July 25 agenda:

Update on statewide code interpretations and process: Terry Swisher, state code chief

Open forum:

Panel and participants

April 25 code forum questions and answers

Tri-County building officials have agreed to use the code panel's determinations for inspection standards. Contractors and building department personnel may send questions for the forum to Joanie.M.stevens-Schwenger@state.or.us or fax them to the center, (503) 872-6731. An answer-request form is available on the BCD Web site, www.oregonbcd.org. Click on "Tri-County" and then "Code Forum Program."

Q Is a shower valve an "existing" fixture?

A No, a shower is a fixture (see the definition "plumbing fixture") and a shower valve is a fixture fitting, which is a part of the "water supply system."

Q Does the access panel or escutcheon make the valve "accessible"?

A: Yes. "Accessible" is defined in the code in Chapter 2, and may require the removal of an access panel, door, or similar obstruction. An escutcheon is considered a similar obstruction.

Q If such a shower valve is accessible, is it permissible?

A Yes. Although it is accessible, it is concealed in the wall and requires a permit to install or replace.

Q If a permit is required, can you use a minor label for the installation?

A Yes. A permit is required and, when performing the installation in a one- and two-

family dwelling, a minor label could be used. However, the work should be left exposed for inspection if an inspection is requested. It is not appropriate for the plumbing inspector to dismantle portions of a plumbing system for the purpose of making inspections. When access is required for inspections it should be provided by the property owner or installer. The installer should advise the homeowner how to prepare the escutcheon for inspection.

Q Can a plumber use a plumbing minor label when replacing an existing leaking, gas hot water heater that is not a conversion?

A Yes, a plumbing minor label can be used when a plumber is changing a gas water heater, if the installation meets the criteria for a plumbing minor label. This forum cannot address permit issues in other code areas.

Q Is changing out a gas range covered under the minor label program?

A No.

Q While ORS 693.020(b) exempts the installer from being a licensed plumber on residential property provided the water pump equipment does not exceed 7.5 horsepower, is a permit and an inspection required if the installer is the homeowner? What if the installation is made by a licensed plumber?



News Splash

BCD's message
to homeowners –
"Permits protect
the safety and
value of your
home."

Our message to
contractors –
Refuse to work
without a permit!



A Please see Section 447.010, 447.020. A permit and inspection are required for any plumbing pipe installed beyond the pressure tank, whether installed by a homeowner or a licensed plumber. Inspectors should begin the inspection of the plumbing system at the outlet side of the pressure tank and continue through the plumbing water system. By definition in the plumbing code, the "building supply" is the pipe that carries the potable water from the water meter or other water source to a building. This is also defined as water service. The water service begins at the outlet of the pressure tank.

Q In replacing an old water heater, must you follow the manufacturer instructions?

A An installation must, in all cases, be in compliance with the current code section of the uniform plumbing code, and the installation must be done to current code standards. Manufacturers are not authorized to adopt plumbing codes.

Background: Several questions have arisen concerning the location of clean outs and the type of 90-degree elbow required at the apex of the loop vent. This is in reference to Section 909.0 of the PSC and Section 3608.1 of the DSC.

Q May the end of the line clean-out be located in the vertical drain line within the cabinet?

A Yes.

Q Can the 90-degree elbow between the 45-degree elbows on the loop vent be a "short pattern vent 90-degree" or a "medium sweep drainage 90-degree" or a "long sweep radius 90-degree"?

A A medium-sweep or a long-sweep elbow may be used along with two 45-degree elbows to meet the code requirements for the top of the loop vent.

Q Can the vertical foot vent clean-out be located on accessible portion of the vertical piping?

A Yes.

Q Does a CPVC relief drain require CPVC orange or yellow glue with purple primer? Is this the only acceptable combination?

A One-step CPVC (gold-colored) glue does not require primer.

Q If I am unable to attach a minor label to the electrical-service panel because it hasn't been installed or because it's being replaced — where do I put it?

A Place the minor label permit on the installation itself in a visible location and follow up with a note on the permit log sheet as to its location.

440-2727 (7/02/COM)

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