



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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News *Splash*

A quarterly newsletter for plumbers and plumbing contractors

November-January 2004-05

PHCC to sponsor November 18 code forum

The Oregon Association of Plumbing Heating and Cooling Contractors is sponsoring a free forum on plumbing code issues, 4-7 p.m., Thursday, November 18, at the Sunnybrook Clackamas County Auditorium, 9101 S.E. Sunnybrook Boulevard, Clackamas.

Qualified participants may receive three hours of code-related credit from BCD; three hours of master-builder credit, or three hours of home-inspector continuing-education credit from CCB.

The purpose of the forum is to discuss regional code applications and reach consensus on standards for the Tri-County region. All area plumbing

contractors, plumbers, architects, and building-department personnel are invited. Questions are welcome. Please submit questions to the center before each forum. Contractors and building-department personnel may send questions for the code forum to Christie.l.triplett@state.or.us or fax them to the center, (503) 872-6735. ●

Agenda

- Interpretation update
- Plumbing code change process and update
- Residential code update
- Grease interceptors — issues and discussions
- Open forum

Sept. 16th code forum questions & answers

Tri-County building officials have agreed to use the code panel's determinations for inspection standards. If you work in a jurisdiction outside of the tri-county region, please consult with your local building official.

The Building Codes Division Web site has a complete index of questions addressed at Tri-County code forums at www.oregonbcd.org. Click on "Code Programs," then "Tri-County Q and A."

Q The contractor is required to install a four-inch sewer on a three-bath house that has a sewage ejector for the basement bath. Typically, three-inch sewer lines can handle up to 3-6 FU traps (water closets). The addition of the fourth toilet would require the installation of a four-inch sewer. Drains serving an ejector have to be sized according to the discharge rate of the pump. There are two tables in the plumbing code that deal with FUs and GPM for pump discharges. The first table has a much lower FU value because it specifies intermittent flows. The second table is for continuous flows and carries a higher FU value. I think the inspector is looking at the wrong table. So, the question is: When sizing drainage piping that serves a sewage ejector for a single bathroom, is the discharge considered continuous (section 703.2) or intermittent (Table 7-4)? These code sections are out of the OSPSC.

A This house would require a four-inch sewer line and the discharge is considered continuous in this instance. A four-inch sewer line is required whenever there is a sewage ejector.

Q Do plumbing piping penetrations of exterior concrete building walls or foundation walls have to be caulked or sealed watertight?

A Yes, with some exceptions for drainage pipes in foundations. Refer to OSPC Sections 313.8 and 313.10.4. The installer should refer to the manufacturer's recommendations for approved caulking materials. There should also be a foundation drain. Refer to the January 3, 2003, state plumbing code interpretation.

Q When installing the groundwork for a restaurant, and the GPM-discharge rating of a food-preparation sink is unknown because the figures are not supplied by the manufacturer, supplier, or engineer, how is the required size of the indirect waste receptor determined?

A Please reference the footnotes to Table 7-3. Generally, indirect waste receptors are based on the total drainage capacity of the fixtures that drain therein.

Q When two fixtures drain into an indirect waste receptor, is the size of the receptor and its trap calculated by converting the GPM

Continued...



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News Splash

Mark your calendars!

2005 plumbing code forum dates:

- March 3
- June 2
- September 8
- December 1

Forums are 4-7 p.m. Thursdays, in the Clackamas County Sunnysbrook Auditorium, 9101 S.E. Sunnysbrook Boulevard, Clackamas.

discharge for each fixture into fixture units and adding the fixture units, or is it calculated by adding the GPM discharge of both fixtures and then converting the total into fixture units?

A Refer to Table 7-4. You calculate the drainage capacity of the fixtures and convert to fixture units.

Q Is a cleanout required to be installed in a 1½-inch trap arm serving a lavatory that has a total horizontal change in direction of 135 degrees when the trap arm is located above the first floor of the building?

A Yes. Refer to Section 1002.3.

Q Is a cleanout required to be installed on the foot-vent portion of an island sink venting arrangement when the foot vent is located above the first floor of the building?

A Yes.

Q What is meant by the term “fullway valve”?

A Full flow.

Q Can an oversized globe valve be used if the total cross-sectional area of the waterway is equal to or greater than the cross-sectional area of the pipe?

A No.

Q How many seismic straps do we need on a water heater if the tank is on the floor? I’ve been told one and two on a 50-gallon tank.

A Refer to Interpretive ruling 93-94. One strap is required for water heaters less than 12 inches above the floor.

440-2727 (11/04-1/05/COM)

Q Who can repair RP backflow devices and what license and training is required?

A Refer to ORS 693.020. A licensed journeyman plumber is required to install, replace, or repair a backflow device.

Q Is metal plumber’s tape acceptable for seismic strapping?

A Yes, refer to the Oregon Structural Specialty Code, Volume 2, Chapter 16, Section 1632.

Q Can a minor label be used when converting from a conventional water heater to an instantaneous water heater?

A Yes, a minor label may be used as long as 20 feet or less of accessible piping is involved. Code requirements still apply. Refer to the manufacturer’s instructions for proper installation. A contractor also must obtain a mechanical permit for converting the fuel source and an on-site inspection is required for the mechanical portion of the installation.

Q Is a mechanical permit required as well as a plumbing minor label on other types of water-heater conversions?

A Yes. Any type of conversion requires both a plumbing minor label and a mechanical permit.

Q When will the new plumbing code be adopted?

A April 1, 2005.

Q Which plumbing code changes also will apply to the new Oregon Residential Specialty Code?

A Most of them. The Plumbing Code Change Committee is keeping a list to present to the Residential Specialty Code Committee. ●

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