



Oregon

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Building Codes Division Statewide Interpretation

PROGRAM: Electrical Program
SUBJECT: GFCI Requirements
SOURCE: Electrical Contractor
REFERENCE: 2005 National Electrical Code Section 210.63
DATE OF ISSUE: September 1, 2005
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QUESTION: If an existing HVAC unit is replaced with a “like kind” unit, does Section 210.63, requiring a receptacle to be installed, apply? Also, what if this unit is one of several that are on a roof of an existing building?

ANALYSIS:

The requirement for a receptacle to be located within 25 feet of HVAC equipment has been in the Mechanical Code for several decades. Unfortunately, this requirement of the mechanical code was not consistently enforced. In 1987 the National Electrical Code (NEC) required a receptacle for roof top HVAC units to be located on the same level and within 75 feet. In 1993, the receptacle requirement was changed reducing the distance for rooftop mounted units to 25 feet. In 2002, the receptacle requirement was changed to the current language requiring a receptacle within 25 feet for all HVAC equipment whether roof mounted or not. Currently, Section 210.63 requires that a 15 or 20 amp receptacle be installed within 25 feet of HVAC equipment. Section 210.8 requires that this receptacle be GFCI protected. Additionally, Section 406.8 requires the use of a weatherproof cover.

Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) 918-305-0000 allows existing installations, that met code at the time of installation, need not to be brought up to current standards unless use or occupancy changes occur that facilitate new wiring methods. Though the requirement for the receptacle has been in code for several decades, determining whether an existing installation was inspected and approved several decades ago, is problematic at best for all parties involved.

DETERMINATION:

Section 210.63 shall not apply to replacement HVAC units under the following conditions:

- 1) The installation consists of existing units being replaced with units of the same approximate voltage and amperage.**
- 2) The existing conductors and overcurrent devices are properly sized and meet the installation requirements of the new unit(s).**
- 3) The replacement installation does not result in any additional wiring requirements.**
- 4) On an existing roof, where not more than 50% of the units are being replaced and there is an existing roof receptacle within 75 feet.**