



Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

Department of Consumer and Business Services
Building Codes Division
1535 Edgewater Street NW
PO Box 14470
Salem, OR 97309-0404
(503) 378-4133
FAX (503) 378-2322
TTY (503) 373-1358
<http://www.oregonbcd.org>

Building Codes Division Statewide Interpretation

PROGRAM: Electrical Program
SUBJECT: CABLE TV AMPLIFIER SYSTEMS AND SERVICES
SOURCE: 2005 Oregon Electrical Specialty Code
REFERENCE: ORS 479.540 (5)(b), OAR 860-024-0100
DATE OF ISSUE: Re-Issue April 1, 2005
PREPARED BY: John Powell
Chief Electrical Inspector

QUESTION: Are the installations of cable TV amplifier systems and electric services on utility poles exempt from permits and licensing requirements?

ANALYSIS: The Oregon Public Utility Commission (PUC) regulates equipment installed on utility owned poles. It does not matter whether the electric, telecommunications or cable TV provider is PUC regulated; the utility pole is PUC regulated.

By PUC OAR 860-024-0010, electric and communication system operators are required to install new facilities in compliance with the National Electrical Safety Code (NESC). Further, these facilities must be inspected and maintained to ensure ongoing compliance with the NESC. Qualified workers must perform this installation, inspection and maintenance work.

DETERMINATION: Yes, the installation of cable TV amplifier systems and electric services on poles is exempt from electrical permits and licensing provided the installation is on utility owned poles and the equipment is located over 8 feet above grade.

The Public Utility Commission and the Building Codes Division agreed that cable TV amplifier systems and services installed lower than 8 feet above grade on utility poles and installed in pedestals are not exempt from electrical permits and inspections. These are subject to public contact and shall comply with the provisions of the Oregon Electrical Specialty Code.