



# Oregon

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## *Building Codes Division Statewide Interpretation*

**PROGRAM:** Electrical Program  
**SUBJECT:** Energized Circuit Breakers  
**SOURCE:** Building Codes Division  
**REFERENCE:** 2005 Oregon Electrical Specialty Code  
**DATE OF ISSUE:** Re-Issue April 1, 2005  
**PREPARED BY:** John Powell  
Chief Electrical Inspector

**QUESTION:** Is it permissible to land phase conductors on the appropriate circuit breakers before completion of the electrical installation and attachment of final devices?

### **ANALYSIS:**

The issue of when should conductors be landed on circuit breakers has existed for several years. Depending upon the jurisdiction, inspectors have required breakers to be installed at the rough-in inspection, have required conductors to be landed at the rough-in inspection, not allow breakers to be installed at the rough-in inspection or something in-between. Although the 2005 National Electrical Code and Oregon Electrical Specialty Code do not adequately cover this issue, the intent of the Oregon Electrical Safety Law is quite clear. The Oregon Electrical Safety Law's stated purpose is to protect persons and property from electrically caused shocks and fires. Landing a phase conductor on a circuit breaker prior to attaching the final device or otherwise ensuring the installation is left in a safe condition is a violation of the Oregon Electrical Safety Law (ORS 479.710). Too often all the circuit breakers have had the phase conductors landed without ensuring that final devices are attached or the installation is in a safe condition. Typically, persons will turn on all breakers in a panel looking for a particular circuit thus exposing persons to possible electrical shock.

### **DETERMINATION:**

**Circuit breakers may be installed prior to final attachment of devices but shall not have phase conductors attached unless left in a safe condition such as, being taped off or having a proper wire nut or other insulating type protective device installed.**