



# Oregon

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## *Building Codes Division Statewide Interpretation*

**PROGRAM:** Electrical Program  
**SUBJECT:** Limited Maintenance Specialty Contractors  
**SOURCE:** NECA  
**REFERENCE:** ORS 479.630, OAR 918-282-0050  
**DATE OF ISSUE:** Re-Issue April 1, 2005  
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**QUESTION:** Are licensed limited maintenance specialty contractors (LMS) performing lighting retrofits allowed to replace a magnetic ballast with an electronic ballast without additional licensure? Can an LMS contractor work in signs?

### **ANALYSIS:**

The issue of retrofitting or upgrading lighting fixtures has been raised frequently due to the incentives offered by Utility companies and the energy savings generated by moving away from the old style magnetic ballasts. Oregon Revised Statute 479.630(12) grants authority to an LMS contractor to change ballasts. Additional clarification is provided in Oregon Administrative Rule 918-282-0050(1)(b) allowing ballast change-out by replacement and also maintenance inside the shell of the lighting fixture.

### **DETERMINATION:**

**LMS contractors can upgrade lighting fixtures by changing from magnetic to electronic type ballasts. They may also perform maintenance within the shell of the fixture but may not permanently change fixtures from incandescent to fluorescent. LMS contractors cannot relocate any existing fixtures or add new lighting fixtures. Maintenance of the fixture is restricted to inside the shell of the fixture and is limited to ballasts, lamp-holders and equipment that is part of the lighting fixture. An LMS contractor cannot perform maintenance, repair or replace ballasts or transformers in a sign.**