



Oregon

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Building Codes Division Statewide Interpretation

PROGRAM: Electrical Program
SUBJECT: Signing Supervising Electricians
SOURCE: Oregon Revised Statutes, Oregon Administrative Rules
REFERENCE: ORS 479.560, 479.860 OAR 918-282-0015, 918-282-0140
DATE OF ISSUE: Re-Issue April 1, 2005
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QUESTION: What are the responsibilities of a general signing supervising electrician?

ANALYSIS:

The requirements for the rights and responsibilities of a general signing supervising electrician can be found in ORS 479.560(1)(2), ORS 479.630(2) and ORS 479.860. Rule requirements implementing the Oregon Revised Statutes are located in Oregon Administrative Rules 918-282-0015(1), 918-282-0140(1)(2)(3), 918-251-0090(10).

DETERMINATION:

- 1) General supervising electricians are allowed to design, plan and layout electrical installations for customers of the electrical contractor they are registered and signing for.
- 2) Shall sign permits prior to requesting an inspection.
- 3) Shall sign for only one contractor.
- 4) Shall be continuously employed by the contractor they are signing for and be available to meet with inspectors upon request.
- 5) Shall not work for another person, company, entity or employer during times that electrical work they are responsible for is being performed.
- 6) Ensure all installations meet minimum safety standards.
- 7) Ensure proper electrical safety procedures are being used.
- 8) Ensure all permits and/or labels are used and properly posted.
- 9) Ensure that persons performing electrical work are properly licensed.

- 10) Ensure corrections issued by the inspecting jurisdiction are complied with.**
- 11) Notify the Division within five days if no longer signing with or changing contractors.**

Intent:

It is the intent of the Electrical and Elevator Board that a properly qualified person or persons, as evidenced by a state issued license, assume responsibility for electrical installations. The Board has accomplished this through the requirements for the use of a general supervising electrician. Violations of the rule requirements set forth in Oregon Administrative Rules or Oregon Revised Statutes subject the general supervising electrician to compliance action up to and including license revocation.

Examples:

I am a signing supervising electrician for a contractor in Eastern Oregon. The work outlook here is very poor and the shop I am signing for only has enough work to keep me busy 15 hours a week. Can I work for another contractor or industrial plant as a journeyman electrician?

Answer: If you are working for another contractor or industrial plant during the hours that electrical work you are signing and responsible for is being performed, you are in violation of OAR 918-282-0140(2)(c).

I am a signing supervising electrician for a shop and I live out of State during winter months, can I do this?

Answer: Same situation as above, the intent of the requirement is that as the signing supervising electrician you are responsible for the work being performed and available to meet with the inspectors, when requested. The ability to assume the responsibility or be available to meet with inspectors upon request is difficult in this situation. There is nothing to prevent a contractor from having more than one supervising electrician who has responsibility while the original supervisor is out of town.

I am a signing supervising electrician for a company and also an electrical inspector working for a local jurisdiction, am I allowed to do this?

Answer: Same situation as number one above and also the possibility of having a conflict of interest as designated in ORS 455.459 which reads: A person shall not inspect or review any project or installation in which the person, employer of the person or relative of the person has any financial interest or business affiliation. Additionally, ORS 479.815 provides authority to

the Board to define conflicts of interest for electrical inspectors. Rule language implementing this Statute will be forthcoming.

I am a signing supervisor for a small shop and get paid a fee for each permit that I sign. Is this permitted?

Answer: How you are compensated for your work is not part of this interpretation. However the signing supervisor must be continuously employed during the period when the work is performed. See the definition of “continuously employed” in OAR 918-251-0090.

Final Thoughts:

The intent of the Electrical and Elevator Board is quite clear, a signing supervising electrician shall be employed by the contractor, shall be available to meet with inspectors, shall not be employed by another entity during times electrical work is being performed, shall not be a part time employee or resident while signing for a full time contractor and shall be responsible for any electrical work performed and to know all the applicable rules and Statutes pertaining to supervising electrician rights and responsibilities.