



Oregon

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Building Codes Division Statewide Interpretation

PROGRAM: Electrical Program
SUBJECT: 90.4 of the 2005 National Electrical Code
SOURCE: 2005 Oregon Electrical Specialty Code
REFERENCE: Section 90.4, Article 100
DATE OF ISSUE: Re-Issue April 1, 2005
PREPARED BY: John Powell
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QUESTION: What is “special permission” and how is it applied?

ANALYSIS:

In the 2005 National Electrical Code (NEC), Section 90.4 and located throughout the 2005 NEC the words “special permission” are used. The definition of “special permission” is found in Article 100 and states: “Special Permission is the written consent of the authority having jurisdiction”. 90.4, paragraph 2, provides that “by special permission, the authority having jurisdiction may waive specific requirements in this code or permit alternative methods where it is assured that equivalent objectives can be achieved by establishing and maintaining effective safety”.

DETERMINATION:

Application of “special permission” shall be as follows:

“Special permission” is always in written form from the authority having jurisdiction and shall be obtained prior to the start of the electrical installation. Requests for “special permission” shall be in writing to the authority having jurisdiction. “Special permission” is not intended to be used to redress a code violation. Discussion with the local inspecting authority should always occur when the electrician/contractor is unsure of code requirements and this discussion should occur prior to the start of the electrical installation.