



Oregon

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Building Codes Division Statewide Interpretation

PROGRAM: Electrical Program
SUBJECT: Wireless Security Alarms
SOURCE: SOS Alarm
REFERENCE: Oregon Electrical Specialty Code
DATE OF ISSUE: February 1, 2005, Re-Issue April 1, 2005
PREPARED BY: John Powell
Chief Electrical Inspector

QUESTION: Does the installation of “wireless” security systems require licensing and permitting?

ANALYSIS:

479.520 Purpose. The purpose of the Electrical Safety Law is to protect the health and safety of the people of Oregon from the danger of electrically caused shocks, fires and explosions and to protect property situated in Oregon from the hazard of electrically caused fires and explosions.

“Wireless” alarm system panels typically are supplied by a “plug-in” Class 2 transformer and contain a back-up battery system. Due to design and certification, the Class 2 transformer and equipment connected thereto do not present a fire or shock hazard when properly installed. Though the moniker “wireless” is a misnomer due to the connection from the Class 2 transformer, the rest of the system is truly “wireless”. Oregon Administrative Rules 918-261-0039 exempts electrical products on the load side of a Class 2 transformer from certification.

DETERMINATION:

The Policy Committee and Chief Electrical Inspector at the January 2005 Committee meeting have determined that the installation of a “wireless” security alarm system does not constitute a fire or shock hazard and is exempt from licensing and permitting requirements provided the following are met:

- 1) The control panel and Class 2 transformer are not installed in a damp or wet location.**
- 2) The installation is not located in or penetrate an air handling space, plenum, hazardous location or firewall.**
- 3) The connection between the class 2 transformer and the control panel does not exceed 10 feet in length and the wire used is certified for the purpose.**
- 4) The connection between the control panel and a single notification device such as a horn or bell does not exceed 10 feet in length and the wire used is certified for the purpose.**
- 4) A security alarm system will be considered a “wireless system” if all alarm initiating devices are “wireless”.**
- 5) Wireless alarm initiating devices are devices that cause an alarm condition in the control panel and that are not connected by wire to the control panel.**
- 6) A security alarm system will not be considered a “wireless system” if any hard wired alarm initiating devices are connected to the control panel.**
- 7) The installation must conform with the requirements of Article 725 of the Oregon Electrical Specialty Code and of the National Electrical Code.**