
Area Lighting (streets, parking lots, signals)

Statute and Rule: ORS 479.630, OAR 918-282, OAR 918-309-0100

Date: April 1, 2008

Subject: Permit, inspection, licensing and product certification for street lighting systems and for parking lot and signal lighting systems

Question: **Are permits and inspections required when utility companies install street lighting?**

Answer: **Street lighting systems that are owned or managed by a public utility are exempt from the permitting, inspection, product certification and licensing requirements of the Electrical Safety Law.**

Street lighting systems that are not owned or managed by a public utility and on a public street or right of way must meet the permitting, inspection and product certification requirements of the Electrical Safety Law. The installation of these systems requires an electrical contractors license, and the permit does not require a signing supervisors signature. Persons installing the street lighting system located on a public street or right of way must be “qualified employees” of the electrical contractor. A “qualified employee” is one who has registered with or graduated from a State of Oregon or federally approved apprenticeship program. Installations of street lighting, parking lot lighting or signaling systems, under this section, must meet the requirements of the 2008 National Electrical Code and Oregon Electrical Specialty Code.

Parking lot lighting or signaling systems must meet the licensing, permitting, inspection and product certification requirements of the Electrical Safety Law. Installations of parking lot lighting or signaling systems, under this section, must meet the requirements of the 2008 National Electrical Code and Oregon Electrical Specialty Code.

Analysis: Exemptions from licensure, permitting and inspection can be found in ORS 479.540. ORS 479.540 grants exemptions to a public utility in several sections. ORS 479.540(4)(b)(B) grants individual licensing exemption for installation or maintenance of a street lighting system located on a public street or in a right of way. The installation or maintenance must be performed by a qualified employee of a licensed electrical contractor principally engaged in the business of installing or maintaining such systems. A qualified employee as used in this section means someone who has registered with or graduated from a State of Oregon or federally approved apprenticeship course designed for the work being performed. Additionally, a signing supervising electricians signature on the permit is not required. ORS 479.943 includes exemptions from licensure, permitting and inspection applicable to telecommunication utilities.

Contact: Jon Hills, Licensing and Enforcement Manager
jon.hills@state.or.us
(503) 373-1367