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Scope of Work for Limited Maintenance Specialty Contractors

Statute and Rule: ORS 479.630(12), OAR 918-282-0050(1)(b)

Date: April 1, 2008

Subject: Upgrade of lighting fixtures by limited maintenance specialty contractors

Question: Are licensed limited maintenance specialty contractors (LMS) performing lighting retrofits allowed to replace a magnetic ballast with an electronic ballast without additional licensure? Is an LMS contractor authorized to perform work involving signs?

Answer: 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.

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. ORS 479.630(12) grants authority to an LMS contractor to change ballasts. Additional clarification is provided in OAR 918-282-0050(1)(b) allowing ballast change-out by replacement and also maintenance inside the shell of the lighting fixture.

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