

For immediate release:  
December 28, 2001

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**JANUARY 1 ELECTRICAL CODE REQUIREMENT DELAYED  
FOR FURTHER REVIEW**

(Salem) The state Electrical and Elevator Board has postponed a new code requirement for specialized devices that cut power to circuits for bedroom electrical outlets in the event of a particular type of short called an "arc-fault." Called "arc fault circuit interrupters," the devices are intended to reduce the risk of fires that may occur when easy-to-overlook power cords or fixture wiring – behind or beneath beds or bedside tables, under carpets, etc. – are damaged but continue to carry current and thus may arc or cause sparks.

The rule, part of the 1999 and 2002 National Electrical Code, was scheduled for implementation across the country as of January 1, 2002. Its implementation in Oregon will be stayed for a short period, pending review by a work group from the Oregon Electrical and Elevator Board and the Oregon Building Codes Structures Board. That group will meet to discuss and make recommendations on the applicability of these devices for residential construction in this state.

Individuals with questions or comments or who would like to attend the work group meetings may contact John Powell, acting chief electrical inspector at the Oregon Building Codes Division, (503) 373-1353.

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