



Clackamas
Multnomah
Washington
COUNTIES

A BCD field office, the Tri-County Service Center administers the minor label program and coordinates forms, processes, and application of code for building programs in Clackamas, Multnomah, & Washington counties.

Tri-County Service Center

123 NE 3rd Ave., Ste. 440
Portland, OR 97232-2901
Phone (503) 872-6731
TTY (503) 373-1358
Fax (503) 872-6735
Joan Stevens-Schwenger
..... manager
E-mail joanie.M.
Stevens-Schwenger@state.or.us

Building Codes Division

Web site www.oregonbcd.org



News *Connect*

A quarterly newsletter for mechanical contractors

April-June 2004

PHCC to sponsor April 22 forum

The Oregon Association of Plumbing, Heating and Cooling Contractors will sponsor a free forum on mechanical code issues, 4-7 p.m., Thursday, April 22, at the Multnomah County Board Room, 501 S.E. Hawthorne, Portland.

Qualified participants can earn three hours of code-related continuing education credit from BCD, three hours of master-builder continuing education credit, three hours of home-inspector credit from CCB, three hours of HSW credit from AIA, or a certificate for three HSW hours.

The purpose of the forum is to discuss regional code applications and reach consensus on acceptable standards for the tri-county region. All area mechanical contractors, remodelers, architects, and building department personnel are invited. ♦

Agenda:

- Q and A
- Code adoption update

Jan. 22 code forum questions and answers

Tri-County building officials have agreed to use the code panel's determinations for inspection standards. If you work in a jurisdiction outside of the tri-county region, please contact local building officials for inspection standards.

Contractors and building department personnel may send questions for the code panel to Joanie.M.Stevens-Schwenger@state.or.us or fax them to the center, (503) 872-6735. An answer-request form is available on the BCD Web site, www.oregonbcd.org. Click on "Tri-County" and then "Code Forum Program."

Q What materials are acceptable for venting residential bath fans?

A This question often comes up because of the lack of specific language concerning bathroom exhaust ventilation in the Oregon Dwelling Specialty Code (ODSC). The 2003 ODSC, Section M1501.1 states: "Where exhaust duct construction is not specified in this chapter, such construction shall comply with Chapter 16." Since Chapter 15 does not specifically address exhaust ducting for bathrooms, we must glean the information from the requirements found in Chapter 16. Chapter 16 has general requirements for all ducting and doesn't specifically address "bathroom exhaust" ducts, so to help simplify the intent of the code and to answer commonly asked questions concerning exhaust-fan installations,

the following shall apply as a minimum requirement for a "typical" bathroom exhaust installation in a one- and two-family dwelling;

- Permits are required for new installations and replacement of a bathroom-type exhaust fans.
- Plans are not generally required for exhaust fans installed in a one- or two-family dwelling. However, plans may be required for multi-family installations.
- Section R303.3 has specific cubic-feet-per-minute (cfm) rates, which may vary based on room size and whether the fan is intermittent or continuous.
- Exhaust fans must be listed and labeled by an approved testing agency, such as Underwriter's Laboratory (UL).
- All equipment must be installed according to the manufacturer's instructions and meet minimum code requirements.
- All exhaust fans must be equipped with a backdraft damper.
- Such systems must vent exhaust directly to the outside, and the point of discharge must be at least 3 feet from any opening (such as a window or door) that allows air entry into occupied portions of the dwelling.
- Such systems are not allowed to terminate in the crawlspace, underfloor space or in the attic.

Continued . . .



Clackamas
Multnomah
Washington
COUNTIES

News *Connect*

Sign up for
"Notify!"

Interested in receiving News Connect online? Interpretations as they are posted? Public notices and rule-making hearings? You can now sign up online.

It's easy. Click on "Notify!" on BCD's home page, www.oregonbcd.org. Follow the instructions to open your account and select the notifications you want to receive.

Questions? Call Mark Munson, Web coordinator (503) 373-7404.

- Ducts must terminate at least 10 feet from a forced-air unit fresh-air intake or from an evaporative cooler.
- Exhaust ducts may be listed and labeled aluminum (corrugated or smooth); smooth, galvanized steel ducts; or any other factory-made Class 0 or Class 1 duct named in Chapter 16 which is listed and labeled indicating compliance with UL 181, UL 181A or UL 181B.

Q What materials are acceptable for bath fan venting under the Oregon Mechanical Specialty Code?

A The OMSC, Section 501.5 states the same thing as Section M1501.1 of the ODSC. For the most part, then, the same provisions stated in question 1 would apply. Furthermore, OMSC has provisions for the penetration of fire-rated assemblies and those provisions are found in Section 603.5.5 and 603.6 and must be observed when applicable.

Q Do copper condensate lines or return piping of heating/cooling units supported by galvanized hangers or other dissimilar metals constitute a potential for galvanic action?

A Yes the potential is there and that is why both the ODSC and the OMSC provide general requirements for the hanging or supporting of piping systems as follows: "Pipe hangers and supports shall have sufficient strength to withstand all anticipated static and specified dynamic loading conditions associated with the intended use. *Pipe hangers and supports that are in direct contact with piping shall be of approved materials that are compatible with the piping and that will not promote galvanic action.*" (M1309.2 and 305.2, respectively)

Q Do copper condensate lines or return piping of heating/cooling units that are in direct contact with galvanized sheet metal duct and/or plenum constitute a potential for galvanic action? Would the aforementioned sections of code apply, since they reference piping supports and hangers only?

A Neither code addresses the touching of dissimilar metals as mentioned in your question. The panel recommends protecting or isolating any piping from potential corrosion or possible vibration by means of 10 mil. tape or insulation or other form of equivalent protection. ♦

Previous issues available on Web site

Previous issues of *News Connect* (mechanical), *News Flash* (electrical), *News Site* (homebuilding), *News Splash* (plumbing), and *News Line* (commercial building) are available on the BCD Web site. Go to www.oregonbcd.org, click on "Tri-County," then click on "Newsletters."

Mark your calendars
for the fall
Mechanical Code Forum,
Thursday, September 22.

Sun	Mon
1	2
8	9

440-2733 (4/04/COM)

Tri-County Service Center
123 NE 3rd Ave., Ste. 440
Portland, OR 97232-2901

Permits Protect
Protecting the Safety
& Value of Your Home
www.permitsprotect.info

PRSR STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
SALEM OR
PERMIT NO. 24