



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 2003

Local 290 Training Center to sponsor May 14 mechanical code forum

The Local 290 Training Center is sponsoring a free forum on mechanical-code questions, 4-7 p.m. Wednesday, May 14, at the Multnomah County Board Room, 501 S.E. Hawthorne, Portland.

AIA members can earn three hours HSW credit for attending, and qualified participants can earn

three hours of code-related continuing-education credit from BCD.

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. ♦

Free training set for contractors, officials

The service center offers free training to contractors and building-department personnel.

Each class provides two hours of code-related credit that may be approved by the building official. Pre-registration is required.

For more information, call Bob Brown, (503) 872-6731.

- T-BAR Ceilings, April 8, 7-9 a.m., Troutdale City Hall, 104 S.E. Kibling St.
- Fire Spray Installation, April 9, 8-10 a.m., Oregon City City Hall, 320 Warner Milne Road
- Interpretive Rulings 94-7 and 94-14, April 15, 8:30-10:30 a.m., Hillsboro City Hall, 123 W. Main St. ♦

Feb. 12 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 the local building official for inspection standards.

Contractors and building-department personnel may send questions for the code panel to Bob.E.Brown@state.or.us or fax them to (503) 872-6735. An answer-request form is on our Web site, www.oregonbcd.org, under "Tri-County" and "Code Forum Program."

Q Commercial-kitchen grease ducts: Duct-wrap products are used as an alternate method to a fire-resistant-rated shaft enclosure. Most jurisdictions accept 3M's one-layer Fire Barrier 15A for this application. One jurisdiction is requiring the use of 3M's two-layer Fire Barrier 20A. Which of these products meets the minimum requirements for the protection of a Type I grease duct?

A Tabled until further information is obtained from ICC.

Q Do you have to insulate vents and intakes on 90-percent furnaces in garages below gypsum-board condensate lines in garage insulate?

A There is no code requirement for the insulation of the vent for a 90-percent-plus furnace. The code requires that you follow the manufacturer's installation instructions. See the Dwelling Code, Section 1307.1, and the Mechanical Specialty Code, Section 304.1. The consensus of the panel is that unconditioned spaces, including garages, are subject to freezing.

Q When will tri-county offer mechanical minor labels?

A The minor-label committee will meet to consider this in June or shortly after the end of the legislative session.

Q Chapter 17 and 18 and Section 1901.2—Factory-made ducts: Is factory-made Class 1 insulate air duct that is listed to UL 181 and

Continued ...



News Connect

You can get copies of Tri-County's other code newsletters:

- *News Flash*, electrical
- *News Site*, one- and two-family dwellings
- *News Splash*, plumbing
- *News Line*, commercial builders

Call the Tri-County Service Center, (503) 872-6731 to sign up. You can see current and past issues of the newsletters on the Web site, www.oregonbcd.org. Click on "Tri-County," then on "Code Forum" to find links to each of the code areas.

181A allowed to receive exhaust air from a bathroom exhaust fan?

A Yes, if properly sized.

Q Section 1901: When interior insulation of Class 1 insulated air duct becomes saturated during installation, is it acceptable to cut drain and ventilation openings in the vapor barrier and allow the water to drain and the insulation to dry?

A No. Saturated insulation requires duct replacement.

Q Various manufacturers' installations instructions reference the use of mastics listed to UL 181 for use with Class 1 insulated air duct. Will the use of mastics be required for terminations of Class 1 insulated air duct in one- and two-family dwellings after April 1, 2003?

A Yes, in addition to approved pressure-sensitive tape. Reference M1601.3.1 April 1, 2003. ♦

Questions from previous forums revisited and clarified

Q Can joist bays be used as supply or return ducts or plenums in residential construction? (January-March 2003 *News Connect*)

A The answer should read: The current code (2000 edition) allows the use of joist spaces or wall cavities to be used as ducts or plenums, but the new 2003 Dwelling Code, effective April 1, 2003, will limit the use of these spaces to existing homes being remodeled, repaired, or altered. This practice will no longer be allowed in new-home construction.

Q There is often excessive vertical lift — sometimes more than seven feet — to exhaust a dryer out of a basement in older homes. This can create a fire hazard. Are cleanouts

required on vertical dryer ducting? (October-December 2002 *News Connect*)

A The answer should read: The Dwelling Code does not require cleanouts for vertical dryer exhaust risers. The Oregon Mechanical Specialty Code, however, does. Panel members recommend that all dryer exhausts, whether residential or commercial, have a means for cleaning, such as the transition duct connection at the wall.

Q Can silicone sealant be used to seal the joints in a duct system?

A Yes, if listed for that use. (The question about the silicone sealant was addressed in the January-March 2003 *News Connect*; it will be discussed further with the Office of Energy). ♦

440-2733 (4/03/COM)

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