



Clackamas  
Multnomah  
Washington  
COUNTIES

Tri-County Service  
Center is a regional  
office of the Oregon  
Building Codes Division.

### Statewide Building Services

Phone.....(503) 373-1313

### Tri-County Service Center

123 NE 3rd Ave., Ste. 440

Portland, OR 97232-2901

Phone.....(503) 872-6731

TTY.....(503) 373-1358



### Building Codes Division

Mark Long.....administrator

Web site .....bcd.oregon.gov

Joan Stevens-Schwenger

.....manager

E-mail ..... Joanie.M.

Stevens-Schwenger@state.or.us

### Minor Label Program:

Phone.....(503) 378-2804

Fax .....(503) 378-2799

## PHCC to sponsor Sept. 13 code forum

The Oregon State Association of Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors will sponsor a free forum on mechanical code issues, from 4-7 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 13, at the State Office Building, 800 NE Oregon St., Room 120C, Portland.

Qualified participants can earn three hours of code-related continuing education credit from BCD, three hours of master-builder continuing education credit, or three hours of home-inspector credit from the Construction Contractors Board (CCB). The purpose of the forum is to discuss regional code applications and reach consensus on acceptable standards for the tri-county region. All area me-

chanical contractors, remodelers, architects, and building-department personnel are invited.

### Agenda

- Update on code adoption process for the 2007 *Oregon Mechanical Specialty Code*
- Update on the International Code Council's (ICC) joint venture with the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO)
- OMSC, Section 514.2(4). Energy recovery ventilation systems
- Long sweep ells for dryer exhaust
- Open forum for your questions ♦

## June 21, 2006 Code Forum Q&A

**Background:** An existing hotel is undergoing an extensive renovation. There are a number of existing fire-rated bathroom exhaust shafts in this four-story, Type III-A construction, wood-frame building. New exhaust ducts are being added to these shafts using 22-inch subducts in lieu of fire dampers as allowed by Section 607.5.5.1 exception #1.1 of the OMSC.

One of our plans examiners issued a checksheet that said, "Please provide back-up power for 2-hr for subduct fans." OSSC Section 909.11. The architect sent the following reply: Item 5 on that checksheet refers to Code Section 909.11, and says "Please provide back-up power for 2-hr for subduct fans."

This item refers to the exhaust fans in the toilet and bathrooms that are provided for moisture and odor removal. The code section, as we read it, refers only to smoke control systems. 909.11 states that "this section applies to mechanical or passive smoke control systems when they are required by other provisions of this code ..."

A smoke control system is not required for this building, and these fans do not serve that purpose. The fans in question are for the bathroom exhaust only, as required by 1203.4.2.1. They are not linked to a fire alarm system or any other building-wide controls. Nor are they part of a makeup air system for the building's heating or air conditioning. In fact, that system, as you are aware, is not even a ducted system.

We do not believe that these fans require backup power as requested in the checksheet. As providing backup power for these fans is both logistically dif-

ficult given the number and location of the fans and need for either many batteries or a generator with a fuel tank, and would constitute a considerable expense for the project, we would like you to reconsider the requirement. I added these questions in hopes that the Tri-County Forum will address them:

**Q1a** Is it appropriate to apply Section 909.11 of the OSSC to the subducting of bathroom fans in an R-occupancy and require that the exhaust fans be supplied with a two-hour secondary source of power?

**A1a** Yes, it is appropriate to apply this section.

**Q2b** Section 607.5.5.1 exception #1.1 of the OMSC allows subducts in lieu of fire dampers "in exhaust shafts provided there is a continuous airflow upward to the outside." What is required to fulfill the requirement for a "continuous airflow upward to the outside"?

**A2b** There is no prescriptive requirement; the code provides for a performance requirement per bathroom.

**Q2** A drawing was handed out showing a typical roof-mounted unit sitting on a platform. The drawing showed several measurements relating to the platform's height and distance from the roof's edge. Given the specific location and placement of this piece of equipment, is a platform required?

**A2** Yes.

**Q3** Is a guard required?

**A3** No, not if the platform is less than 30 inches above the roof, floor, or grade below.





Clackamas  
Multnomah  
Washington  
COUNTIES

News *Connect*

Next Forum

Wednesday, Sept. 13



Over-the-counter permits for Oregon City, Portland, Hillsboro, Beaverton, and Milwaukie, and Washington and Clackamas counties are available online at [BuildingPermits.Oregon.gov](http://BuildingPermits.Oregon.gov).

For Portland-only permits: [www.portlandonline.com/bds/](http://www.portlandonline.com/bds/), click on "Online permits."

# Mechanical code adoption slated for April 2007

BCD is working on the code development and adoption process for two of the specialty codes, the Oregon Structural Specialty Code (OSSC) and Oregon Mechanical Specialty Code (OMSC).

For more than 30 years, Oregon has adopted state-wide specialty codes that are based on nationally recognized model codes. Typically, base model codes are updated every three years to recognize the latest industry standards, methods of construction, and technology. Once new editions of the model codes are available, BCD begins a review and adoption process that includes committee work and public input. This process allows public comment and the opportunity to submit amendments to the model code. The Oregon-specific amendments are based on health and safety issues, climatic or geographic conditions, conflicts with Oregon laws and regulations, or inadequate and unclear verbiage in the model code.

The OSSC and OMSC are slated for adoption on April 1, 2007. The deadline for public input, in the form of code-change proposals, was April 14. Since then, technical committees have spent many hours reviewing the proposals, existing amendments, and new modifications. BCD is using the 2006 International Building Code, 2006 International Mechanical Code, and 2006 International Fuel Gas Code as the base documents for the Oregon

specialty codes. BCD received approximately 69 suggested changes to the building code and eight changes to the mechanical code. The Mechanical Board and Building Codes Structures Board met in early August to review their committee recommendations. The public hearing is slated for Oct. 5 for the mechanical code and Oct. 3 for the building code.

Information on the committees' recommendations can be viewed on BCD's Web site at <http://www.bcd.oregon.gov/committees.html>. This link will allow you to pick the structural or mechanical committee and then review new proposals, committee minutes, and recommended findings. For more information about the technical aspects of the structural changes, contact Richard Rogers at (503) 378-4472. For questions about the mechanical code changes, contact Mike Ewert at (503) 373-7529. For more information about the code adoption process, contact Richard Blackwell at (503) 373-1227 or Richard Rogers. ♦

440-2733 (8/06/COM)

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



PRSR STD  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
SALEM OR  
PERM NO. 81