



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

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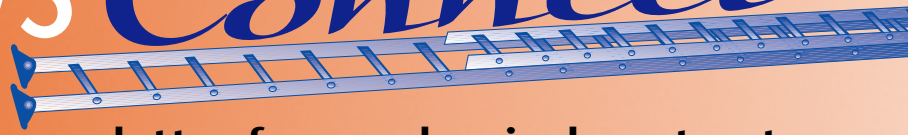


Building Codes Division

Web site www.oregonbcd.org



News *Connect*



A quarterly newsletter for mechanical contractors

October-December 2002

AIREFCO to sponsor November 14 forum

AIREFCO Northwest Distributors of Carrier Heating and Cooling Products is sponsoring a free forum on mechanical code issues from 4-7 p.m., Thursday, November 14, at the Multnomah County Board Room, 501 S.E. Hawthorne, Portland.

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

November 14 agenda

- Are blocks supporting a gas-piping system on a flat roof required to be anchored to the structure?
- Is a permit required for the installation of a residential oil tank and its supporting structure?
- What “minimum” tank support and tie-down details shall tri-county jurisdictions require from applicants in order to satisfy requirements for prevention of shifting and settling? ♦

August 15 code forum Q and A

Tri-County building officials have agreed to use the code panel’s determinations 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 click on “Code Forum Program.”

Q Is it possible to adequately inspect an underground heating oil tank installed on property containing a one- or two-family dwelling after the excavation has been partially back-filled? What criteria or conditions would apply to the inspection?

A The panel determined that such an installation could be partially or fully backfilled as long as the label from the approved testing lab is visible. The label is the only aspect of this installation that requires an inspection. Contractors could provide a tubing sleeve or other method to keep the label accessible to the inspector.

Q Does a laundry room built in the center of a house that does not have an outside window require mechanical ventilation?

A The panel was not able to address the question of whether or not a laundry room is considered similar to a bathroom, as stated in the *Dwelling Code*, Section 303.3. This question is referred to the State Code Interpretation Committee.

Dryer exhausts

The following two questions are frequently asked during remodeling projects. The questions pertain to the exhaust system for gas or electric clothes dryers.

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

Continued ...



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You can see questions and answers from previous code forums, arranged by topic. Go to the BCD Web site, www.oregonbcd.org. Click on "Tri-County," then click on "Code Forum."

A Yes. The code requires a cleanout for each vertical riser of a dryer duct. The panel recommends additional cleanouts may be needed to ensure proper cleaning access, but they are not required by code. The transition duct connection at the wall is considered to be a cleanout.

Q Some larger homes with interior laundry rooms require 30 feet or more of exhaust duct. What are our options?

A There are dryers available that allow up to 80 feet of exhaust duct. Booster fans are also available, which can extend the length of the dryer exhaust duct up to 100 feet.

Q What type of venting must be used with Category III venting and what are the clearances?

A The venting must be installed according to the manufacturer's installation instructions.

Q What is the required location of a shut-off valve for gas appliances in a commercial restaurant?

A The intent of the code requirement is to provide a shut-off valve within the kitchen area for routine maintenance. This requirement is not intended to address emergency shut-off situations. Sections 1305.1 and 1309.2 of the Mechanical Specialty Code say that the valve shall be accessible and defines access as follows: "That which enables a device, appliance or equipment to be reached by ready access or by a means that first requires the removal or movement of a panel, door or similar obstruction."

Q When installing a 90%+ furnace, is lateral mid-point support required on the PVC venting?

A Lateral support of PVC piping used for mechanical venting is not required, unless otherwise specified by the manufacturer's installation instructions.

Q Are the blocks supporting a gas piping system on a flat roof required to be anchored to the structure?

A Further discussion is needed. Tabled for the next code forum. ♦

On the Web



Visit these sites for useful information and convenient links:

- Permits Protect www.permitsprotect.info
- BCD's Tri-County site www.oregonbcd.org, then click on "Tri-County"

440-2733 (10/02/COM)

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