



Building Codes Division's Northwest Regional Office serves contractors and local building departments in Clatsop, Columbia, Clackamas, Multnomah, Washington, Tillamook, and Hood River counties.

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A quarterly newsletter for mechanical contractors

Summer 2007

BCD to sponsor Thursday, May 31 forum

The state's Building Codes Division will sponsor a free training session and forum on mechanical code issues from 4-7 p.m., Thursday, May 31, 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, or three hours of home inspector credit from CCB.

The purpose of the forum is to provide training and 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

- Oregon Mechanical Specialty Code — significant changes to the 2007 OMSC
- Top 10 mechanical code violations and how to avoid them
- Recent interpretations
- Open forum for your questions ♦

State e-permitting program now includes eight tri-county building departments

Web site offers one-stop shopping for construction permits

Mechanical, plumbing, and electrical contractors no longer have to stand in line to get simple building permits from many tri-county area building departments. A one-stop e-permitting Web site, www.buildingpermits.Oregon.gov, allows contractors to apply and pay for permits from home, the office, or even the job site on a 24/7 basis.

Lake Oswego was the most recent area building department to start offering e-permitting, joining Washington and Clackamas counties, Portland, Oregon City, Milwaukie, Beaverton, and Hillsboro. Building departments in Lane and Marion counties, Corvallis, Springfield, Eugene, Cannon Beach, and Medford also offer the service.

The Building Codes Division hosts the site where contractors can quickly apply and pay for multiple permits from multiple jurisdictions in one transaction.

"This Web site provides efficiencies and convenience to both the customer and local jurisdictions," said Stan Heil of Stan Heil Electric in Portland. "It's a good example, and a reason for the state to go forward on an e-permitting program that offers a full range of services."

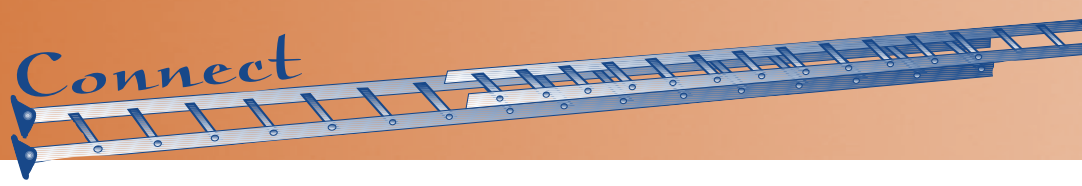
The e-permitting program is part of Gov. Kulongoski's regulatory streamlining initiative. House Bill 2405, recently signed by the governor, will expand the existing pilot program to create the nation's first

comprehensive statewide e-building program. Such a program would allow contractors to conduct more building department activities, such as receiving plan approval and scheduling inspections, online, morning, noon, and night, with any city or county in the state.

Both the participating jurisdictions and contractors praise the e-permitting program. City and county building officials enjoy providing enhanced customer service, and contractors report that the site saves them time and the hassle of faxing forms and driving to the permit office. ♦

BuildingPermits.Oregon.gov participating building departments:

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| • Beaverton | • Marion County |
| • Cannon Beach | • Medford |
| • Clackamas County | • Milwaukie |
| • Corvallis | • Oregon City |
| • Eugene | • Portland |
| • Hillsboro | • Springfield |
| • Lake Oswego | • Washington County |
| • Lane County | |



State offers building codes online

Builders, design professionals, and inspectors as well as home remodeling do-it-yourselfers have a new online resource to help them with their projects.

The Building Codes Division now offers the state's residential, structural, and mechanical building codes online at www.bcd.oregon.gov.

"The codes set minimum construction standards for building safety and provide a consistent and predictable building environment," said Mark Long, Building Codes Division administrator. "We are pleased that we can now offer Oregonians access to the codes that's as easy as turning on the computer."

The codes available online are:

- The Oregon Structural Specialty Code, which covers structural elements such as framing, roof assemblies, and building entry and exit in commercial and public buildings.

- The Oregon Mechanical Specialty Code, which regulates the construction of mechanical installations, such as heating and cooling systems, and venting and ductwork in both residential and commercial buildings.

- The Oregon Residential Code, which covers construction standards in one- and two-family dwellings ranging from stair geometry to window requirements in bedrooms to the height of railings on the deck.

Oregon codes are based on national model codes, which are protected by copyright laws. Through an agreement with the International Code Council, the Building Codes Division will offer free "view only" access to the codes through its Web site. While builders and designers often purchase codebooks for reference, having the codebooks online makes the information more accessible to anyone working on a construction project.

For more information about BCD's mechanical code program, go to bcd.oregon.gov, then to "Code Programs," then "Mechanical." ♦

News *Connect*

Buy your over-the-counter mechanical permits online at BuildingPermits.Oregon.gov

Code Forum Q&A

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 code forums to Joanie.M.Stevens-Schwenger@state.or.us or fax them to, (503) 872-6735.

Q Can you use Oregon Mechanical Specialty Code (OMSC) if the regulation is not in the Oregon Residential Specialty Code (ORSC)?

A Although the ORSC is a stand-alone code, the second sentence in Section M1301.1 does give authority to deal with mechanical issues not covered in the ORSC via the OMSC.

M1301.1 Scope. The provisions of this chapter shall govern the installation of mechanical systems not specifically covered in other chapters applicable to mechanical systems. Installations of mechanical appliances, equipment and systems not addressed by this code shall comply with the applicable provisions of the Oregon Mechanical Specialty Code. ♦

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