



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.

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News *Flash*

A bi-monthly newsletter for electricians and electrical contractors

June-July 2001

Code chief to hold forum June 19

BCD's electrical code chief Gary Wilson is scheduling an electrical code forum Tuesday, June 19, 4-8 p.m. at the Oregon State Office Building, 800 NE Oregon Street in Portland. Four hours of continuing-education credit is available to participants. To reserve space, please contact Marion Peterson at the Tri-County Service Center, (503) 872-6731. Those who have ques-

tions for the forum should fax them by June 15 to (503) 872-6735. Future forums will feature a tri-county panel of industry and building-department personnel. Check your August/September *NewsFlash* for more information. ▲

*Refreshments will
be provided*

Settling site-specific disputes

Thanks to the Tri-County Building Industry Service Board, tri-county contractors have a new method of settling site-specific disputes.

The Tri-County dispute-resolution process allows contractors to dispute inspection findings to the jurisdiction building official. If the contractor and building official can't reach an agreement, the contractor can ask for a second opinion. Then the building official, through the Tri-County Service Center, arranges a conference call with the

contractor and code experts from other jurisdictions and from on-call industry volunteers. The group discusses the case and renders a second opinion. Contractors not satisfied with the findings of the on-call group can appeal the decision to a local appeals board or to the state code chief through the "587" process.

Request dispute-resolution from jurisdiction building officials or the Tri-County Service Center, (503) 872-6731. ▲

April 19 code forum questions & answers

As part of the Tri-County Building Industry Service Board's mission to facilitate the consistent application of code in the region, results from code forums are published in *NewsFlash*, posted on BCD's Web site, and used as the standard for installations and inspections throughout the tri-county region. Check the Web site, www.oregonbcd.org, for complete transcripts of questions and answers.

Minor labels

Q Can I use a minor label to replace a defective ballast?

A Yes, but only to repair something defective. For larger jobs or for installations, you must pull a full permit. OAR918-261-0020(2)(f)

Q When changing outlets to GFIs or more than two circuits, do we need to take out a full permit instead of a minor label?

A Yes. OAR 918-309-0220(1)(b)

Q If we are running a new circuit under a minor label, can we change devices including outlets to GFIs, under the same label?

A Yes. OAR 918-309-0220(1)(b)

Q Under repair of service, can a minor label be used to replace a panel, meter base, stack or service/feeder wire?

A Only service wire. OAR 918-309-0220(2)

Q When replacing an electric furnace or air conditioning unit under a minor label, does the minor label cover any size circuit, or just 30 amps and below?

A Any size, not to exceed 240V. OAR 918-309-0220 (2)(e)

Q What is the definition of "device" for low voltage under the minor label rules?

A A speaker or volume control. OAR 918-309-0220 (3)(D)(iii)

Q Does one need a full permit to replace a line voltage thermostat?

A Yes, 100 VA or less. OAR 918-261-0220(t)

Q and A continued . . .



News flash

When using minor labels, post the label on the electrical panel **BEFORE** work begins. Send the Service Center the "hard card," not the top copies. Contractors should keep the top copies for their files. A minor label now has a space on the label for the contractor's name and scope of work. Don't forget to include this information.

Q Who can buy minor labels?

A An electrical contractor, a limited maintenance specialty contractor, a limited maintenance specialty contractor HVAC/R, or a restricted energy contractor. OAR 918-309-0210

Q Currently, electrical minor labels are all one color. Are there plans to offer different colors for electrical, restricted energy, and HVAC/R work? How can we know who did the work?

A Tri-County electrical minor labels are all one color so they can be used for various installations. Current minor labels are light blue and have spaces to write the name of the company and the scope of work. Inspectors can call the Tri-County office with questions. State labels are identical to the Tri-County labels.

Q Is there a rule that contractors must provide the information asked for on the label?

A Yes. OAR 918-309-0240(2)

Q Can more than one minor label be used on a job site? Example: changing out two furnaces in a large home or extending electrical services to accommodate furnaces.

A Only one minor label may be used on a job site with existing structural or electrical permits, provided the work is covered by the minor label rules. For example, the minor label rules allow the repair or replacement of only one appliance per label. OAR 918-309-0220(1)(a). If a contractor wants to install multiple appliances, a full permit is necessary.

Q What kind of new installations may be constructed using an electrical minor label?

A Work that is covered by the minor label rules that is not covered by the full electrical permit. The signing supervisor is responsible. OAR 918-309-0210(3)(a).

Q On new-construction inspections, what if the installation is already covered when the inspector arrives, or an inspector sees a violation on a minor-label installation (that the jurisdiction has not been asked to inspect), what does he do?

A Minor label rules do not require that an inspection is called before the installation is covered. Whenever an inspector finds a violation, the inspector should follow his jurisdiction's procedure for such violations. The inspector can call Tri-County to find out the name of the contractor.

Q Can recessed cans be cut in under a minor label? If so, how many?

A No. OAR 918-309-0220.

Q Can a limited maintenance HVAC license holder upgrade a furnace switch on a new furnace?

A Yes. OAR 918-251-0090(31) and (32) and 918-261-0020(3). A minor label is not needed.

Restricted energy

Q When is it necessary to take out an all-encompassing restricted-energy permit? Can a number of contractors all use minor labels instead?

A An all-encompassing restricted-energy permit is not a requirement. It is an option. By rule, a general contractor, electrical contractor, or individual contractor can take out an all-encompassing permit. Contractors allowed to use minor labels may do so, as long as the work meets the requirements of the rules. ▲

440-2725 (6/01/COM)