



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 *Splash*

A quarterly newsletter for plumbers and plumbing contractors

November 2003-January 2004

PHCC to sponsor November 13 code forum

The Oregon Association of Plumbing, Heating and Cooling Contractors will sponsor a free forum on plumbing-code issues, 4-7 p.m., Thursday, November 13, at the Clackamas County Auditorium, 9101 SE Sunnybrook Boulevard, Clackamas.

Qualified participants may receive three hours of code-related credit from BCD, three hours of HSW credit or certificate from AIA, or three hours of home-inspector continuing-education credit from CCB.

The purpose of the forum is to discuss regional code applications and reach consensus on standards for the tri-county region. All area plumbing

contractors, plumbers, architects, and building-department personnel are invited. Questions are welcome. Please submit questions to the center before each forum.

November 13 agenda

- Interpretation update: whirlpool tubs and pressure sewers and drainage systems
- New rules on exempt minor repairs
- Ultra-smooth ceramic finishes for plumbing surfaces
- Environmental rating system under consideration by EPA
- Questions and answers

Questions and answers from Sept. 4 forum

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 forum 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 "Code Forum Program."

At the forum, Andrea Simmons, BCD's Policy and Technical Services manager, distributed a legislative summary and a copy of SB 906 that, among other things, calls for licensees to wear visible identification on the job, and a copy of 2564 that allows contractors with two or more licenses to have a combination license with one issue and renewal date. More information may be found on line at www.oregonbcd.org. Click on "BCD Legislative Summary" on the home page to learn about individual bills affecting the industry.

Q It is my understanding that the next plumbing code forum may or may not deal with an interpretation of concealed space as it is shown in OAR 918-100-0050 (5). I would request they indeed deal with this requirement.

a) Item(5) states that a contractor making a minor concealed installation shall notify the division that the work is ready for inspection

within 48 hours. Work may not be covered or concealed until an inspection is made or approval to cover is given by the division.

b) OAR 918-780-0120, Exempt Ordinary Minor Repairs, 1 (a) provides a list of "ordinary repairs" exempt from permits and inspections and (A) speaks about repair, replacement or maintenance of existing and accessible fixtures, parts, appliances, appurtenances, related water supply and drain attachments.

This is the scenario: The contractor is called out to repair a leaking shower valve concealed within the cavity of the wall. It is presumed to be accessible behind the escutcheon plate. The contractor finds that in order to repair — or in this case replace — he needs to cut out a portion of the drywall to replace the valve, and he claims this work is exempt from a permit.

The Plumbing Specialty Code, Chapter 2, Section 201.0 states that "no attempt is made to define ordinary words which are used in accordance with their established dictionary meaning, except where a word has been used loosely and it is necessary to define its meaning as used in this code to avoid misunderstanding."

Continued...



Clackamas
Multnomah
Washington
COUNTIES

News *Splash*

Mark your calendars
2004 plumbing code fo-
rum schedule:

- Jan. 15
- April 15
- Sept. 16
- Nov. 18

Forums are 4-7 p.m.
Wednesdays, in the
Clackamas County
Sunnybrook Audito-
rium, 9101 S.E.
Sunnybrook Boulevard,
Clackamas. ♦

As described in the New American Heritage Dictionary, “concealed” means hidden or kept from observation. Reading the definition tells me that the part is “hidden”; therefore, a permit is required.

A A plumbing permit, a minor label permit, or both would be required for the replacement of a shower/tub valve.

Q Is an 1825 MBH-volume water-heating boiler certified to ANZI Z21.10.3/CSA 4.3 Standard and bearing the ASME H stamp Sec. IV 160 psi, that is installed in combination with an ASME storage tank in a potable domestic hot-water heating application required to have CSD-1 controls?

A This question should be presented to the boiler specialty code panel. ●

Proposed rules headed for public hearing

The following proposed rules, which define plumbing installations that are exempt from permits and inspections, were approved for public hearing by the State Plumbing Board on October 17, 2003.

Plumbing Inspections

Exempt Ordinary Minor Repairs

September 11, 2003

918-780-0035

Exempt Ordinary Minor Repairs

Scope of exemption. (1) This exemption is available only when the work is done by a licensed plumber in the employ of a registered plumbing contractor.

(2) The following are designated as “ordinary minor repairs” exempt from permits and inspections:

- (a) Repair, replacement or maintenance of existing and accessible parts, appliances or appurtenances;
- (b) Replacement of three or fewer fixtures per structure for a period of 180 days, including related existing and accessible water supply and drain attachments; or

(c) Emergency repair or replacement of freeze-damaged or leaking exposed or concealed piping not exceeding five feet of new piping per structure for a period of 180 days.

(3) “Ordinary plumbing repairs” do not include:

- (a) Replacement of water heaters;
- (b) Medical gas piping systems as defined in ORS 447.010(f); or
- (c) Solar heating and cooling systems as defined in ORS 447.010(g).

(4) The plumbing product certification, Oregon Plumbing Specialty Code and One- and Two-Family Dwelling Specialty Code plumbing installation requirements remain applicable.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 447.072 & 447.0761

Check www.oregonbcd.org, then click on “Public Notices” for the hearing date. For more information, call Terry Swisher, the state’s chief plumbing inspector, (503) 373-7488. ●

440-2727 (11/03/COM)

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



Protecting the Safety
& Value of Your Home
www.permitsprotect.info

PRSR STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
SALEM OR
PERM NO. 24