



## 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](http://www.oregonbcd.org)



# News *Splash*

A quarterly newsletter for plumbers and plumbing contractors

August-October 2003

## PMCA to sponsor Sept. 4 code forum

Plumbers and Mechanical Contractors Association will sponsor a free forum on plumbing-code issues, 4-7 p.m., Thursday, September 4, at the Clackamas County Auditorium, 9101 SE Sunnybrook Boulevard, Clackamas.

Qualified participants may receive three hours of code-related credit from BCD or three hours HSW credit for AIA members.

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.

### September 4 agenda

- Interpretation update
- Concealed installations
- Exempt minor repairs
- Questions and answers

## Questions and answers from April 24 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](mailto: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](http://www.oregonbcd.org). Click on "Tri-County" and then "Code Forum Program."

At the forum, Terry Swisher, BCD's chief plumbing inspector, distributed an update on proposed legislation. Up-to-date information may be found on line at [www.oregonbcd.org](http://www.oregonbcd.org). Click on "BCD Legislative Tracking," then find more information under individual bills.

**Q** If an inspector sees a plumber entering a house or parked in front of a house or business, can the inspector demand access to the residence or building to assess whether a permit is required?

**A** Right-of-entry is a legal question and is not covered under the Plumbing Specialty Code. An inspector does not have right-of-entry. Refer to One- and Two-Family Dwelling Code, R104.6.

**Q** When replacing a pipe through a foundation wall with a minor label permit, are there code provisions requiring a particular material to fill and seal the hole?

**A** An interpretation on this topic has been posted to BCD's website, [www.oregonbcd.org](http://www.oregonbcd.org). Click on "Interpretations" then click "Plumbing." Here is the text:

The purpose of the sleeve is to protect the piping so it is not subject to any load from the building and to make a water tight seal. Core drilled or smooth bored holes in concrete walls do not require an additional sleeve. However, the annular space between the concrete or sleeve in exterior concrete walls shall be filled with a flexible sealing material that is compatible with the piping material used. The installer should seek the pipe manufacturer's recommendation for approved caulking materials as required in Section 310.4.

**Q** Can you replace a hose bibb or water main shutoff that is in the ground and has a bleeder cap with a new shutoff valve with a drain? Is this an ordinary repair or minor label?

**A** No, it cannot be replaced with a new shutoff valve with a drain. A permit or minor label may be used.

**Q** Is it an ordinary repair to replace a shower valve? Does it require a regular permit? What if it is installed with an access panel or a remodel trim?

**A** No, it is not an ordinary repair. Either a permit or minor label is required.

Continued ...



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### News *Splash*

Encourage customers to visit BCD's Permits Protect Web site.

It's designed to provide your customers with the information they need to understand why permits are important for protecting the safety of their families and the value of their homes.

**Q** According to the installation manual of a particular brand of PEX tubing, tubing should not be installed within 6 inches of a gas appliance vent or within 12 inches of any recessed fixtures. Are all jurisdictions enforcing this, and if not, why not?

**A** Refer to Section 310.4, which says to follow manufacturers' installation standards, product listing, and code. The code provides adequate protection under Section 313.0.

**Q** Is a jurisdiction allowed to charge a plumbing-permit fee for installation of a "water heater" when the appliance being installed is classified under the plumbing code as a "boiler?"

**A** Yes. Refer to ORS 447.020, Subsection 2.

**Q** In Section 1105.2, the code says that you need to use a swing joint. Define the swing joints for two 45's and two 90's. How long should the pipe between them be?

**A** There is no clear definition in the OPSC or the dwelling code of an "approved swing joint." This topic was discussed at the Oregon State Plumbing Board Meeting in February 1999, followed by an article about the topic in the May-June 1999 Code Link, which you can review on our Web site under "Publications."

**Q** Is the "like for like" water-heater installation still in effect?

**A** Yes. The code in effect as of April 1 contains the same exemptions for water-heater replacement as the old code. Refer to Section R102.7.1.

**Q** If we have to plumb a domestic water-heater relief valve up and to the outside, can we drill a hole in the trapped section and still meet P-2908.5?

**A** Yes. Refer to Section P-2908.5, Subsection 4.

**Q** Table 7-3 lists a service sink with a 3-inch trap at 3 FU, yet there is a jurisdiction that says we need a 2-inch vent because it considers the 3-inch trap a 6 FU trap. Section 702 states that fixtures not listed in Table 7-3 are to be assigned fixture unit loading according to Table 7-4. The unit loading is based on the gpm flow rate. Table 7-4 lists a 6 FU trap at 31-50 gpm. If the type of fixture is listed on Table 7-3, why can't we use the FU listed? Can we assume that all service sinks will see a 31-50 gpm flow? Is a 3-inch service sink considered a 6 FU fixture or trap? Table 7-3 lists a "Sink, General, 3-inch Trap" at 5 FU. Are we to assume this is a "6 FU" trap also?

**A** The service sink with a 3-inch trap has a value of three fixture units. Section 702 only applies to fixtures not listed in Table 7-3. The service sink with a 3-inch trap is listed in Table 7-3 as three fixture units; therefore, Table 7-4 and the gpm trap loading do not apply. The "Sink General, 3-inch Trap" is also listed in Table 7-3, and the five-fixture unit value applies for general-use installations without reference to Table 7-4. ●

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