



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

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News *Splash*

A quarterly newsletter for plumbers and plumbing contractors

February-April 2005

PHCC to sponsor March 3 code forum

The Plumbing Heating and Cooling Contractors is sponsoring a free forum on plumbing code issues, 4-7 p.m., Thursday, March 3, at the Sunnybrook Clackamas County Auditorium, 9101 S.E. Sunnybrook Boulevard, Clackamas.

Qualified participants may receive three hours of code-related credit from BCD; three hours of master builder credit, 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 contrac-

tors, plumbers, architects, and building-department personnel are invited. Questions are welcome. Please submit questions to the center before each forum. Contractors and building-department personnel may send questions for the code forum to Christie.l.triplett@state.or.us or fax them to the center, (503) 872-6735. ●

Agenda

- Plumbing code changes and update
- Grease interceptors: issues and discussions
- Open forum

Questions and answers from November 18 code forum

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 consult with your local building official.

The Building Codes Division's Web site has a complete index of questions addressed at Tri-County code forums at www.bcd.oregon.gov. Click on Code Programs, then Tri-County Q and A.

Q In a description of the minor label program, there is a list of exclusions listing what the minor label program does not include. One exclusion on the list is "accessibility retrofit." Please explain what this means.

A This has to do with an existing plumbing installation that is being brought up to code regarding the structural code requirements for disabled accessibility.

Q Is there an apprenticeship for solar hot water installers?

A Yes. There are two new apprenticeships: one for solar electric and another for solar plumbing. Call the Bureau of Labor and Industries, which is the agency responsible for apprenticeships, at (503) 731-4200, for information.

Q Do in-ground, double-check valve assemblies have clearance requirements required by code?

A Yes. Reference Section 603.3.3 states that there must be one-foot of clearance below a device in box or vault. Table 6-2 also addresses a one-foot clearance.

Q Can I use polyethylene piping manufactured to the ASTM F810 standard for exterior rain drains?

A Yes. The code reference is 701.1.6, which allows CPE piping for exterior building storm drains. Also see Table 14-1. PVC piping ASTM D2729 is not approved for exterior rain drains.

Q If I install a hose bib in an uninsulated wall of a garage, do I have to put in a stop-and-waste to allow draining in the winter for freeze protection?

A No. Freeze protection is the goal, and there are a number of options and products to ensure freeze protection, such as heat tape. However, stop-and-waste valves are most commonly used.

Q Can I run half-inch-diameter water pipe to a residential fire sprinkler in a stand-alone or multi-purpose system?

Continued...



Clackamas
Multnomah
Washington
COUNTIES

News Splash

Mark your calendars!

2005 plumbing code
forum dates:

- Thursday, June 2
- Wednesday, Sept. 7
- Thursday, Dec. 1

4-7 p.m.
Sunnybrook Service
Center
9101 S.E. Sunnybrook
Blvd., Clackamas.

A No. You must run a minimum 3/4-inch pipe to the sprinkler. See NFPA 13D, Section 4-4.2. Half-inch piping may only be used when an engineered multi-port sprinkler fitting is used.

Q What is a macerating toilet? Is it an approved toilet?

A A macerating toilet has a grinder pump and sump built in. The discharge pipe may be as small as three-quarter-inch or one-inch in diameter. It is approved for private use in the new 2005 Oregon plumbing code. Current use may be approved as an alternate method under Section 301.2.

Q. The new flammable, vapor-ignition-resistant gas water heaters have special combustion chambers. Are they still going to be required to be on a stand in a garage?

A No, they will not be required to have a stand when installed in a garage.

Q One-stop permits — can we ask for separate permits for site work and (inside) plumbing? Can we apply this to one- and two-family dwellings or low-rise residential structures?

A We will refer this to the building officials for discussion. The legal requirement is for plumbing contractors or their representatives to sign for the work that they do. Ask for a signed application from each contractor or representative.

Q Do you need a permit if you install a pump in a crawlspace to clear a flooded area?

A Yes.

440-2727 (2/05/COM)

Q Can you hook up the pump to the exterior storm drain?

A The pump should be hooked up to a line that can accommodate the discharge without causing further flooding. There are no code requirements for the type of line it should discharge into.

Q Situation: We are doing a small remodel in which we are redoing water pipes and setting a shower. In the process of removing the old shower, we find that the venting to the toilet (that we are not working on and not hired to work on) is not up to code. Would an inspector make us bring it up to code? Or does the inspector inspect what is permitted only?

A See 918-750-0120 — Application to Existing Buildings. If the installation met code when it was installed, it would not have to be changed unless it was determined to be unsafe. If the previous installation (discovered during the remodel, but not included in the permit) is in violation, the inspector should write the correction for the homeowner.

Q When a backwater valve is required, is there a separate cross-sectional requirement to meet the branch line the device is protecting? The building-drain cross-sectional requirement is already met.

A No. 904.1 states that when a vent or vents through the roof meet the aggregate cross-sectional area of the largest required building sewer, no additional venting is required for the backwater valve. ●

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