



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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# News *Splash*

A quarterly newsletter for plumbers and plumbing contractors

May-July 2005

## PMCA to sponsor June 2 code forum

The Plumbing and Mechanical Contractors Association is sponsoring a free forum on plumbing code issues, 4-7 p.m., Thursday, June 2, 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 contractors, plumbers, architects, and building-department personnel are invited.

### Participate in the codebook raffle

**Win a codebook!** Submitting a question for the June 2 code forum will give you a chance to win a free plumbing codebook donated by IAPMO.

Questions must be submitted by Monday, May 23 to qualify for the raffle drawing. Please e-mail your questions directly to Joanie.M.Stevens-Schwenger@state.or.us or fax them to the center, (503) 872-6735.

Discussion and presentation topics for the June 2 code forum will focus on recent code changes. The code panel welcomes questions that address changes in the code — and any other questions you might have about the plumbing code. Questions already addressed by the forum and posted at [bcd.oregon.gov](http://bcd.oregon.gov) or already addressed through BCD interpretation will not be eligible for the codebook raffle.

### Agenda

- Interpretation update
- Plumbing code changes
- Open forum ●

## Q & A from March 3 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.

### March 3 forum minutes and Q and A

Mike Wynne opened the forum with a presentation on grease traps and interceptors, comparing 2000 OSPSC and 2005 OSPSC grease-trap requirements. Terry Swisher discussed Oregon's new plumbing code, and mentioned significant differences, including new sections addressing elevator-pit drains, medical gas, fire-stop-protection provisions, and reclaimed-water systems.

Section 1014.3 discusses vented flow-control devices.

Section 1014.5, which discusses fixtures discharging grease traps, has been simplified. Section 1014.9 has been removed because it was proved false. Grease hotter than 140 degrees can now be discharged into a grease trap. Research shows that the temperature of the grease actually aids in capturing the grease. There are three types of grease-interceptor devices discussed in the new code. The code provides clear guidelines for designers, inspectors, and installers of grease interceptors.

Chapter 11 adopts all model storm-drain code. A chart with national rainfall information has been added.

### Forum Q and A

**Q I submitted plans in February. It looks like I won't have an inspection until June. Which code applies to my project?**

**A** Use the code in place at the time of submittal. If you choose to, you may use the new code for your installation.

**Q If PEX piping can be poured directly into concrete for radiant heating systems without wrapping or protection, can a domestic water service in PEX penetrate the slab without wrapping or protection?**

**A** See Sections 310.4, 313.1, 313.2, and 313.5. Protection of such piping is required.

**Q Is 3/4-minus gravel an appropriate bedding and backfill material for schedule 40 ABS and PVC DWV, and PVC, CPVC, copper, PE, PEX, PEX-AL-PEX, PE-AL-PE?**

**A** Yes. Refer to the Interpretive Ruling, February 1, 2002. See Section 315.4 of OPSC.

Continued...



Clackamas  
Multnomah  
Washington  
COUNTIES

*News Splash*

Win a codebook by submitting your plumbing code question to the code forum by May 23!

E-mail your question to [Joanie.M.Stevens-Schwenger@state.or.us](mailto:Joanie.M.Stevens-Schwenger@state.or.us).

**Q** Twice in the last couple of months, one of our reps found replacement gas water heaters to be less than 20 inches from the face of a furnace. The customers had to pay to have the water heater they had just replaced moved to bring the furnace into compliance. When it is reasonable and does not cause hardship to the customer, should water heaters be required to comply with the clearance requirements of the mechanical code?

**A** Your question is one of courtesy, not of code. The short answer is that there is not code requirement for a plumbing installation to meet the clearance requirements of the mechanical code.

**Q** What kind of fill material is acceptable for backfilling a plastic water-service pipe?

**A** All excavations are required to be backfilled using adequate precaution to ensure proper compactness of backfill around piping without damage to such piping. Trenches shall be backfilled in thin layers to 12 inches above the top of the piping with clean earth, which shall not contain stones, boulders, cinder or other materials that would damage or break the piping or cause corrosive action. Clean fill dirt, sand, or 3/4-minus crushed rock are acceptable backfill materials.

**Q** Must a rain-drain-installing business be registered as a plumbing business?

**A** Yes.

**Q** Are employees of such a business required to be licensed journeymen plumbers?

**A** The answer is no for exterior building storm drains, yes for interior building storm drains.

**Q** Is a plumbing-business registration required for a business to install a building storm sewer?

440-2727 (5/05/COM)

**A** Yes, although ORS 701.138 exempts a person installing a building sewer from plumbing licensing, statute defines "building sewer" as conveying sewage. Storm sewers do not convey sewage and are therefore exempt from the requirement.

**BCD launches new online services**

As part of the governor's Regulatory Streamlining Initiative, BCD is launching a statewide electronic permitting system May 27 that allows customers to apply and pay online for minor labels and over-the-counter plumbing, mechanical, and electrical permits for the cities of Hillsboro, Portland, Milwaukie, and Beaverton and Clackamas and Washington counties.

The new online services can be found at [Building-permits.oregon.gov](http://Building-permits.oregon.gov), where contractors can:

- Apply for and purchase minor labels.
- Apply and pay for over-the-counter plumbing, mechanical, and electrical permits
- Obtain information about purchasing electrical, plumbing, and mechanical permits in the pilot jurisdictions.
- Locate the correct building department for a project by entering an address in the "Address Locator."
- Link to permit forms and contact information in the pilot jurisdictions.

The e-permitting pilot is a multi-phased collaborative effort of the Building Codes Division and the building departments of the cities and counties named above. BCD hosts the Web site.

The long term plan is to expand the system to include access to permitting in all jurisdictions statewide, eventually adding plan review.

For more information call Joan Stevens-Schwenger, manager, Tri-County Service Center, (503) 872-6731. ●

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