



October 1, 2009

Certification of small wind turbines

Purpose of the rule:

This rule establishes an alternative process for certifying small wind turbines with a capacity of 100 kW or less. This alternative process allows time for standards to be developed and manufacturers to have the products tested to those standards.

This rule becomes effective October 1, 2009 and expires January 1, 2011.

Citation:

Adopt: OAR 918-311-0080

Effect of the rule:

An alternative process allows small wind turbines to be installed and used in Oregon ahead of the certification process typically performed by testing laboratories. This rule is needed for these turbines, because the standards for certifying small wind turbines are relatively new and the certification process takes time to complete. The rule provides the necessary safeguards for the installation and use of the turbines in Oregon. To be certified under the rule, a manufacturer submits a single turbine for field evaluation and then provides documentation to a jurisdiction that all other turbines of that particular model are exactly the same as the one evaluated.

This rule is a result of the combined efforts of several organizations including manufacturers and distributors of small wind turbines, testing laboratories, the Oregon Department of Energy, the Electrical and Elevator Board, and the division. The rule supports Oregon's overall goal of increased energy efficiency and sustainability.

Contact:

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918-311-0080

Alternate Certification for Installation of Small Wind Turbines

(1) Wind turbines with a name plate capacity of not more than 100kW that meet the following criteria are considered certified as required by ORS 479.610.

(2) Certification under this rule only applies to small wind turbines where:

(a) The product design is reviewed for compliance with appropriate product safety and functionality standards and stamped by an Oregon-licensed professional electrical engineer; and

(b) The inverter is listed or labeled by a Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory.

(3)(a) To ensure the safety of the components under this rule:

(i) The manufacturer must submit one of each model of the product to an approved field evaluation firm for evaluation and approval as meeting electrical product safety standards;

(ii) The manufacturer must certify that each additional turbine of the same model meets the approved electrical product safety standards of the evaluated model; and

(iii) The field evaluation firm will provide for random evaluation of additional units as necessary, in accordance with the recommended practices required by OAR 918-306-0010(2)(c).

(b) If the approved model is changed it must be re-evaluated.

(4) Documentation demonstrating compliance with section (3) of this rule must be provided to the inspecting jurisdiction.

(5) Installations performed under this rule are required to comply with all appropriate permit, inspection, and licensing requirements.

(6) The provisions of this rule expire on January 1, 2011.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 479.760

Stat. Implemented: ORS 479.760

Hist.: BCD 5-2009(Temp), f. & cert. ef. 7-27-09; BCD 6-2009, f. 9-30-09, cert. ef. 10-1-09