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**No: 08-05
Rooftop HVAC Maintenance Receptacle**

Code Section: 210.63**Code Edition:** 2008 Oregon Electrical Specialty Code**Date:** Re-issued April 1st, 2008**Subject:** Requirements for rooftop maintenance receptacles**Question:** **If an existing HVAC unit is replaced with a “like kind” unit, does Section 210.63, requiring a receptacle to be installed, apply? Also, what if this unit is one of several that are on a roof of an existing building?****Answer:** **Section 210.63 shall not apply to replacement HVAC units where all of the following conditions exist:**

- 1) The installation consists of existing units being replaced with units of the same approximate voltage and amperage.**
- 2) The existing conductors and overcurrent devices are properly sized and meet the installation requirements of the new unit(s).**
- 3) The replacement installation does not result in any additional wiring requirements.**
- 4) On an existing roof, where not more than 50% of the units are being replaced and there is an existing roof receptacle within 75 feet.**

Analysis: In 1987 the National Electrical Code (NEC) required a receptacle for roof top HVAC units to be located on the same level and within 75 feet. In 1993, the receptacle requirement was changed reducing the distance for rooftop mounted units to 25 feet. In 2002, the receptacle requirement was changed to the current language requiring a receptacle within 25 feet for all HVAC equipment whether roof mounted or not. Section 210.63 requires that a 15 or 20 amp receptacle be installed within 25 feet of HVAC equipment.

Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) 918-305-0000 allows existing installations, that met code at the time of installation, need not to be brought up to current standards unless use or occupancy changes occur that facilitate new wiring methods. Though the requirement for the receptacle has been in code for several decades, determining whether an existing installation was inspected and approved several decades ago, is problematic at best for all parties involved.

Contact: Dennis Clements, Electrical Program Chief, State of Oregon
www.dennis.l.clements@state.or.us
(503) 378-4459

Building Codes Division ♦ Department of Consumer and Business Services ♦ State of Oregon
1535 Edgewater NW Salem, Oregon ♦ PO Box 14470 Salem, OR 97309-0404
503-378-4133 ♦ TTY 503-373-1358 ♦ Fax 503-378-2322 ♦ bcd.oregon.gov

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