



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 *flash*

A bi-monthly newsletter for electricians and electrical contractors

April/May 2001

Tri-County electrical code forum

All electrical contractors in the Tri-County region are invited to a code forum sponsored by the Tri-County Service Center, the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA), and the Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC). Gary Wilson, the state's chief electrical inspector, will lead the event.

Participants receive four hours of continuing-education credit.

Contact Marion Peterson, (503) 872-6731, in Portland, if you plan to attend the forum.

 Refreshments will be provided 

Date Thursday, April 19

Time 4-8 p.m.

Place... Sunnybrook Service Cntr. Auditorium
9101 SE Sunnybrook Blvd., Clackamas

Directions: *From Southbound I-205:* Take Exit 14 (Sunnyside Road), turn right on Sunnyside, turn left at the first signal onto 93rd Avenue, turn right at the first signal onto Sunnybrook, turn right into the Sunnybrook Service Center. *From Northbound I-205:* Take Exit 13 (82nd/Milwaukie), turn right at the first signal onto Sunnybrook Blvd., turn left into the Sunnybrook Service Center. ▲

Pre-paid minor label accounts now available at the service center

The Tri-County Service Center recently announced a new service for contractors: pre-paid cost accounts for tri-county minor label permits. Here's how the account works: The contractor makes a deposit to the account, and the center tracks debits for minor labels bought and informs the contractor when the account must be refreshed.

Contractors eligible to buy minor labels may request such an account by calling Leslie Matthews, (503) 872-6731, or they can fill out minor label application forms and attach notes requesting pre-paid accounts. As always, the center will continue to accept cash, check, VISA, or MasterCard in payment. ▲

New minor label rules take effect April 1

New Oregon Administrative Rules broaden the definition of installations that can be made using a minor label. For example, some installations up to 240 volts are now included, and contractors may now make restricted-energy installations in buildings other than one- and two-family dwellings with a minor label. Following is a rule synopsis:

918-309-0220 — Scope of Electrical Work Allowed with Minor Installation Label - A contractor with a signing supervisor, where the installation does not exceed 240 volts for (previous rules, 120 volts single phase):

▲ Extension of not more than two existing branch circuits limited to 30 amps each (previous rules, 20 amps).

▲ Installation of one new electrical circuit limited to 30 amps (previous rules, 20 amps.)

A restricted energy contractor, an electrical contractor using a licensed journeyman, or a restricted energy technician may now use minor labels for the installation, repair, and replacement of the following installations not exceeding 100 volt amperes in Class 2 or 3 installations, in one- and two-family dwellings, and in other buildings (commercial structures included). Here are the conditions:

▲ The equipment is not for a fire alarm or nurse call system and is not located in an area classified as hazardous (Chapter 5 of the National Electrical Code).

continued...



News flash

When placing a minor label on a new construction when the electrical panel is not yet installed, place it on the installation. If it's a vacuum system, place it on the pipe protruding from the wall. The City of Portland allows labels to be attached to the bright-orange permit card posted at the site. *The label must be posted before work begins.*

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Questions & Answers in a flash

Q What is the scope of a limited maintenance HVAC license?

A This is a maintenance license for the repair or replacement of an existing heating or cooling device.

Q Does this license allow you to extend a junction box in the ceiling to a disconnect, then to the appliance.

A No. Extending the wiring to the junction box and then to the appliance is considered a new installation. The scope of the license only allows an extension from the load side of the disconnect to the appliance.

Q Can you reconnect an appliance when a breaker in an adjacent panel board serves as the disconnect?

A Yes, as long as the wire size and the overcurrent

protection comply with the nameplate of the new appliance.

Q What can holders of limited HVAC licenses connect?

A They may connect a replacement gas appliance and gas piping, provided the appliance is the same as the existing one, the conductors and overcurrent protection comply with the nameplate of the appliance, and the circuit is grounded. (OAR 918-305-0000 and Section 117.2 or the One- and Two-Family Dwelling Code.

Q Can a limited-HVAC licensed electrician ground an appliance with an ungrounded circuit or new circuit, bond gas piping, or change overcurrent protection?

A No. These tasks lie within the scope of the electrical contractor's license. ▲

New minor label rules continued . . .

- ▲ The system does not penetrate any fire-rated assemblies or a fire-resistive wall, ceiling, or floor system.
- ▲ The cables are not located in a plenum area or access floor area.

The installation is limited to the following:

- ▲ Thermostats, up to five under one label.
- ▲ Data communication devices, up to five devices under one label.
- ▲ Intercom, music, and paging devices, up to five devices under one label.
- ▲ Door or gate control, monitor or access devices, up to five devices under one label.
- ▲ Cable television and closed circuit television devices, up to five devices under one label.

- ▲ Burglar and security alarm devices, up to five devices under one label.
- ▲ Central vacuum clean-control systems, one label per system.

Contractors with signing supervisors, limited maintenance specialty contractors, limited maintenance specialty contractors-HVAC/R, and restricted-energy contractors are eligible to buy and use minor labels. A sheet of 10 minor labels costs \$135, including surcharges. You can download an application from the BCD Web site, www.oregonbcd.org or call the Tri-County Service Center, (503) 872-6731, to receive an application by mail or fax. ▲

Notice to contractors: Please inform homeowners that their minor label installation may be inspected.

440-2725 (4/01/COM)

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