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PERMANENT ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

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Department of Consumer and Business Services, Building Codes Division

918

Agency and Division

Administrative Rules Chapter Number

Holly A. Tucker

(503) 378-5331

Rules Coordinator

Telephone

PO Box 14470, Salem, OR 97309-0404

Address

To become effective Upon filing, Rulemaking Notice was published in the January 2016 Oregon Bulletin.

RULE CAPTION

Clarifies the calculation of electrical permit fees and provision of inspection services

Not more than 15 words that reasonably identifies the subject matter of the agency's intended action.

RULEMAKING ACTION

Secure approval of new rule numbers with the Administrative Rules Unit prior to filing.

ADOPT:

918-309-0075

AMEND:

918-309-0000, 918-309-0030, 918-309-0040, 918-309-0060, 918-309-0070

REPEAL:

RENUMBER:

AMEND AND RENUMBER:

Statutory Authority:

ORS 455.020, 455.030, 455.055, 479.560, 479.870

Other Authority:

Statutes Implemented:

ORS 455.020, 455.030, 455.055, 455.083, 479.560, 479.870

RULE SUMMARY

These rules clarify the calculation of specified electrical permit fees, the number of inspections available to a permittee, and when a building inspection program may stop work.

Holly A. Tucker

holly.a.tucker@state.or.us

Rules Coordinator Name

Email Address

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Holly A. Tucker	holly.a.tucker@state.or.us
Rules Coordinator	Email Address
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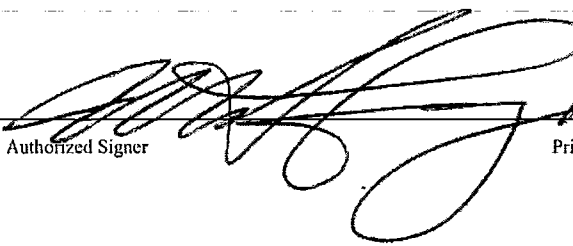
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RULE SUMMARY

These rules clarify the calculation of specified electrical permit fees, the number of inspections available to a permittee, and when a building inspection program may stop work.

 Mark Lane 4/1/2016

Authorized Signer Printed Name Date

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918-309-0000

Electrical Permits

(1) Except as provided by OAR 918, division 282, dealing with restricted energy transactions, limited maintenance specialty contractor-HVAC/R, and registered telecommunications service provider, the signature of a signing supervising electrician or limited supervising electrician must be required on each permit to aid inspections by the division and indicate responsibility under ORS 479.710. Any person providing false or incorrect information or false or an incorrect signature to obtain a permit may be subject to compliance action by the board.

(2) The following may purchase electrical permits:

(a) Electrical contractors; and

(b) Registered telecommunications service providers (TSP) as defined in ORS 759.005, including competitive carriers, competitive local exchange carriers (CLEC) and telecommunications utilities. These telecommunications service providers are listed as such by the Public Utilities Commission (PUC).

(3) A permit is required prior to start of electrical work. See OAR 918-309-0080 for temporary permit criteria.

Expansion of work under a permit may be added to an existing permit prior to final inspection.

(4) A permit must be posted in a conspicuous place near the main electrical panel location. If there is no main panel installed, the permit must be posted in a conspicuous place on the job site.

(5) An electrical permit, other than a restricted energy electrical permit as provided in OAR 918-309-0400, issued to one person or firm is not transferable and may not permit any other person or firm to perform any electrical work thereunder.

(6) Any permittee holding an unexpired permit may apply for an extension of the time within which work may be completed.

(7) Permits issued by an inspection jurisdiction under the provisions of the **Oregon Electrical Specialty Code** and these rules expire and become null and void if the work authorized by the permit is:

(a) Not started within 180 days from the date of permit issuance; or

(b) Suspended or abandoned for a period of 180 days after the work is started.

(8) Corrections to electrical installations must be completed regardless of 180-day suspension or abandonment of work. All corrections to electrical installations must be completed within 20 calendar days of notice of deficiency.

See OAR 918-271-0030 for requirements.

(9) In addition to other signing supervising electricians, the following are authorized to sign permits:

(a) A person whose qualifications are relied upon for licensing under OAR 918-282-0140 is a "supervisor" under ORS 479.560 and can sign for electrical permits or labels for work under a limited maintenance specialty contractor-HVAC/R license;

(b) A Class "A" or Class "B" limited energy technician can sign permits or labels for 100 volt-ampere or less electrical installations performed by those licensees;

(c) A "supervisor" as used in ORS 479.630 who can sign restricted energy permits includes:

(A) A Class "A" or "B" limited energy technician when the electrical installation is within the scope of the person's license;

(B) Persons whose qualifications are relied upon for the issuance of a restricted energy electrical contractor license under OAR 918-282-0060; and

(C) Any other electrical licensee authorized to sign a permit provided the work is within the scope of the person's license.

(10) No electrical permit is required:

(a) To replace light bulbs, fluorescent tubes, or approved fuses, or to connect approved portable electrical equipment to permanently installed and properly wired receptacles;

(b) For experimental electrical work or testing of electrical products in testing laboratories of electric shops, educational institutions, industrial plants, or recognized testing laboratories;

(c) For those minor electrical installations for which the board has authorized an installation label;

(d) To install components exempted by OAR 918, division 261;

(e) To replace an existing garbage disposal, dish washer, electric water heater or similar appliance of 30 amps or less, single phase; or

(f) To install cord and plug connected Class 2 irrigation control systems.

(11) Unless noted otherwise in these rules, a permittee is entitled to two inspections for each electrical installation or portion thereof for which a permit fee is assessed. The total number of inspections under a permit are aggregated and used to inspect any of the installations under the permit. A permittee is considered to have received an inspection only when the permittee has requested and received an inspection from the municipality. Inspections are counted

based on a single visit, in person or through an approved electronic inspection method, to a job site. See examples below:

Example 1: A permittee installing a service (OAR 918-309-0040), two feeders (918-309-0040), and ten branch circuits (918-309-0060) is entitled to eight inspections.

Permit Type(s): Installation of service, feeders (2) and branch circuits (10)

Inspections: One Service x 2 inspections/installation = 2 inspections

Two Feeders x 2 inspections/installation = 4 inspections

Ten Branch Circuits x 2 inspections/20 circuits = 2 inspections

(or portion thereof)

Total inspections 8 inspections

Example 2: A permittee installing a service, two feeders, and ten branch circuits requests an inspection from the municipality to inspect the service and feeders. The inspector arrives the next day and inspects the service and feeders. The permittee has received one inspection, and is entitled to seven further inspections. The remaining inspections may be used to inspect any of the installations under the permit.

[Publications: Publications referenced are available from the agency.]

Stat. Auth.: ORS 479.560

Stats. Implemented: ORS 479.560 & 479.870

918-309-0030

Permits for Residential Wiring

(1) The permittee is entitled to four inspections for a one-family dwelling, and eight inspections for a two-family dwelling. Fees are based on square footage for each one- or two-family dwelling (including attached garage) for residential wiring as follows:

(a) Wiring of not more than 1,000 square feet, \$106;

(b) Each additional 500 square feet or portion thereof, \$19.

(2) Permit fee for Manufactured Home or Modular Dwelling including service or feeder to unit served, \$63.

(3) Permit fee for Limited Energy:

(a) One and Two Family Residential, \$25. This permit fee covers all limited energy type systems installed in the building when installed at the same time by the permittee. A permit holder working under a residential wiring permit calculated under section (1) of this rule is not required to obtain a limited energy permit to install wiring for doorbells, garage door openers and heating and air conditioning systems.

(b) Multi-family residential, \$45. This permit fee covers all limited energy systems installed in the building, except protective signaling as defined in ORS 479.905(5). The fee is assessed once per floor, regardless of the number of dwelling units on each floor. The permittee is entitled to two inspections per floor.

(c) Multi-family residential protective signaling, \$63. This permit fee includes all protective signaling systems installed in the building as defined in ORS 479.905(5). The fee is assessed once per floor, regardless of the number of dwelling units on each floor. The permittee is entitled to two inspections per floor. See example below.

Example: A single contractor installing telephone and cable (limited energy systems) in each dwelling unit of a ten-floor apartment building, and fire alarm systems (protective signaling) in each unit and in the common areas on each floor is assessed the multi-family residential limited energy fee ten times (10 floors x \$45 = \$450) for the phone and cable systems, and the multi-family limited energy protective signaling fee ten times (10 floors x \$63 = \$630) for the fire alarm system, for a total permit fee of \$1,080 (based upon the fee amount above). The permittee is entitled to 40 inspections.

Bldg. Type(s): 10 floor apartment building

Contractor(s): Single contractor

Permit Type(s): Limited energy (telephone/cable) and protective signaling (fire)

Inspections: Limited energy 10 floors x 2 insp./fl. = 20 inspections

Protective signaling 10 floors x 2 insp./fl. = 20 inspections

Total inspections 40 inspections

Fees: Limited energy permit 10 floors x \$45 = \$450

Protective signaling permit 10 floors x \$63 = \$630

Total fees \$1,080

*Please note that the fee rates used in this example are the state rates. Each jurisdiction adopts its own administrative fees that are then calculated using the same methodology.

(4) Items Covered in this Section:

- (a) When computing the area, include the square footage of attached garages;
- (b) The residential fee covers services, feeders and all branch circuits on and inside each dwelling unit and includes garages that are attached to the dwelling unit, including the limited energy systems for the doorbell, garage door opener, and the heating and air conditioning control wiring in one and two family dwellings only;
- (c) New Construction. Use this fee in connection with new construction;
- (d) Remodels, Additions, Alterations or Repairs. Compute the fee under this section using the square footage of the area remodeled or added, then compute the fee under OAR 918-309-0060 "branch circuits." Use the lower fee;
- (e) Reconnection only. See OAR 918-309-0040(9).

(5) Application of Fees:

- (a) One- or Two-Family Dwellings. To calculate the fee for a one or two-family dwelling, obtain the square footage of each unit. Include the garage if it is attached to any unit. There is an exception in subsection (c)(A) of this section if a detached garage or accessory building is built at the same time as the dwelling unit. Compute the fee using the procedure shown for each dwelling unit. Record the number of units under "Items" in the permit and multiply this with the fee shown;
- (b) Multi-family Building. In the case of a multi-family building containing three or more apartments, determine the square footage of the largest apartment in the building and compute the fee. For each additional apartment in the building, a fee of one-half of the first unit fee must be used. The house panel fee for general service equipment such as apartment unit lights, washer-dryer, outdoor lighting and the like is calculated using OAR 918-309-0060(1) services and feeders, and OAR 918-309-0060(2)(b) dealing with branch circuits. The permittee is entitled to four inspections per floor;
- (c) Detached Garages. Detached garages and accessory buildings are not considered part of the residential unit. The permit fee is based on the method of supplying power to the unit:
 - (A) Exception — Simultaneous Construction with Single Branch Circuit. If the structure receives power through a branch circuit from the house panel with a single branch circuit, include the square footage of the garage with the living unit, provided the garage is built at the same time as the dwelling unit. If separate construction is involved, use the fee for branch circuits under OAR 918-309-0060;
 - (B) Sub-Panel. If the detached structure has a sub-panel powered from the house service, the fee is computed using the "feeder" section, OAR 918-309-0040 and branch circuits, OAR 918-309-0060(1);
 - (C) If the detached structure is built first, the fee is based on service, feeder and branch circuits;
 - (D) Separate Service. If the structure has a separate service, the fee is based upon service, feeder and branch circuits.
- (d) Reconnect Only. See OAR 918-309-0040(9);
- (e) House Moves. In most instances, the fee will only involve a service reconnect:
 - (A) If changes to the service are made, a new service charge is made under OAR 918-309-0040;
 - (B) For each new, extension or alteration of branch circuits, use OAR 918-309-0060;
 - (C) If the building was moved in sections and there is no upgrading of the service, use the fees in this section using square footage.
- (f) Manufactured Dwellings and Modular Homes. Manufactured dwellings and modular homes usually require a service and a feeder from the service to the home. In mobile home parks, usually only the feeder is necessary because the service already exists. Where there is a detached garage or accessory building, refer to subsection (5)(c) of this rule dealing with detached structures.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 455.030 & 479.870

Stats. Implemented: ORS 455.030 & 479.870

918-309-0040

Permit for the Installation, Alteration, or Relocation of an Electrical Service or Feeder

Permanent service or feeder.

- (1) Each service or feeder of 200 amps or less, \$79.
- (2) Each service or feeder in excess of 200 amps but not more than 400 amps, \$94.
- (3) Each service or feeder in excess of 400 amps but not more than 600 amps, \$156.
- (4) Each service or feeder in excess of 600 amps but not more than 1,000 amps, \$204.
- (5) Each service or feeder over 1,000 amps or volts, \$469.
- (6) General Procedure for a Separate Service. If a structure has a separate service, the fee is based on the service size (amps), plus feeders, if any, plus the number of branch circuits.
- (7) Fees in this rule are in addition to any other fees required under ORS 479.510 to 479.855.

(8) Where the service constitutes a load center, the permit fee must be calculated the same as any service panel. The charges must be for the size of the service and the branch circuits or feeders to the load center.

(9) Reconnect Only. This rule applies to reconnection where the service was disconnected for repair or by the serving utility company and no change in service capacity or location is made. This allows the replacement of a meter base, a service mast, a service panel, a subpanel, the feeder to one of the items listed or the repair or replacement of damaged service mast and meter on the exterior of a building. The \$63 fee covers one inspection for this item.

(a) If a major violation of the service exists, a new service and new permit fee is required;

(b) It may also be used for house moves. If a major violation of the code or a dangerous condition exists in a house move, repair or replacement and a permit are required.

(10) Fees charged under this rule may not be charged both for amps and volts.

(11) In commercial and industrial buildings, separately metered premises that are divided from each other by walls are classified as a separate building for the purpose of computing permit fees. A different permit is required for each separate building:

(a) Master Service. For buildings with a master service, such as an office building, compute fees by the service (amps), the feeders (amps) and branch circuits. If there is more than one service, each service is charged separately along with its related feeders and branch circuits;

(b) Single Occupant. In single occupant buildings, the fee is based on the service (amps), the number of feeders (by amps) and branch circuits;

(c) Tenants. Where tenants are involved, the shell receives a permit for any service, feeders and branch circuits that involve only the shell. Each tenant space requires a separate permit. Each tenant space is charged for service (amps), the number of feeders by amps and branch circuits.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 455.020 & 479.870

Stats. Implemented: ORS 455.020 & 479.870

918-309-0060

Branch Circuits

Branch circuits, alterations or extensions.

(1) The fee for branch circuits with purchase of service or feeder fee for each branch circuit, \$4.

(2) The fee for branch circuits without purchase of service or feeder fee:

(a) The first branch circuit, \$54;

(b) Each additional branch circuit, \$4.

(3) For signs and outline lighting refer to OAR 918-309-0070(2).

(4) The permittee is entitled to two inspections for every 20 branch circuits or portion thereof.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 455.020 & 479.870

Stats. Implemented: ORS 455.020 & 479.870

918-309-0070

Miscellaneous

Special fees are established for the following items in lieu of fees set under OAR 918-309-0060.

(1) Permit for each domestic water or sewage pump, irrigation pump or circle and its associated controls, excluding service fee, \$63;

(a) Single Circuit. If a well pump or sewage pump and its associated controls are serviced from the house main service, and the pump is installed and ready for inspection, no additional fee is charged. If the pump is installed by another contractor or later, an additional pump fee and a new permit is necessary under this part;

(b) Feeder. If the well has a subpanel, there is a fee for the feeder from the main service to the subpanel and a fee for branch circuits. If the pump is installed later, or by another contractor, a new permit and pump fee is required;

(c) Separate Service. If the well has separate service the fee is based on the service (amps) and the number of branch circuits. If the pump is installed later, or by a different contractor, a new permit and pump fee is required.

(2) Permit for the installation of each electrical sign or outline lighting system supplied by a single branch circuit, \$63.

(3) Each limited energy circuit panel, one or more air-conditioning or heater thermostats installed at a job site, multiple circuit terminal board or installation or extension of limited energy circuits, \$63.

(4) The permit fees in this rule, except as noted in subsection (11), are for up to two inspections and are charged in addition to other fees for electrical service.

(5) Note the exception under OAR 918-309-0030(3)(a)(A) dealing with residential limited energy.

(6) Installation of signal circuits in buildings over three floors. Each floor in excess of three is considered a separate panel for the purpose of calculating fees.

(7) Fees for inspections in excess of those allowed under OAR 918-309-0030 through 918-309-0060, \$55.

(8) Fees for other inspections not covered by this rule. All inspections not provided in this rule must be charged at \$86 per hour including travel and office time with a minimum charge of one hour.

(9) Fees for Bulk Labels:

(a) Bulk labels sold only to electrical contractors, \$25 per label;

(b) Contractors working under a bulk label system are billed for any difference in the cost of the bulk label and the cost of the permit fees required in this rule.

(10) The fee for swimming pools is permitted as provided in OAR 918-309-0040 and 918-309-0060. The inspection of the grounding of the pool is included in the permit for the pool and counted as one of the number of allowed inspections under the permit.

(11) Permit fees for renewable electrical energy systems. For renewable electrical energy permit applications, see OAR 918-309-0410. For repairs and maintenance of renewable electrical energy systems, see OAR 918-309-0220(5).

(a) (A) 5 KVA or less: \$79;

(B) 5.01 KVA to 15 KVA: \$94;

(C) 15.01 KVA to 25 KVA: \$156.

(b) For wind generation systems in excess of 25KVA:

(A) 25.01 KVA to 50 KVA: \$204;

(B) 50.10 KVA to 100 KVA: \$469;

(C) For wind generation systems that exceed 100 KVA the permit fee is calculated in accordance with OAR 918-309-0040.

(c) For solar generation systems in excess of 25KVA:

(A) Each additional KVA over 25 will be charged an additional \$6.25 per KVA.

(B) The permit charge will not increase beyond the calculation for 100 KVA.

(d) Permits issued under this sub-section include three inspections. Additional inspections will be billed at an hourly rate.

(12) Work Commencing before permit issuance. Any person who commences electrical work on a building or structure before obtaining the necessary permits will be subject to an investigative fee. The amount of the investigative fee is the average or actual additional cost of ensuring that a building or structure is in conformance with the **Oregon Electrical Specialty Code** and is in addition to the required permit fees.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 479.870

Stats. Implemented: ORS 455.083 & 479.870

918-309-0075

Provision of Services

(1) For any project requiring plan review, once the initial permit and plan review fees have been paid, a building official, inspector, or plans examiner may not stop work on-site or otherwise delay or refuse to provide inspection services in order to compel payment of outstanding fees.

(2) Stop-work orders may only be issued for permitted projects for violations of the minimum safety standards.

(3) Any violation of these rules is a failure to administer a building inspection program for the purposes of ORS Chapters 455 and 479, and may result in sanctions including but not limited to civil penalties and actions on certifications and other division approvals.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 455.055

Stats. Implemented: ORS 455.055