
Director's Office, 350 Winter St. NE, Room 200, Salem, Oregon 97301-3878

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Contact information:

Leah Andrews

503-302-8966

leah.k.andrews@oregon.gov

Oregon Building Codes Division pilot program allows for remote inspection

Technology lets Minor Label Program use contact-free inspection process

Salem – The Oregon Building Codes Division (BCD) has launched a pilot program using remote inspection technology to review some common mechanical installations.

“In response to COVID-19, we are using innovative new ways to allow for contact-free inspections,” said Alana Cox, acting administrator of the Building Codes Division.

This pilot program will initially be available in a limited number of jurisdictions: Salem and most of Marion, Coos, and Umatilla counties.

Contractors doing work in participating jurisdictions can perform certain common mechanical installations under a minor label permit and submit pictures and videos of the installations for inspection.

Using remote inspection technology that can be downloaded onto a mobile device, the pictures and videos can be submitted as documentation for later inspection.

Minor labels are inexpensive electrical, plumbing, and elevator permits that can be used by licensed contractors in Oregon. Labels are sold to contractors in lots of 10 for \$140, which includes surcharges and the fee for one inspection. The permits are valid for one year from the date of purchase.

Rather than waiting for an on-site inspection, review and approval is conducted remotely, saving time for the contractor and the local building inspection staff.

For instructions or more information about the program, visit the BCD website at <http://www.oregon.gov/bcd/minlab/Pages/mechanical.aspx>, email minilabhelp.imd@oregon.gov, or call 503-378-2804.

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Building Codes Division administers Oregon's Statewide Building Code, which provides uniform standards that ensure newly constructed residential and commercial buildings are safe for citizens to occupy.