



Water heater installers—Scope of license

Purpose of the rule:

This rule amends the Oregon Administrative Rules governing the scope of work available to someone with a Residential Water Heater Installer license. The change expands the scope to allow a water heater installer to install all types of residential water heaters that are now available. The allowable length of piping is extended to accommodate new and future water heater designs. Finally, the language in the rule relating to fuel conversion and changing water heater type is intended to clarify that the scope of a water heater installer license includes that type of work.

Citation:

Amend: OAR 918-695-0120

This rule becomes effective October 1, 2020.

History:

At its June 18, 2020, meeting, the State Plumbing Board discussed expanding the scope of the Water Heater Installer license to allow holders of the license to install some newer water heater models. After discussion, the board voted to approve the expanded scope for the Water Heater Installer license and forwarded the rule to a public hearing. There was a rulemaking hearing held on August 18, 2020, and the public comment period ended on August 21, 2020.

Effect:

The rule clarifies that a water heater installer:

- May not do any work that changes the location of the water heater.
- May convert a water heater from one fuel type to another.
- May replace a storage tank water heater with an instantaneous on demand water heater or replace an instantaneous on demand water heater with a storage tank water heater.
- May make piping connections for hot and cold water of up to 96 inches for each connection.

Contact:

If you have questions or need further information, contact Andy Skinner, Plumbing Program Chief, at 503-373-7488 or Andrew.J.Skinner@oregon.gov.





PERMANENT ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

BCD 19-2020

CHAPTER 918
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AND BUSINESS SERVICES
BUILDING CODES DIVISION

FILED

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ARCHIVES DIVISION
SECRETARY OF STATE
& LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL

FILING CAPTION: Amends the scope of the Water Heater Installer license to accommodate newer models.

EFFECTIVE DATE: 10/01/2020

AGENCY APPROVED DATE: 09/29/2020

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Filed By:
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AMEND: 918-695-0120

NOTICE FILED DATE: 07/31/2020

RULE SUMMARY: Amends the scope of the Water Heater Installer license to accommodate newer models.

CHANGES TO RULE:

918-695-0120

Limited Specialty Plumber Classification for Limited Maintenance Electrical Contractors ¶¶

(1) Authorization and Scope. This rule creates a limited specialty plumbing license to install and replace residential water heaters.¶¶

(2) Persons Eligible for Licensing. A registered plumbing contractor also licensed under ORS 479.630 as an electrical limited maintenance specialty contractor can apply for this license. This allows licensing of:¶¶

(a) An individual holding a Limited Maintenance Specialty Contractor License;¶¶

(b) Officers or employees designated by a corporate Limited Specialty Contractor; or¶¶

(c) Any partner where a partnership is the Limited Specialty Contractor.¶¶

(3) Employees of a sole proprietor or of a partnership identified in subsections (2)(a) and (c) of this rule cannot be licensed under this rule.¶¶

(4) Procedure for Licensing. An applicant for licensing shall:¶¶

(a) Pay applicable fees;¶¶

(b) Have the application signed by the plumbing-electrical contractor;¶¶

(c) Attend an approved eight-hour training class for limited specialty residential water heater plumbing installation; and¶¶

(d) Pass a division-approved examination.¶¶

(5) Training Class and Examination Requirements.¶¶

(a) A limited specialty residential water heater plumbing class shall cover the requirements for installation of residential water heaters and the related administrative and enforcement provisions in statutes, rules and codes to obtain Chief Plumbing Inspector approval.¶¶

(b) The examination shall test applicant's knowledge of the items covered in subsection (a) of this section.¶¶

(6) Scope of Plumbing Authorized. As used in ORS 693.103(2):¶

(a) "Installation and replacement of one- or two-family dwelling residential water heaters" includes open (non-covered and not intended to be covered) plumbing work in a one- or two-family dwelling related to:¶

~~(A) Replacement or fuel conversion of an existing water heater; work listed in (A)-(C) below; that does not include any work that changes the location of the water heater.¶~~

(A) Replacement or fuel conversion of an existing water heater, including:¶

(i) Conversion to a different fuel type;¶

(ii) Replacement of a storage tank water heater with an instantaneous on demand water heater; and¶

(iii) Replacement of an instantaneous on demand water heater with a storage tank water heater.¶

(B) Installation of up to two nipples with no nipple exceeding six inches and flex piping not exceeding ~~24~~96 inches for each of the cold and hot water connections; and¶

(C) Installation of piping and related appurtenances applicable to the temperature pressure relief valve.¶

(b) "Existing plumbing" means the exposed pre-installed approved cold water supply piping used or designed to connect to the water heater extending to the exposed cold water shut-off supply valve. If there is no cold water shut-off supply valve, "existing plumbing" extends to and includes the connected water heater and does not allow a replacement by a limited specialty plumbing licensee under these rules.¶

(c) "Alteration of existing plumbing" means any changes to existing plumbing and includes installation or replacement of a cold water shut-off supply valve regardless of whether one was initially installed. Alterations are not authorized under these rules and the limited specialty plumbing license.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 693.103

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 693.103