



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Department of Consumer and Business Services
Building Codes Division
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April 29, 2022

RE: Workgroup on HB 2415 Electronic Plan Review, Permitting, and Inspections

Thank you for your interest in the workgroup relating to electronic processes and the implementation of Enrolled House Bill 2415 (2021). We look forward to hearing the workgroup's feedback on the issues outlined below.

Date, Time, and Place

Date and time: May 2, 2022, at 1:30 p.m.

Place: Virtual ZoomGov, telephone and (virtual) computer attendance only

Connection information will be posted on the View Live Meetings web page on the day of the meeting.

Facilitator:

Tyler Glaze, policy analyst, Building Codes Division

Celina Patterson, ePermitting section manager, Building Codes Division

Agenda:

- A. Welcome and introductions
- B. Discussion of issues
- C. Summary of next steps
- D. Adjournment

Attachments

Background

Draft survey questions

Background:

HB 2415 recently passed the Oregon legislature and was signed into law by the Governor. The bill took effect on September 25, 2021, but portions of the bill are not operative until January 1, 2025. A copy of the enrolled bill is attached.

This bill will create minimum standards and more statewide consistency for electronic processes for reviewing plans, issuing permits and performing field inspections. In addition, by the year 2025, all municipalities that administer and enforce a building inspection program will be required to use the division's electronic system, or an equivalent system, for certain information and services. This system will include, but need not be limited to, the following:

1. Licensing, permitting, inspections and other relevant information;
2. Access to forms;
3. Electronic submission of and payment for permit applications;
4. Electronic submission of plans for review;
5. Electronic receipt of plan approvals and permits;
6. Electronic issuance of minor label or other appropriate permits;
7. Access to permit and inspection processes;
8. Receiving requests for and scheduling inspections, tracking of corrections and granting of approvals;
9. Performance of electronic field inspections, construction progress inspections and on-site verification of compliance with building code requirements; and
10. The coordination and tracking of construction-related services.

At the Jan. 25, 2022 Rules Advisory Committee meeting, the division discussed the results of a survey of jurisdictions regarding their electronic process capabilities and obstacles. Now, the division would like feedback on how to conduct a survey of contractors regarding electronic permitting, plan review, and inspections.

Discussion:

The division is interested to learn what electronic systems design professionals and building contractors are currently using, and any limitations, to assist in its creation of statewide consistency and the required statewide system for jurisdictions. The division has prepared a draft of a survey to be completed by contractors and members of the building trades industry. This draft survey is enclosed with these materials. We are interested in feedback from the workgroup regarding this survey.

DRAFT Construction Industry Questionnaire

Introductions

1. Are you a contractor?
2. If so, what kind of contractor?
 - a. Trade vs General?

Electronic Plan Review

1. What percentage of documents do you submit electronically?
 - a. When you submit electronically, is it by email or by uploading to a website?
2. What percentage of your initial review and mark up is completed electronically?
 - a. What problems have you encountered during electrical initial review and markup?
3. What percentage of your plan revisions are completed electronically?
 - a. What problems have you encountered with revisions?
4. What communication issues have you experienced during electronic plan review?
5. Do you have other suggestions to improve the electronic building plan review process?

Electronic Permitting

1. What percentage of permits do you apply for online?
2. What percentage of permit fees do you pay for online?
3. Do you prefer online permitting or in person permitting? Why?
4. Are there things that would improve the online permitting process?

Scheduling Inspections

1. What is your preferred method of scheduling inspections?
 - a. By Phone?
 - b. Automated phone scheduling?
 - c. Mobile app?
 - d. Website?
2. Why is this your preferred method?

Inspection Results

1. What is your preferred way to receive inspection results?
 - 1) On the jobsite/on paper?
 - 2) Via email?
 - 3) Mobile app?
 - 4) Website?

Suggestions?

1. What electronic inspection processes do you think building departments could institute that would improve your ability to do business?
2. Who should we be reaching out to in this survey?