Licensing clarification
June 2016

Signing Supervising Electrician

Statute: ORS 479.560 and ORS 479.630

Rule: OAR 918-282-0015 and OAR 918-282-0140

Date: Issued April 1, 2008
Updated June 13, 2016

Subject: Amendments to OAR 918-282-0140 and the duties and responsibilities of the signing supervisor

Question:

Recently the division amended OAR 918-282-0140 to clarify the duties and responsibilities of general supervising electricians, including the clarification that the supervisor may not allow, by *failure to prevent*, an individual to perform unlicensed work. While the amendments were intended merely to clarify the current responsibilities of general supervisors without making substantive changes, the division has received some questions.

Is a supervising electrician responsible for a "side job" performed by their employee at a different job site?

Answer:

No. In general signing supervisors are only responsible for projects of the employing electrical contractor where a permit was pulled or should have been pulled. Supervising Electricians are responsible for work performed under a permit signed by them. They are not responsible for "side jobs" performed by employees on another job site that is not part of the Supervising Electrician's responsibility.

Supervising electricians have always been responsible for ensuring that proper permits and/or labels are obtained and properly posted. A supervising electrician is required to sign electrical permits to indicate:

1. All installations meet minimum safety standards;
2. Proper electrical safety procedures are used;
3. That persons performing electrical work are properly licensed; and
4. That corrections issued by the inspecting jurisdiction will be completed in a timely manner.

The recent rule amendments do not change the existing responsibilities. The rules are intended to clarify that for the projects under the supervisor's responsibility, failing to prevent unlicensed work

from occurring can result in a violation even where the supervisor is unaware of the occurrence. The amendment to the rule does not mean that a signing supervisor is responsible for work done after a permit is final and closed.

Analysis:

The requirements for the rights and responsibilities of a signing supervising electrician can be found in ORS 479.560 and 479.630. Rule requirements implementing the Oregon Revised Statutes are located in OARs 918-282-0015, 918-282-0140, 918-282-0150, 918-282-0160.

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