

**STATE OF OREGON**

**MEMO**

**BUILDING CODES DIVISION**

**JUNE 17, 2014**

To: Bill Cross, OMOA

From: Mark Heizer

Subject: May Meeting Open Items

Bill,

Here are our responses to the remaining open items from the May OMOA meeting.

**CODE DISCUSSION, open items from May Meeting:**

- Mark Heizer, Mechanical Code Specialist, was asked whether he had been able to answer the previous month's question about carbon monoxide restraint. He had not finished his research on this question so it was tabled for another month.

BCD Notes:

This method will meet the code intent for restraint. However, in new construction, there may be other issues to address:

- The detector might render the outlet unusable; discussion centered around this fact. If one cannot plug in a grounded plug into the remaining outlet on a duplex receptacle, the receptacle is unusable. If this occurs, the CO detector cannot reduce the minimum quantity and spacing of outlets required by code. A dedicated, extra outlet could be necessary to maintain the outlet quantity and spacing.
- Bob Wentz queried the group about light testing hood exhausts. In the OMSC 506.3.2.5 it states that, "A light test or *an approved equivalent pressure test* shall be performed to determine that all welded and brazed joints are liquid tight." (italics mine) The question he posed was, "What constitutes and equivalent pressure test"? John Stelzenmueller stated that a pressure test would have to be verifiable by a gauge. At what psi would the test be acceptable? Mark Heizer stated that he would get back to us with additional information next month. The question was tabled until next month:

BCD Notes:

There are several other methods available (some are included in code modification in other states). Any of these could be seen as an alternate method.

- Water test: 1500 psi pressure washer nozzle designed for inserting into duct from top; plastic sheeting at bottom to catch the drainage/spray (as well as grease trough)
- Pressure test: No standards available. Other states/jurisdictions are using 1.0-Inches H2O for 20 minutes. As John noted, this is getting to the point where leakage at the temporary end seals and sensitivity of the equipment Given the

heavy gage of the metal used, a higher pressure should not be an issue. Holding 2.0" w.g. for 20 minutes should be acceptable as equivalent to 506.3.2.5.

- Smoke Test: light bomb, let draft fill duct, then seal top & bottom (not sure on this one).
- (Peppermint Oil test: Won't tell where the hole is, but will tell you there's a leak somewhere. Soak rag in 1 bottle peppermint oil; seal bottom (first) & top. Let sit 30 minutes. If you can smell, then do further testing. Not much different from air pressure test).
  
- John Stelzenmueller asked the other jurisdictions represented whether or not they allowed the louvered plastic dryer duct terminations in their jurisdictions. His experience has taught him that they readily clog up with lint and block the free flow of dryer exhaust, which seems to contradict ORSC M1502.3 and OMSC 504.4. Since screens are not allowed on these ducts, his opinion was that the louvered terminations were similar to have restrictions to the airflow like screens do. No consensus was reached, and nobody had manufacturer installation instructions present so the question will be researched by the membership and further discussion will likely happen next month.

BCD Notes:

- From state perspective: not prohibited by code. Cannot prohibit installation.
  - Please check with your fire departments. IF your department has seen this as an issue, the Division could address in code or most likely as a fire marshal item for inspection at apartments.
  - National fire reports regarding domestic dryers are not showing this as an issue. This may be due to the report numbering system, but it is not an issue in current FEMA documents. If this is more serious than a maintenance issue, the Division can work with the fire marshals on a solution.