

# ELECTRICAL SAFETY LAW

**479.510 Short title.** ORS 479.510 to 479.945 and 479.995 may be cited as the Electrical Safety Law. [1959 c.406 §1; 1981 c.815 §2]

**479.520 Purpose.** The purpose of the Electrical Safety Law is to protect the health and safety of the people of Oregon from the danger of electrically caused shocks, fires and explosions and to protect property situated in Oregon from the hazard of electrically caused fires and explosions. To accomplish this purpose the Legislative Assembly intends to provide a procedure:

(1) For determining where and by whom electrical installations are being made and where electrical products are sold in this state.

(2) To assure the public that persons making electrical installations in this state are qualified by experience and training.

(3) To assure the public that electrical installations meet minimum safety standards and that electrical products meet electrical product safety standards.

(4) For the administration and enforcement of the Electrical Safety Law by the Department of Consumer and Business Services and the Electrical and Elevator Board.

(5) By which the cost of administering and enforcing the Electrical Safety Law is defrayed by the collection of fees in connection with the issuing of permits and electrical licenses and the collection of civil penalties. [1959 c.406 §2; 1981 c.815 §3; 1987 c.414 §33; 1993 c.744 §117; 2003 c.299 §1; 2011 c.597 §220]

**479.525 Application of Electrical Safety Law; uniformity.** Except as provided in ORS 479.854, the Electrical Safety Law shall be applicable and uniform throughout this state and in all municipalities, and no municipality shall enact or enforce any ordinance, rule or regulation relating to the same matters encompassed by the Electrical Safety Law. [1983 c.580 §3]

**479.527** [1985 c.826 §2; repealed by 1987 c.874 §1]

**479.530 Definitions for ORS 479.510 to 479.945 and 479.995.** As used in ORS 479.510 to 479.945 and 479.995, unless the context requires otherwise:

(1) “Approved testing laboratory” means a testing laboratory that meets criteria for electrical product evaluation established by the Director of the Department of Consumer and Business Services with the approval of the Electrical and Elevator Board under ORS 479.730.

(2) “Board” means the Electrical and Elevator Board established under ORS 455.138.

(3) “Certified electrical product” means an electrical product that is certified under ORS 479.760 and that is not decertified.

(4) “Competent inspection service” means an electrical inspection service of a city or county administered under ORS 455.148 or 455.150 that employs electrical inspectors who are certified to meet standards under ORS 479.810.

(5) “Commercial electrical air conditioning equipment” means heating, cooling, refrigeration, dehumidifying, humidifying and filtering equipment used for climatizing or moving of air if used in commerce, industry or government and if installed in a place not accessible to the general public other than the switches regulating the operation of the equipment.

(6) “Demarcation point” means the place of interconnection between the communications cabling, terminal equipment or protective apparatus of the telecommunications service provider and the customer’s premises.

(7) “Department” means the Department of Consumer and Business Services.

(8) “Director” means the Director of the Department of Consumer and Business Services.

(9) “Dwelling unit” means one or more rooms for the use of one or more persons as a housekeeping unit with space for eating, living and sleeping and permanent provisions for cooking and sanitation.

(10) “Electrical installations” means the construction or installation of electrical wiring and the permanent attachment or installation of electrical products in or on any structure that is not itself an electrical product. “Electrical installation” also means the maintenance or repair of installed electrical wiring and permanently attached electrical products. “Electrical installation” does not include an oil module.

(11) “Electrical product” means any electrical equipment, material, device or apparatus that, except as provided in ORS 479.540, requires a license or permit to install and either conveys or is operated by electrical current.

(12) “Equipment” means any material, fittings, devices, appliances, fixtures, apparatus or the like that are used as part of or in connection with an electrical installation.

(13) “Field evaluation firm” means an independent organization that provides:

(a) Evaluations or testing, or both; and

(b) Documentation regarding compliance with electrical product safety standards and with the electrical installation safety code.

(14) “Industrial electrical equipment” means electrical products used in industry or government that utilize electric energy for mechanical, chemical, heating, lighting or similar purposes, that are designed to service or produce a product and that are used directly in the production of the service or product.

(15) “Installation label” means an adhesive tag issued by governmental agencies that administer the Electrical Safety Law to licensed electrical contractors for application to those minor electrical installations for which the board by rule determines to be appropriate for random inspections.

(16) “License” means a permit issued by the department under ORS 479.630 authorizing the person whose name appears as licensee thereon to act as an electrical contractor, supervising electrician, journeyman electrician, electrical apprentice or limited elevator journeyman as indicated thereon.

(17) “Minimum safety standards” means safety standards prescribed by concurrence of the board and the director under ORS 479.730.

(18) “Multifamily dwelling” means a building containing more than one dwelling unit.

(19) “Oil module” means a prefabricated structure manufactured to the specifications of the purchaser and used outside this state in the exploration for or processing or extraction of petroleum products.

(20) “Permit” means an official document or card issued by the enforcing agency to authorize performance of a specified electrical installation.

(21) “Single family dwelling” means a building consisting solely of one dwelling unit.

(22) “Telecommunications service provider” means a telecommunications carrier as defined in ORS 133.721 or a telecommunications utility or competitive telecommunications provider, both as defined in ORS 759.005.

(23) “Uncertified product” means any electrical product that is not an electrical product certified under ORS 479.760. [1959 c.406 §3; 1971 c.753 §55; 1973 c.834 §35; 1981 c.815 §4; 1983 c.733 §1; 1985 c.826 §3; 1987 c.414 §34; 1987 c.575 §4; 1987 c.874 §2; 1993 c.744 §118; 1995 c.706 §1; 1999 c.59 §159; 1999 c.1031 §1; 2001 c.573 §16; 2003 c.222 §1; 2003 c.299 §2; 2005 c.435 §2; 2007 c.271 §3; 2011 c.9 §67]

**479.540 Exemptions; rules.** (1) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, a person is not required to obtain a license to make an electrical installation on residential or farm property that is owned by the person or a member of the person’s immediate family if the property is not intended for sale, exchange, lease or rent. The following apply to the exemption established in this subsection:

(a) The exemption established for a person under this subsection does not exempt the work performed by the person from having to comply with the requirements for such work under ORS chapter 455 or this chapter and rules adopted thereunder.

(b) If the property is a building used as a residence and is for rent, lease, sale or exchange, this subsection establishes an exemption for work on, alterations to or replacement of parts of electrical installations as necessary for maintenance of the existing electrical installations on that property, but does not exempt new electrical installations or substantial alterations to existing electrical installations on that property. As used in this paragraph, “new electrical installations or substantial alterations” does not include the replacement of an existing garbage disposal, dishwasher or electric hot water heater with a similar appliance of 30 amps or less, single phase, by a landlord, landlord’s agent or the employee of the landlord or landlord’s agent.

(2) An electrical contractor license is not required in connection with an electrical installation:

(a) Of meters and similar devices for measuring electricity by a person principally engaged in the business of generating or selling electricity in connection with the construction or maintenance of electrical lines, wires or equipment.

(b) Of ignition or lighting systems for motor vehicles.

(c) To be made by a person on the person’s property in connection with the person’s business.

(d) To be made by a public utility, consumer-owned utility as defined in ORS 757.270, telecommunications carrier as defined in ORS 133.721, competitive telecommunications provider as defined in ORS 759.005 or municipality for generation, transmission or distribution of electricity on property that the utility, carrier, provider or municipality owns or manages.

(3) A person whose sole business is generating or selling electricity in connection with the construction or maintenance of electrical lines, wires or equipment, is not required to obtain a license to transform, transmit or distribute electricity from its source to the service head of the premises to be supplied thereby.

(4)(a) A person is not required to obtain a license for the repair or replacement of light fixtures, light switches, lighting ballast, electrical outlets or smoke alarms in a building used for housing purposes that is owned, leased, managed or operated by a housing authority and the person doing the repair or replacement is a member of the housing authority’s regular maintenance staff.

(b) A license is not required for:

(A) Temporary demonstrations;

(B) A street lighting system located on a public street or in a right of way if the system is similar to a system provided by a public utility and the installation or maintenance, or both, is performed by a qualified employee of a licensed electrical contractor principally engaged in the business of installing and maintaining such systems; or

(C) An outdoor transmission or distribution system, whether overhead or underground, if the system is similar to a system provided by a public utility and the installation or maintenance, or both, is performed by a qualified employee of a licensed electrical contractor principally engaged in the business of installing and maintaining such systems.

(c) For the purposes of this subsection, “qualified employee” means an employee who has registered with or graduated from a State of Oregon or federally approved apprenticeship course designed for the work being performed. The supervising electrician signature required under ORS 479.560 (1)(b) does not apply to contractors working under this subsection.

(5) The provisions of ORS 479.510 to 479.945 and 479.995 do not apply:

(a) To electrical products owned by, supplied to or to be supplied to a public utility as defined in ORS 757.005, consumer-owned utility as defined in ORS 757.270, telecommunications carrier as defined in ORS 133.721 or competitive telecommunications provider as defined in ORS 759.005;

(b) To electrical installations made by or for a public utility, consumer-owned utility, telecommunications carrier or competitive telecommunications provider if the electrical installations are an integral part of the equipment or electrical products of the utility, carrier or provider; or

(c) To any electrical generation plant owned or operated by a municipality to the same extent that a utility, telecommunications carrier or competitive telecommunications provider is exempted under paragraphs (a) and (b) of this subsection.

(6) A permit is not required:

(a) For the repair or replacement of light fixtures, light switches, lighting ballast, electrical outlets or smoke alarms in a building used for housing purposes that is owned, leased, managed or operated by a housing authority; or

(b) For the repair, alteration or replacement of existing electrical products or electrical installations authorized by ORS 479.560 (3) at an industrial plant, a commercial office building, a building that is owned, leased, managed or operated by the state or a local government entity or other facilities designated by the Electrical and Elevator Board when the owner, operating manager or electrical contractor of the facility meets the provisions of ORS 479.630 (1) and (2) and:

(A) Obtains a master permit for inspection under ORS 479.560 (3); or

(B) Obtains a master individual inspection permit under ORS 479.565.

(7) In cases of emergency in industrial plants, a permit is not required in advance for electrical installation made by a person licensed as a general supervising electrician, a general journeyman electrician or an electrical apprentice under ORS 479.630 if an application accompanied by appropriate fee for a permit is submitted to the Department of Consumer and Business Services within five days after the commencement of such electrical work.

(8)(a) A license or permit is not required for the installation or assembly of industrial electrical equipment by the duly authorized agents of the factory, vendor or owner.

(b) The license and permit exemptions of this subsection do not apply to activity in an area where industrial electrical equipment is installed in or enters a hazardous location or penetrates or enters a fire rated assembly or plenum rated assembly.

(c) As used in this subsection:

(A) “Duly authorized agents” means individuals trained by the factory or a vendor or by experience and who are knowledgeable in the operation, maintenance, repair and installation of industrial electrical equipment.

(B) “Installation or assembly” means the reassembly at a job site of equipment that is wired and assembled at the factory and then disassembled for shipping purposes or of existing equipment that is relocated. “Installation or assembly” does not include work involving field fabricated assemblies or any other electrical product that is not an original part of the industrial electrical equipment. “Installation or assembly” does not include the connection of industrial electrical equipment to a power source.

(9) The provisions of ORS 479.510 to 479.945 and 479.995 do not apply to:

(a) Electrical installations and repairs involving communication and signal systems of railroad companies.

(b) Electrical installations and repairs involving remote and permanent broadcast systems of radio and television stations licensed by the Federal Communications Commission if the systems are not part of the building’s permanent wiring.

(c) The installing, maintaining, repairing or replacement of telecommunications systems on the provider side of the demarcation point by a telecommunications service provider.

(d) The maintaining, repairing or replacement of telecommunications equipment on the customer side of the demarcation point by a telecommunications service provider.

(e) Installations, by a telecommunications service provider or an appropriately licensed electrical contractor, of telecommunications systems on the customer side of the demarcation point except:

(A) Installations involving more than 10 telecommunications outlets; and

(B) Installations of any size that penetrate fire-resistive construction or air handling systems or that pass through hazardous locations.

(f) Notwithstanding paragraph (e) of this subsection, installation of telecommunications systems on the customer side of the demarcation point in:

(A) One and two family dwellings; and

(B) Multifamily dwellings having not more than four dwelling units if the installation is by a telecommunications service provider.

(g) Notwithstanding paragraph (e) of this subsection, installation or replacement of cord or plug connected telecommunications equipment on the customer side of the demarcation point.

(h) Notwithstanding paragraph (e) of this subsection, installation of patch cord and jumper cross-connected equipment on the customer side of the demarcation point.

(10)(a) The board may grant partial or complete exemptions by rule for any electrical product from any of the provisions of ORS 455.610 to 455.630 or 479.510 to 479.945 and 479.995 if the board determines that the electrical product does not present a danger to the health and safety of the people of this state.

(b) If the board grants an exemption pursuant to subsection (1) of this section, the board may determine that the product may be installed by a person not licensed under ORS 479.510 to 479.945.

(11) ORS 479.760 does not apply to products described in this subsection that comply with the electrical product safety standards established by concurrence of the board and the Director of the Department of Consumer and Business Services as described under ORS 479.730. This

subsection does not exempt any products used in locations determined to be hazardous in the electrical code of this state. The following apply to this subsection:

(a) Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this subsection, the exemption under this subsection applies to:

(A) The rotating equipment portion of power generation equipment.

(B) Testing equipment used in a laboratory or hospital.

(C) Commercial electrical air conditioning equipment.

(D) Prefabricated work performed by an electrical contractor with licensed electrical personnel in the contractor's place of business for assembly on the job site if the work is composed of parts that meet the electrical product safety standards established by concurrence of the board and the director.

(b) Notwithstanding paragraph (a) of this subsection, the board may require any of the products described in paragraph (a) of this subsection to be subject to the certification requirements under ORS 479.760 if the board determines that the product or class of products has presented a fire or life safety hazard in use. A determination under this paragraph shall be effective as to any such product or class of products installed after the date of the determination becomes final. The board may reinstate any exemption removed under this paragraph if the board determines that the reasons for the removal of the exemption have been corrected.

(12)(a) ORS 479.610 does not apply to installations of industrial electrical equipment unless the board determines that the product or class of products may present a fire or life safety hazard.

(b) The board may reinstate an exemption removed under this subsection if the product qualifies for reinstatement under:

(A) An equipment safety program approved by the board;

(B) Equipment minimum safety standards established by concurrence of the board and the director;

(C) An evaluation by an approved field evaluation firm;

(D) A listing from a nationally recognized testing laboratory;

(E) An evaluation of a first model of a product by the board; or

(F) Any other method approved by the board.

(13) ORS 479.760 does not apply to electrical equipment that has been installed and in use for one year or more.

(14) A person who holds a limited maintenance specialty contractor license or a limited pump installation specialty contractor license issued under ORS 479.510 to 479.945 or a person who is the employee of such license holder and who is listed with the board as an employee is not required to have a journeyman license or supervising electrician's license to perform work authorized under the person's license.

(15) A person is not required to obtain a permit for work on, alterations to or replacement of parts of electrical installations as necessary for maintenance of existing electrical installations on residential property owned by the person or by a member of the person's immediate family. This subsection does not establish an exemption for new electrical installations or substantial alterations to existing electrical installations.

(16) A permit is not required for those minor electrical installations for which the board has authorized an installation label.

(17) A residential home, as defined in ORS 443.580, and an adult foster home, as defined in ORS 443.705, is not a multifamily dwelling and only electrical installation standards and safety requirements applicable to single family dwellings apply to such homes.

(18) The permit requirements of ORS 479.550 and the license requirements of ORS 479.620 do not apply to cable television installations.

(19) The provisions of any electrical products code or rule adopted pursuant to ORS 479.510 to 479.945 and 479.995 apply to cable and such products installed as part of a cable television installation.

(20) A person is not required to obtain a license to make an electrical installation in a prefabricated structure, as defined in ORS 455.010, that is designed for residential use and intended for delivery in another state.

(21) As used in this section, "smoke alarm" has the meaning given that term under ORS 479.250. [1959 c.406 §4; 1973 c.834 §36; 1977 c.633 §1; 1981 c.815 §5; 1987 c.575 §5; 1987 c.447 §107; 1989 c.481 §1; 1991 c.251 §1; 1991 c.334 §1; 1993 c.451 §1; 1993 c.497 §1; 1993 c.744 §119; 1995 c.553 §3; 1995 c.797 §1; 1997 c.611 §§1,2; 1999 c.307 §23; 1999 c.794 §3; 1999 c.1093 §17; 2001 c.709 §1; 2003 c.14 §321; 2003 c.222 §2; 2003 c.299 §3; 2003 c.344 §1; 2003 c.675 §§65,66a; 2005 c.310 §4; 2005 c.435 §3]

**479.545 License required of state employee; letter of authority.** (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, no person is exempted by ORS 479.540 from the requirements under ORS 479.510 to 479.945 to have a license to make electrical installations solely on the basis the person is employed by an agency of this state.

(2) Any person issued a letter of authority under ORS 479.545 (1985 Replacement Part) may continue to make electrical installations under ORS 479.510 to 479.945 on property owned or controlled by an agency of the state. [1981 c.815 §7; 1985 c.568 §1; 1987 c.414 §34a; 2003 c.14 §322]

**479.550 No work on new electrical installation until permit issued; temporary permit; rules.** (1) Except as provided in ORS 479.540, no person shall work on any new electrical installation for which a permit has not been issued.

(2) The Electrical and Elevator Board shall adopt by rule provisions to require a city or a county to issue a temporary permit to be used for emergency or unanticipated work which will be valid for seven days to a licensed electrical contractor prior to the start of an electrical installation to allow contractor response prior to purchase of the actual electrical permit.

(3) The board shall require a city or a county to revoke the temporary permit of the licensed electrical contractor who fails to comply with the Electrical Safety Law. [1959 c.406 §5; 1981 c.815 §9; subsections (2) and (3) enacted as 1991 c.368 §2; 1993 c.744 §120]

**479.560 Issuance of permit; when permit becomes void; master electrical inspection permit; rules.** (1) The Department of Consumer and Business Services or a designated agent shall issue a permit to:

(a) Any applicant who has complied with ORS 479.510 to 479.945 and the rules issued thereunder, covering an electrical installation to be made on residential or farm property owned by the applicant or a member of the applicant's immediate family as allowed under ORS 479.540 (1).

(b) A licensed electrical contractor or an agent the contractor has designated to the department or the department's designated agent in a record signed by the electrical contractor. The department or department's designated agent shall only issue a permit under this subsection if the application for the permit is accompanied by a signed statement that the electrical

contractor's general supervising electrician of record will sign the permit before an inspection of the electrical work is requested. A contractor or the contractor's general supervisor will promptly request an inspection of electrical work performed under a permit issued under this subsection. A permit issued under this subsection shall state the name of the electrical contractor.

(2) A permit issued to an electrical contractor upon the request of the contractor's supervising electrician is void upon the end of the employment of such supervising electrician before completion of the electrical installation.

(3) Except for the installation or alteration of an electrical service, the owner, operating manager or electrical contractor of an industrial plant who meets the provisions of ORS 479.630 (1) and (2), a commercial office building, a building that is owned, leased, managed or operated by the state or a local government entity or other facilities designated by the Electrical and Elevator Board, in lieu of the required inspection permit, may apply to the department or municipality providing inspection service for a master electrical inspection permit. Under the permit the authority having jurisdiction shall cause a periodic inspection to be made of the electrical installations. The authority may also cause a cover inspection, which shall be made before electrical installations are covered. The periodic inspection under the permit shall be done at least once a year or more frequently based on the needs of the particular plant, building or facility. The department shall adopt rules in accordance with ORS chapter 183 for:

- (a) The annual issuance of the master electrical inspection permit;
- (b) The conduct of the inspections on the electrical installations and electrical products;
- (c) The granting of a waiver of payment of permit fees other than for the master electrical inspection permit; and
- (d) The fixing and collecting of inspection fees at the cost of making the inspection according to the time required of the inspector. [1959 c.406 §§6,7; 1961 c.693 §1; 1971 c.753 §56; 1981 c.815 §10; 1993 c.451 §2; 2003 c.14 §323; 2003 c.675 §66]

**479.565 Master individual inspection permits; fee.** Notwithstanding ORS 479.560 (3), if a municipality does not elect to provide master electrical inspection permits, the municipality shall, upon request of the owner or operating manager or electrical contractor of the facility otherwise entitled to master permit services under ORS 479.560 (3), issue a master individual inspection permit and provide electrical inspection before any installation is covered or placed into service and charge for the inspection at the municipality's hourly inspection rate. [1995 c.553 §2]

**Note:** 479.565 was enacted into law by the Legislative Assembly but was not added to or made a part of ORS chapter 479 or any series therein by legislative action. See Preface to Oregon Revised Statutes for further explanation.

**479.570 Energizing of electrical installations; rules.** (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, a person who sells electricity may not energize an electrical installation unless the installation is first approved by an inspector authorized to perform inspections under ORS 479.510 to 479.945.

(2) Subsection (1) of this section does not apply to:

(a) An installation for which a written request to energize has been made by a licensed supervising electrician qualified pursuant to ORS 479.630 (2) and to which the appropriate electrical permit has been attached;



(b) A temporary installation of less than 480 volts made to provide service to a construction site or irrigation pump if the installation is properly grounded and the appropriate electrical permit is attached thereto;

(c) An installation within a plant or system of a person who sells electricity. As used in this paragraph, “person who sells electricity” does not include small power production facilities as defined in ORS 758.500 (1981 Replacement Part); or

(d) A minor electrical installation for which a valid installation label has been issued.

(3) Electrical installations energized without inspection pursuant to subsection (2)(a) and (b) of this section must receive final inspection as required by ORS 479.510 to 479.945.

(4) Notwithstanding ORS 756.040, 756.060 and 757.035, the Department of Consumer and Business Services, in consultation with the Electrical and Elevator Board, may adopt rules regulating the use of a written request by a licensed supervising electrician as described in subsection (2)(a) of this section as adequate authority for a person who sells electricity to energize an electrical installation. [1959 c.406 §8; 1981 c.815 §11; 1983 c.580 §1; 1987 c.575 §6; 2003 c.14 §324; 2007 c.405 §1]

**479.610 Installation of uncertified electrical product prohibited.** Except as provided under ORS 479.540, a person may not install an electrical product in connection with the person’s business unless the product is certified under ORS 479.760. [1959 c.406 §9; 1981 c.815 §12; 1995 c.706 §2; 2003 c.14 §325; 2003 c.299 §4; 2005 c.435 §4]

**479.620 Certain electrical license required; electrical installations by unlicensed persons prohibited.** Subject to ORS 479.540, a person may not:

(1) Without an electrical contractor’s license, engage in the business of making electrical installations, advertise as or otherwise purport to be licensed to make electrical installations or purport to be acting as a business that makes electrical installations.

(2) Except as provided in ORS 479.630 (10)(c) and (11)(f), direct, supervise or control the making of an electrical installation without a supervising electrician’s license.

(3) Except as provided in subsection (5) of this section, make any electrical installation without a supervising or journeyman electrician’s license.

(4) Perform work on an electrical installation as an electrical apprentice without an electrical apprentice’s license.

(5) Make any electrical installation on a single or multifamily dwelling unit not exceeding three floors above grade, as provided in ORS 479.630 (14), without a limited residential electrician’s license.

(6) Permit or suffer any electrical installation on property that the person owns, controls, manages or supervises to be made by a person not licensed to make such an installation. [1959 c.406 §10; 1983 c.733 §2; 1987 c.874 §3; 1995 c.715 §3; 2003 c.675 §67; 2007 c.548 §1; 2011 c.9 §68]

**479.630 Requirements for obtaining licenses; rules.** If the person pays the applicable application fee required under ORS 479.840 and complies with ORS 479.510 to 479.945 and the rules adopted under ORS 455.117 and 479.510 to 479.945, the Department of Consumer and Business Services shall issue:

(1) An electrical contractor’s license to a person engaging in or carrying on a business of making electrical installations.

(2) A general supervising electrician's license to a person who:

(a) Passes a written examination prepared by the Electrical and Elevator Board and administered by the department; and

(b) Submits proof satisfactory to the board that the person has had at least four years of experience as a general journeyman electrician or its equivalent, as determined by the board by rule, in installing, maintaining and repairing electrical wires and equipment.

(3) A limited supervising electrician's license to a person who qualifies under this subsection. A person licensed under this subsection is authorized to supervise the class of electrical work included in the branch of the electrical trade and for which the person has passed the examination administered by the department. A person qualifies under this subsection if the person:

(a) Passes a written examination prepared by the board and administered by the department; and

(b) Submits proof satisfactory to the board that the person has had at least four years of specialized experience in a recognized branch of the electrical trade on the journeyman level.

(4) A general journeyman electrician's license to a person who:

(a) Passes a written examination prepared by the board and administered by the department; and

(b) Submits proof satisfactory to the board that:

(A) The person has had at least four years of general experience as an apprentice or its equivalent, as determined by the board by rule, in installing, maintaining and repairing electrical wires and equipment, including not fewer than 1,000 hours in wiring on single or multifamily dwelling units; or

(B) If the person is licensed as a limited residential electrician under subsection (14) of this section, subsequent to receiving that license, the person has worked for at least two years as a limited residential electrician and subsequent to those two years has completed an additional two years' experience as an apprentice or its equivalent, as determined by the board by rule, for that period of apprenticeship time worked exclusively in installing, maintaining and repairing electrical wires and equipment in the commercial and industrial branches of the electrical trade under the supervision of a licensed electrical contractor.

(5) A limited journeyman electrician's license to a person who qualifies under this subsection. A person licensed under this subsection is authorized to perform the class of electrical work included in the branch of the electrical trade for which the person has passed the examination administered by the department. A person qualifies under this subsection if the person:

(a) Passes a written examination prepared by the board and administered by the department; and

(b)(A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B) of this paragraph, submits proof satisfactory to the board that the person has had at least four years of specialized experience as an apprentice or its equivalent, as determined by the board by rule, in a recognized branch of the electrical trade; or

(B) If applying for licensing as a limited journeyman sign electrician or limited journeyman stage electrician, submits proof satisfactory to the board that the person has had at least two years of specialized experience as an apprentice or its equivalent, as determined by the board by rule, in the sign or stage branch of the electrical trade.

(6) A limited elevator journeyman license to a person who qualifies under this subsection. A person licensed under this subsection is authorized to install, maintain and repair elevators,

including all electrical and mechanical systems. A person qualifies under this subsection if the person has completed an elevator apprenticeship program, including both electrical and mechanical training components, approved by the board by rule and the person submits an application for licensure to the board in writing. A person issued a license under this subsection is exempt from continuing education requirements established under ORS 455.117 and 479.680.

(7) An electrical apprentice's license to a person who has complied with ORS 660.002 to 660.210 as an electrical apprentice.

(8) An electrical apprentice's license to a trainee toward a limited residential electrician's license who has complied with ORS 660.002 to 660.210 as an electrical apprentice.

(9) An electrical apprentice's license to a trainee toward a limited journeyman's license in a recognized branch of the electrical trade who is employed by an employer who also:

(a) Employs a holder of either a general journeyman electrician's license or a limited journeyman electrician's license; and

(b) Conducts an electrical training program in a recognized branch of the electrical trade approved by the board as being a training program that will adequately prepare the trainee for the limited journeyman's license.

(10) A limited maintenance electrician's license to a person who qualifies under this subsection. A person licensed under this subsection is authorized to maintain, repair and replace electrical installations, including electrical components, required on the premises of industrial plants, and maintain, repair and replace electrical installations on systems that are less than 600 volts phase to phase, including electrical components, required on the premises of commercial office buildings, buildings occupied by the state or a local government entity or facilities designated by the board. The following apply to this subsection:

(a) A person qualifies under this subsection if the person:

(A) Passes a written examination prepared by the board and administered by the department on repair, replacement and maintenance of equipment of the type and nature normally used in an industrial plant, commercial office building or government building and on the use of testing equipment; and

(B)(i) Completes a two-year training program approved by the board that provides for training and supervision of the trainee or apprentice; or

(ii) Submits proof satisfactory to the board that the person has had sufficient experience and related educational training in the repair, replacement and maintenance of electrical wiring and equipment of the type and nature used in an industrial plant, commercial office building or government building, as determined by the board or by an appropriate local apprenticeship committee recognized by the State Apprenticeship and Training Council.

(b) An annual inspection of the premises upon which electrical work is performed by persons licensed under this subsection shall be made by the electrical inspector for an annual fee determined by the board by rule, based upon the time required for the inspection, payable to the department.

(c) A person licensed under this subsection may be employed directly by the owner, or owner's agent, of any government building or commercial office building. A building owner or owner's agent need not be licensed under this section to supervise a limited maintenance electrician.

(d) The department, in consultation with the board, shall adopt rules defining government buildings and commercial office buildings subject to this subsection.

(11) A limited building maintenance electrician's license to a person who qualifies under this subsection. The following apply to this subsection:

(a) A person licensed under this subsection is authorized to maintain, repair and replace the following electrical installations required on the premises of commercial office buildings, buildings occupied by the state or a local government entity or facilities designated by the board in electrical systems not exceeding 300 volts to ground:

- (A) Electrical appliances;
- (B) Light switches;
- (C) Light fixtures;
- (D) Fans;
- (E) Receptacles; and
- (F) Fluorescent ballasts.

(b) A person qualifies under this subsection if the person:

(A) Passes a written examination prepared by the board and administered by the department on maintenance, repair and replacement of equipment of the type and nature normally used in a commercial office building or government building and on the use of testing equipment; and

(B) Submits proof satisfactory to the board that the person has:

(i) Had sufficient experience in the maintenance, repair and replacement of electrical wiring and equipment of the type and nature normally used in a commercial office building or government building; or

(ii) Completed a one-year training course, with classroom and on-the-job training components approved by the board, on the maintenance, repair and replacement of electrical wiring and equipment of the type and nature normally used in a commercial office building or government building.

(c) An annual inspection of the premises upon which electrical work is performed by persons licensed under this subsection shall be made by the electrical inspector for an annual fee determined by the board by rule, based upon the time required for the inspection, payable to the department, or the inspection shall be performed under an electrical master permit program.

(d) Building owners may perform work regulated by this subsection and for which a license is required under this subsection without obtaining a license.

(e) A person who owns more than 50 percent of a corporation that controls a building is a building owner.

(f) A person licensed under this subsection may be employed by the owner of a commercial office building or the owner's agent. A building owner or owner's agent need not be licensed under this section to supervise a limited building maintenance electrician.

(12) A limited maintenance specialty contractor license to a person who qualifies under this subsection. A person licensed under this subsection is authorized to engage in the electrical work related to the repair, service, maintenance, installation or replacement of existing, built-in or permanently connected appliances, fluorescent ballasts or similar equipment and to employ individuals to engage in that work. This subsection does not authorize the installation of appliances, ballasts or other equipment if there is no existing installation of similar equipment. A person qualifies under this subsection if the person:

(a) Submits proof satisfactory to the board that the person has had sufficient experience in the type of work permitted under the license issued under this subsection; and

(b) Maintains with the board a current list of all individuals employed by the person to engage in work permitted under this subsection.

(13) A limited pump installation specialty contractor license to a person who qualifies under this subsection. A person licensed under this subsection is authorized to engage in electrical work related to the testing, repair, service, maintenance, installation or replacement of new or existing pump equipment for potable or irrigation water systems, sump pumps, effluent pumps and ground water pumps on residential and agricultural property and to employ individuals to engage in such work. A person qualifies under this subsection if the person:

(a) Submits proof satisfactory to the board that the person has had sufficient experience in the type of work permitted under the license issued under this subsection; and

(b) Maintains with the board a current list of all individuals employed by the person to engage in work permitted under this subsection.

(14) A limited residential electrician's license to a person who qualifies under this subsection. A person licensed under this subsection is authorized to perform the class of electrical work included in the branch of the electrical trade for which the person has passed the examination administered by the department and approved by the board. However, a person licensed under this subsection shall perform the electrical work allowed by the license only on single and multifamily dwelling units not exceeding three floors above grade. For purposes of this subsection, the first floor of a building is the floor that is designed for human habitation and that has 50 percent or more of its perimeter level with or above finished grade of the exterior wall line. A person qualifies under this subsection if the person:

(a) Has received the same number of hours of electrical safety training as required by rule for an electrical apprentice or its equivalent and has received training in electrical theory;

(b) Submits documented proof to the board of at least two years of apprenticeship or trainee experience in residential wiring of single and multifamily dwelling units or its equivalent, as determined by the board by rule; and

(c) Passes a written examination prepared by the board and administered by the department.

(15) A limited renewable energy contractor license to a person who:

(a) Employs at least one full-time renewable energy technician; and

(b) Does not engage in electrical work other than work that may be performed by a limited renewable energy technician. A limited renewable energy contractor may not make, direct, supervise or control the making of an electrical installation unless the contractor is licensed for that activity.

(16) A limited renewable energy technician license to a person who qualifies under this subsection. A person qualifies for licensing as a limited renewable energy technician if the person completes a two-year apprenticeship program and passes an examination approved by the board. A person licensed under this subsection may, while in the employ of a licensed electrical contractor or a limited renewable energy contractor:

(a) Install, maintain, replace or repair electrical wiring and electrical products that convey or operate on renewable electrical energy not exceeding 25 kilowatts AC; and

(b) Make electrical installations not exceeding 25 kilowatts AC:

(A) On devices using renewable energy involving wind, solar energy systems, micro-hydroelectricity, photovoltaic systems or fuel cells.

(B) Up to the load side of an inverter.

(C) To connect generators that are sized to facilitate the inverter in an off-grid system. [1959 c.406 §11; 1961 c.693 §2; 1963 c.151 §1; 1971 c.753 §19; 1981 c.815 §15; 1983 c.733 §3; 1987 c.874 §4; 1993 c.744 §121; 1995 c.715 §1; 1997 c.139 §1; 1997 c.209 §1; 1999 c.609 §1; 1999

c.1031 §2; 2001 c.104 §218; 2001 c.392 §1; 2003 c.14 §326; 2005 c.758 §29; 2007 c.71 §157; 2007 c.271 §4; 2007 c.548 §2]

**479.632 Applicant training or experience obtained in another state.** Notwithstanding any other provision of ORS 479.510 to 479.945 or any rule adopted by the Electrical and Elevator Board under ORS 455.117, the board may not administer an examination to, and the Department of Consumer and Business Services may not issue any license to, a person whose practical experience qualification for the license is based upon training or experience in another state if the board determines that the training or experience is not equivalent to the standards for electrical training programs prescribed in this state. [2005 c.758 §31]

**479.633** [1997 c.209 §3; 1999 c.721 §1; repealed by 2005 c.758 §56]

**479.635** [1981 c.815 §17; 2001 c.728 §9; repealed by 2005 c.758 §56]

**479.640** [1959 c.406 §12; 1975 c.429 §4; 1977 c.873 §1; 1981 c.815 §18; 1985 c.646 §1; 2003 c.14 §327; repealed by 2005 c.758 §56]

**479.650** [1959 c.406 §13; 1963 c.151 §2; 1981 c.815 §19; 1985 c.646 §2; 1993 c.744 §122; 2003 c.14 §328; repealed by 2005 c.758 §56]

**479.655** [1985 c.646 §7; repealed by 1987 c.414 §172]

**479.660** [1959 c.406 §14; 1971 c.753 §20; 1977 c.322 §1; 1981 c.815 §20; 1993 c.744 §123; 2003 c.14 §329; repealed by 2005 c.758 §56]

**479.670 Maintenance of action or suit by unlicensed person prohibited.** Except to appeal from an act or determination of the Electrical and Elevator Board, no person carrying on, conducting or transacting business regulated by ORS 479.510 to 479.945 and 479.995 is entitled to maintain a suit or action in the courts of this state involving such business or work in connection therewith, without alleging and proving that the person was licensed to perform such work or transact such business. [1959 c.406 §15; 1971 c.753 §21; 1981 c.815 §21; 1993 c.744 §124]

**479.680 Adoption of rules by Electrical and Elevator Board; establishment of continuing education program.** The Electrical and Elevator Board:

(1) Shall establish, by rule under ORS 455.117, a program of continuing education necessary for renewal of licenses. The board may approve programs for continuing education that meet standards for continuing education established by the board under this subsection.

(2) Shall adopt any rules necessary to carry out the duties of the board under ORS 479.510 to 479.945 and 479.995.

(3) Shall establish rules setting forth equivalent experience necessary to qualify for a journeyman license under ORS 479.630.

(4) Shall establish, by rule, procedures and standards necessary to approve testing laboratories under ORS 479.730 and 479.760.

(5) May establish exemptions by rule according to authority granted under ORS 479.540. [1981 c.815 §24; 1993 c.744 §125; 2005 c.758 §32]

**479.710 Electrical installations must meet minimum safety standards.** (1) Except as provided in ORS 479.540, no person shall make, supervise or direct the making of an electrical installation which does not meet minimum safety standards.

(2) Except for a person authorized by the jurisdiction having authority, no person shall remove, transfer, alter or otherwise tamper with an inspection permit, label, tag or other indicia of inspection placed on or at an electrical job site, electrical installation or electrical product. A property owner may remove the construction inspection permit, label or tag if, after all required inspections are completed, the installation is found to be in compliance with the electrical code and has been approved by the inspector having jurisdiction. [1959 c.406 §16(1); 1981 c.815 §22; 1991 c.18 §1]

**479.720** [1959 c.406 §17; repealed by 1981 c.815 §40]

**479.730 Adoption of rules by Director of Department of Consumer and Business Services.** In compliance with ORS chapter 183 the Director of the Department of Consumer and Business Services, with the approval of the Electrical and Elevator Board, shall adopt reasonable rules:

(1) Establishing, altering or revoking minimum safety standards for workmanship and materials in various classifications of electrical installations.

(2) Establishing, altering or revoking electrical product safety standards for design and construction of electrical products to be installed in this state. The standards may allow the certification of electrical products that a testing laboratory approved by the director and the board under ORS 479.760 has tested and found to be safe within the electrical product safety standards established under this subsection.

(3) Relating to the procedure for certifying and decertifying electrical products to be installed in this state. The Department of Consumer and Business Services, with the approval of the board, may limit the type of electrical products it accepts for certification under ORS 479.760 (3).

(4) Prescribing times, places and circumstances that permits shall be exhibited for inspection.

(5) Governing the internal organization and procedure for administering and enforcing ORS 479.510 to 479.945 and 479.995.

(6) Establishing, altering, approving or revoking minimum standards for electrical training programs.

(7)(a) Establishing which electrical products may be field evaluated by a field evaluation firm rather than certified;

(b) Establishing cost-based fees, requirements and procedures for approving, maintaining and suspending or revoking approvals of field evaluation firms;

(c) Establishing:

(A) Requirements and procedures for the field evaluation of electrical products; and

(B) Requirements and procedures for issuing field evaluation labels for the electrical products evaluated by field evaluation firms and testing laboratories;

(d) Establishing requirements and procedures for preparation of reports regarding installation safety issued by field evaluation firms;

(e) Establishing when an inspecting jurisdiction may require a report from a field evaluation firm; and

(f) Establishing other requirements as necessary to carry out this subsection. [1959 c.406 §19; 1963 c.151 §7; 1971 c.753 §24; 1981 c.815 §25; 1993 c.398 §1; 1993 c.744 §126; 1995 c.706 §3; 1999 c.794 §2; 2001 c.411 §23; 2003 c.299 §6; 2005 c.435 §5]

**479.740 Factors to be considered in adopting rules; incorporation of standards by reference.** (1) In adopting rules under ORS 479.730 the Department of Consumer and Business Services shall consider:

(a) Technological advances in the electrical industry.

(b) The practicability of following the standards under consideration, if adopted.

(c) The probability, extent and gravity of the injury to the public or property which would result from failure to follow the standards under consideration.

(d) Safety standards followed, proposed or approved by responsible members of the electrical industry.

(2) After considering the factors in subsection (1) of this section, the department may incorporate by reference proposed safety standards of the electrical industry or independent organizations. The department may formulate and adopt independent safety standards if standards proposed by the industry and independent organizations are not acceptable to it. [1959 c.406 §§20,21]

**479.760 Certification of electrical products; safety indicators.** (1) An electrical product may not be certified unless the product meets electrical product safety standards established in rule by concurrence of the Electrical and Elevator Board and the Director of the Department of Consumer and Business Services.

(2) Any person may apply to have the Department of Consumer and Business Services certify an electrical product. The department shall certify an electrical product if the product is shown to meet electrical product safety standards by one of the following methods:

(a) An equipment safety program approved by the board;

(b) Equipment minimum safety standards established by concurrence of the board and the director;

(c) An evaluation by an approved field evaluation firm;

(d) A listing from a nationally recognized testing laboratory;

(e) An evaluation of a first model of a product by the board; or

(f) Any other method approved by the board.

(3) To have an electrical product certified, a person may submit a specimen, sample or prototype to the department within a reasonable time before the date on which certification will be required, together with a fee set by the department sufficient to defray the cost of shipment and evaluation. The department shall evaluate the electrical product to determine whether the product meets electrical product safety standards. Not later than six months after receipt of a specimen, prototype or sample the department shall complete the required evaluation and give a decision certifying or rejecting the product. The department may appoint a special deputy or enter into an appropriate contract with a testing laboratory approved by the board under this section for the evaluation required under this subsection.

(4) The director with the approval of the board may establish standards and procedures for the approval of testing laboratories to test electrical products in the certification process under



this section. [1959 c.406 §§16 (2) and (3),22,23; 1981 c.815 §26; 1999 c.794 §1; 2001 c.573 §17; 2003 c.299 §5]

**479.770 Approved electric ignition pilot required on certain appliances.** No person shall sell or offer for sale in this state any new gas-fired, forced-air central space heating equipment, clothes dryer, domestic range or new gas-fired swimming pool heaters, unless such equipment, heater, dryer or range is equipped with an electric ignition pilot that complies with the rules of the Department of Consumer and Business Services adopted pursuant to ORS 479.740. [1977 c.630 §2; 1979 c.197 §1; 1981 c.815 §27]

**479.800** [1971 c.753 §23; 1977 c.748 §3; 1981 c.815 §28; 1983 c.740 §192; 1987 c.383 §1; repealed by 1993 c.744 §101]

**479.810 Administration and enforcement; Chief Electrical Inspector; inspector qualifications; rules.** (1) The Electrical and Elevator Board shall administer and enforce ORS 479.510 to 479.945 and 479.995. The Director of the Department of Consumer and Business Services shall appoint an adequate staff of competent persons experienced and trained to serve as electrical inspectors. The board shall assist the director in reviewing determinations made by the staff involving electrical installations or products and to assist in formulating rules under ORS 479.730.

(2) The director, in consultation with the board, shall appoint a representative of the department's staff of electrical inspectors who shall serve ex officio as secretary of the board. This person shall be known as the Chief Electrical Inspector.

(3) The director shall certify a person as an electrical inspector if:

(a) The person:

(A) Completes a general journeyman electrical apprenticeship program in Oregon;

(B) Has two years' experience as a licensed electrician in Oregon; and

(C) Passes the examination required for certification as a supervising electrician; or

(b) For a person with experience outside the State of Oregon, the person:

(A)(i) Has five years' experience in commercial or industrial electrical inspection; and

(ii) Passes the examination required for certification as a general supervising electrician; or

(B) Has six years of out-of-state experience as an electrician and passes the examination required for certification as a general supervising electrician.

(4) The board may, by rule, allow certification of persons as electrical inspectors with experience or training that does not meet the requirements specified in subsection (3) of this section.

(5) Rules adopted under this section shall provide for the recognition of equivalent experience acquired by a person outside the State of Oregon.

(6) An examination taken for purposes of applying for certification as an electrical inspector under this section shall not be valid for use in an application to become licensed as a supervising electrician. [1959 c.406 §18; 1961 c.693 §3; 1969 c.314 §53; 1971 c.753 §22; 1977 c.748 §4; 1981 c.815 §30; 1987 c.383 §2; 1993 c.574 §1; 1993 c.744 §127; 1997 c.677 §3; 2001 c.411 §24]

**479.815 Inspector conflicts of interest; rules.** The Director of the Department of Consumer and Business Services, with the approval of the Electrical and Elevator Board, may adopt rules

regulating or prohibiting conflicts of interest for electrical inspectors in regard to any work performed by an inspector or a related party under a license issued under ORS 479.630. [2003 c.675 §64]

**479.820 Duties and powers in enforcing law.** (1) The Department of Consumer and Business Services shall:

(a) Check the authenticity, appropriateness and expiration dates of licenses issued under ORS 479.510 to 479.945.

(b) Inspect electrical installations and products for which a permit or license is required by ORS 479.510 to 479.945.

(c) Inspect permits attached to electrical installations or products for which a permit is required by ORS 479.510 to 479.945.

(2) If the department finds that the electrical installation or product fails to comply with minimum safety standards or electrical product safety standards, the department may disconnect or order the disconnection of service thereto.

(3) If the department finds that the condition of an electrical installation or product constitutes an immediate hazard to life or property, the department may cut or disconnect any wire necessary to remove such hazard or take corrective action as provided by rules adopted under ORS 479.730.

(4) Upon written request of appropriate municipal personnel, the department may make inspections of electrical installations and products within cities and counties. Such inspections shall be made at cost, in accordance with local municipal ordinances, payable on a monthly basis.

(5) For the purpose of discharging any duty imposed by ORS 479.510 to 479.945 and 479.995 or exercising authority conferred hereby the department may enter, during reasonable hours, any building, enclosure, or upon any premises where electrical work is in progress, where an electrical installation has been made or where electrical equipment or products may be located.

(6) A person may not obstruct or interfere with the department in performance of any of the department's duties or the exercise of any authority conferred under this section. [1959 c.406 §§24,25; 1973 c.834 §37; 1981 c.815 §3; 2003 c.14 §330; 2003 c.299 §7]

**479.830** [1959 c.406 §26; 1981 c.815 §32; 1991 c.734 §46; 1993 c.744 §128; 1999 c.846 §2; repealed by 2001 c.411 §31]

**479.835 Recovery of purchase price of product not meeting applicable laws.** Any person who purchases an electrical product may recover the purchase price from the seller if the electrical product does not meet all applicable state and federal law and the purchaser returns the electrical product within 90 days from the date of purchase. [1981 c.815 §14; 2001 c.411 §25; 2005 c.435 §6]

**479.840 Fees; rules; means to guarantee payment.** (1) Upon receiving payment of the applicable application fee, the Department of Consumer and Business Services may issue or renew a license or permit applied for under ORS 479.510 to 479.945. The fee to apply for or renew a license is:

(a) \$125 per year for an electrical contractor license for each place of business operated by the applicant.

(b) \$125 per year for a limited energy contractor, restricted energy contractor or limited sign contractor license.

(c) \$25 per year for a pump specialty contractor or limited maintenance specialty contractor license.

(d) \$150 per year for an elevator contractor license.

(e) \$100 for a three-year license for a:

(A) General journeyman electrician;

(B) General supervising electrician;

(C) Limited supervising industrial electrician;

(D) Limited supervising manufacturing plant electrician;

(E) Limited maintenance industrial electrician;

(F) Limited maintenance manufactured dwelling or recreational vehicle electrician; or

(G) Limited journeyman manufacturing plant electrician.

(f) \$50 for a three-year license for a:

(A) Limited elevator journeyman;

(B) Class A or Class B limited energy technician;

(C) Limited journeyman sign electrician;

(D) Limited journeyman stage electrician; or

(E) Limited building maintenance electrician.

(2) The Electrical and Elevator Board shall set uniform permit fees, by rule, not to exceed the cost of administration.

(3) The fees provided for in this section do not apply to persons paying inspection fees under the terms of ORS 479.560 (3) or 479.630 (10).

(4) Each electrical contractor may furnish to the department a corporate surety bond to be approved by the department, an irrevocable letter of credit issued by an insured institution as defined in ORS 706.008 or a cash bond under procedures approved by the department, in the sum of \$2,000 guaranteeing the payment of all fees provided for under ORS 479.510 to 479.945. Before commencing any electrical job an electrical contractor who has a current bond or letter of credit under this subsection may apply to the department for a working permit which shall cost an amount established by the department by rule. The working permit shall authorize the electrical contractor to commence work. The total of all fees due for permits for each job, and the time such fees are payable, shall be determined by the department by administrative rule under ORS 479.730. The contractor shall keep the bond or letter of credit in force at all times. Any cancellation or revocation of the bond or letter of credit shall revoke and suspend the license issued to the principal until such time as a new bond or letter of credit shall be filed and approved. The department may bring an action against the surety named in the bond or the letter of credit issuer with or without joining in such action the principal named in the bond or letter of credit. [1959 c.406 §27; 1967 c.418 §1; 1969 c.436 §1; 1975 c.199 §1; 1977 c.874 §3; 1981 c.815 §33; 1983 c.733 §4; 1985 c.646 §3; 1987 c.602 §3; 1989 c.591 §3; 1991 c.331 §71; 1995 c.715 §4; 1997 c.631 §482; 1999 c.1031 §3; 2001 c.728 §2; 2003 c.14 §331; 2007 c.271 §5; 2007 c.548 §3]

**479.845 Limitation on use of local government fees.** Fees collected by a city or county for the enforcement or administration of the electrical specialty code and rules adopted under ORS

479.730 (1) shall be used only for the enforcement and administration of those laws. [1977 c.874 §5; 1981 c.815 §34; 2001 c.573 §18; 2005 c.435 §7]

**479.850 Disposition of receipts.** All receipts from civil penalties, fees, charges, costs and expenses provided for in ORS 455.895 (1)(b), 479.510 to 479.945, 479.990 and 479.995 when collected shall be:

- (1) Paid into the Consumer and Business Services Fund created by ORS 705.145; and
- (2) Used only for the enforcement and administration of ORS 479.510 to 479.945 and 479.995. [1959 c.406 §28; 1971 c.753 §57; 1973 c.528 §18; 1973 c.834 §48; 1981 c.815 §35; 1987 c.905 §33; 1993 c.744 §131; 2001 c.411 §26]

**479.853 Appeal procedure; distribution of major code interpretation decisions.** If any person is aggrieved by a decision made upon inspection under authority of ORS 455.148, 455.150 or 479.510 to 479.945 and 479.995 of an electrical product or electrical inspection, the person may appeal the decision. The following apply to an appeal under this section:

- (1) An appeal under this section is subject to ORS chapter 183.
- (2) An appeal under this section must be made first to the Chief Electrical Inspector of the Department of Consumer and Business Services. The decision of the Chief Electrical Inspector may be appealed to the Electrical and Elevator Board. The decision of the Electrical and Elevator Board may be appealed to the Director of the Department of Consumer and Business Services only if codes in addition to the electrical code are at issue.
- (3) If the Electrical and Elevator Board determines that a decision by the Chief Electrical Inspector is a major code interpretation, then the inspector shall distribute the decision in writing to all public and private electrical inspection authorities in the state. The decision shall be distributed within 60 days after the board's determination, and there shall be no charge for the distribution of the decision. As used in this subsection, a "major code interpretation" means a code interpretation decision that affects or may affect more than one job site or more than one inspection jurisdiction.
- (4) If an appeal is made under this section, an inspection authority shall extend the electrical plan review deadline by the number of days it takes for a final decision to be issued for the appeal.
- (5) Unless the department determines that the electrical product or electrical installation presents an immediate fire or life safety hazard, a person may operate an electrical product or electrical installation that is the subject of an appeal under this section until the appeal process is complete. If the department determines that an immediate fire or life safety hazard exists and the product or installation may not be operated during appeal, the department shall provide the person with a written report detailing the problems found by the department. If a determination is made under this subsection that products described in ORS 479.540 (11) may not be operated during appeal, that determination may be appealed immediately under the procedure established in subsection (2) of this section without first completing any appeal procedure established by a city or county. [1981 c.815 §38; 1993 c.573 §1; 2001 c.573 §19; 2001 c.709 §2; 2005 c.22 §366; 2005 c.435 §8]

**479.854 Authority of municipality to require license; approval of ordinance.** (1) A municipality may enact and enforce an ordinance requiring a municipal general supervising

electrician's license upon the approval of the Electrical and Elevator Board and the Director of the Department of Consumer and Business Services.

(2) The Electrical and Elevator Board and director may approve an ordinance under subsection (1) of this section only if electrical installations within the municipality's jurisdiction are of a unique character beyond the education or experience of a general supervising electrician licensed under ORS 479.630 (2), and the ordinance applies only to such installations.

(3) The director, after obtaining the opinion of the board, shall revoke approval of an ordinance upon a finding that in issuing its general supervising electrician's license, a municipality has engaged in a pattern or practice of discrimination against electricians from outside the municipality. [1983 c.580 §4]

**479.855 City and county inspection and enforcement programs.** (1) In addition to the provisions of ORS 455.010 to 455.310 and 455.410 to 455.740, any inspection and enforcement program established by a city or county under ORS 455.148 or 455.150 is subject to the provisions of this section. Where the provisions of this section conflict with provisions under ORS 455.010 to 455.310 and 455.410 to 455.740, the provisions of this section shall control.

(2)(a) Except as otherwise provided in this section, any city or county that wishes to establish a program under ORS 455.150 to enforce and administer ORS 479.510 to 479.945 and 479.995, including a program for inspection under a master permit pursuant to ORS 479.560 (3), must first make application to the Department of Consumer and Business Services. The program for inspection under a master permit shall be delegated separately from the general electrical program authorization. The department may authorize the city or county to administer and enforce the provisions of this section and ORS 479.540 and 479.560 if it finds that the city or county can comply with the minimum standards and meet the qualifications for inspections, permit applications and other matters to assure adequate administration and enforcement of electrical inspection programs. The department may authorize the city or county to administer and enforce ORS 479.510 to 479.945 and 479.995 if the department finds that the city or county:

(A) Can comply with minimum standards adopted by the Electrical and Elevator Board by rule for inspections, permit applications and other matters to assure adequate administration and enforcement of ORS 479.510 to 479.945 and 479.995.

(B) Can conduct the electrical plan review, if required by the city or county, in a timely manner and by qualified personnel who meet the standards adopted by rule by the board.

(b) The city or county must assume full responsibility allowed under ORS 455.010 to 455.310 and 455.410 to 455.740 for the enforcement, inspection and administration of the electrical safety laws under that specialty code and ORS 479.510 to 479.945 and 479.995. This subsection does not require a city or county to assume full responsibility for enforcement, inspection and administration of the electrical safety laws if the only enforcement performed by the city or county involves manufactured dwelling electrical utility connections.

(3) The department, subject to ORS chapter 183, shall revoke any authority of a city or county to carry on inspections, enforcement or administration of electrical installations and electrical products under ORS 455.148 or 455.150 if the department determines that the city or county fails to comply with standards adopted by the board or otherwise is not effectively carrying out duties assumed by the city or county under this section.

(4)(a) Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this subsection, a city or county may not contract with competing electrical contractors to provide permit inspection of electrical installations.

(b) A city or county may contract with competing electrical contractors to provide permit inspection of electrical installations on a temporary basis by a supervising electrician if:

(A) Emergency circumstances exist; and

(B) The city or county has requested that the department perform permit inspections and the department is unable to respond in a timely manner.

(c) Nothing in this subsection prohibits a city or county from contracting with another city or county to perform permit inspections of electrical installations by a supervising electrician.

(5) A city or county that performs electrical installation inspections shall perform license enforcement inspections as a part of routine installation inspections. [1981 c.815 §37; 1987 c.575 §1; 1991 c.368 §3; 1991 c.373 §1; 1991 c.439 §1; 1993 c.451 §3; 2001 c.573 §20]

**479.860 Persons authorized to design, plan and lay out electrical installations; rules.** (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a person who is the holder of a supervising electrician's license:

(a) Who is employed by the holder of an electrical contractor's license may design, plan and lay out electrical installations for customers of the electrical contractor without obtaining any other license, permit or certificate; or

(b) Who is employed by an industrial plant may design, plan and lay out electrical installations for that industrial plant.

(2) The Director of the Department of Consumer and Business Services, after consultation with the Electrical and Elevator Board and the State Board of Examiners for Engineering and Land Surveying, may adopt rules designating classes of board licensees that may design, plan and lay out noncomplex electrical installations. Licensees are not subject to any requirement for an additional license, permit, certificate or registration when engaging in the design, planning or laying out of electrical installations as authorized by a rule adopted under this subsection. [1987 c.384 §2; 2005 c.570 §1]

**479.870 Electrical and Elevator Board to prescribe uniform fee calculation and permit format; review; rules.** (1) The Electrical and Elevator Board shall provide by rule for a statewide uniform method of calculating permit fees and a standardized permit application format.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (1) of this section, the board shall provide by rule for a separate limited energy electrical activity permit and the conditions that apply to the permit.

(3) The board shall adopt rules setting standards for timely review, personnel to conduct review and other plan review requirements. [1989 c.591 §2; 1991 c.529 §9; subsection (3) enacted as 1991 c.439 §2; 2001 c.728 §3]

**479.905 Definitions for ORS 479.870 and 479.905 to 479.945.** For the purposes of ORS 479.870 and 479.905 to 479.945, except where the context requires otherwise:

(1) "Class A limited energy technician" means a person licensed to install, alter and repair all limited energy systems.

(2) "Class B limited energy technician" means a person licensed to install, alter and repair all limited energy systems that do not include protective signaling, including but not limited to:

(a) HVAC;

(b) Medical;

- (c) Boiler controls;
- (d) Intercom and paging systems;
- (e) Clock systems;
- (f) Data telecommunication installations; and
- (g) Instrumentation.

(3) "HVAC" means thermostat and associated control wiring of heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration systems. "HVAC" does not include boiler controls.

(4) "Limited energy electrical activity" means installation, alteration, maintenance, replacement or repair of electrical wiring and electrical products that do not exceed 100 volt-amperes in Class 2 and Class 3 installations, or that do not exceed 300 volt-amperes for landscape low voltage lighting systems that are cord connected to a ground fault circuit interrupter receptacle, under the electrical specialty code and the Low-Rise Residential Dwelling Code.

(5) "Protective signaling" includes fire alarm, nurse call, burglar alarm, security and voice evacuation systems and other systems that are part of a fire or life safety system. [1991 c.529 §3; 1999 c.519 §1; 2001 c.728 §4; 2003 c.675 §45]

**479.910 Limited energy technician license; compliance with other laws; fees; continuing education.** (1) Upon payment of an application or renewal fee, the Department of Consumer and Business Services shall issue a Class B limited energy technician license to a person who qualifies under ORS 479.915. A person licensed under this section may perform limited energy electrical activity except protective signaling as defined in ORS 479.905.

(2) A person licensed under this section shall comply with the permit and code compliance requirements under ORS 479.510 to 479.945.

(3) The application fee, and the renewal fee, for a Class B limited energy technician license are the same as those for a Class A limited energy technician license.

(4) The Electrical and Elevator Board shall establish continuing education requirements for persons licensed under this section, not to exceed 24 hours of classes every three years. [1991 c.529 §2; 1999 c.1031 §10; 2001 c.728 §5; 2003 c.14 §332; 2007 c.271 §6]

**479.915 Limited energy technician license requirements.** (1) An applicant for a Class B limited energy technician license must:

(a) Submit proof satisfactory to the Electrical and Elevator Board that the person has:

(A) At least two years of experience as an apprentice in limited energy electrical activity; or

(B) At least two years of experience equivalent to an apprenticeship in limited energy electrical activity and completed a board-approved 32-hour training program; and

(b) Pass a written examination approved by the board and administered by the Department of Consumer and Business Services.

(2) An applicant for a Class A limited energy technician license must:

(a) Submit proof satisfactory to the board that the person has completed at least three years of experience as an apprentice, or the equivalent as determined by the board by rule, in a recognized branch of the electrical trade; and

(b) Pass a written examination prepared by the board and administered by the department.

(3) The board shall determine the adequacy of any training program for qualification under the requirements of this section and ORS 479.910 and section 1, chapter 728, Oregon Laws 2001.

(4) The department shall issue a Class A limited energy technician license to a person who qualifies under subsection (2) of this section and pays the required fees. [1991 c.529 §4; 2001 c.728 §6; 2007 c.548 §4]

**479.920** [1991 c.529 §5; repealed by 2001 c.728 §10]

**479.930** [1991 c.529 §6; 1993 c.497 §2; repealed by 2001 c.728 §10]

**479.940 Activities not subject to licensure under ORS 479.510 to 479.945; identification cards.** (1) The licensure provisions of ORS 479.510 to 479.945 do not apply to the following activity on Class II and III systems in one and two family dwellings regulated under the Low-Rise Residential Dwelling Code:

- (a) Prewiring of cable television and telephone systems owned by the owner of the residence;
- (b) Garage door openers;
- (c) Vacuum systems;
- (d) Audio and stereo systems;
- (e) HVAC;
- (f) Landscape sprinkler controls;
- (g) Landscape lighting; and
- (h) Doorbells.

(2) The provisions of subsection (1) of this section apply only to residential contractors holding a current license and proper endorsement issued by the Construction Contractors Board.

(3)(a) The licensure provisions of ORS 479.510 to 479.945 do not apply to a landscape contracting business licensed under ORS 671.510 to 671.760 when making installations of landscape irrigation control wiring and outdoor landscape lighting involving a Class II or Class III system that does not exceed 30 volts and 750 volt-amperes.

(b) A landscape contracting business exempt from licensing under this subsection shall issue an identification card to its landscape irrigation control wiring or outdoor landscape lighting installer. The form for the identification card shall be provided by the State Landscape Contractors Board. The identification card shall include the name of the installer, the name and State Landscape Contractors Board identification number of the landscape contracting business and the date of issue of the identification card. The card shall be carried by the installer at the job site when performing the allowed electric installations.

(4) The licensure provisions of ORS 479.510 to 479.945 do not apply to limited energy electrical activity involving the installation, maintenance or repair of lottery equipment at retail locations by employees or vendors of the Oregon State Lottery Commission. The exemption provided by this subsection does not authorize work by unlicensed persons on systems of 115 volts or more.

(5) All nonlicensure requirements of ORS 479.510 to 479.945, including permits for and compliance with the electrical specialty code, apply to activities conducted under subsections (1) to (4) of this section. If any person or business repeatedly violates the permit or code compliance requirements, in addition to any other remedy, the Electrical and Elevator Board may suspend, condition or revoke a person's or business's right to use this provision. [1991 c.529 §7; 1999 c.402 §4; 2001 c.728 §7; 2003 c.14 §333; 2003 c.675 §46; 2007 c.385 §1; 2007 c.541 §5a; 2007 c.836 §46]



**479.943 Activities not subject to licensure under ORS 479.905 to 479.945.** The licensure provisions of ORS 479.905 to 479.945 do not apply to the employees of a telecommunications utility or competitive telecommunications provider, both as defined in ORS 759.005, cooperative corporation organized under ORS chapter 62 or unincorporated association providing intrastate telecommunications service in Oregon engaged in the course of employment in providing, installing or maintaining:

- (1) Voice transmission products;
- (2) Data transmission products; or
- (3) Intercom and paging systems. [1997 c.544 §2; 2003 c.344 §2]

**479.945 Restricted energy contractor's license; rules; scope; employees.** (1) A restricted energy contractor's license is created for persons engaged in HVAC and such other categories as established by the Electrical and Elevator Board by rule under ORS 455.117.

(2) A person licensed as a restricted energy contractor under this section and the person's employees may install, alter, maintain, replace or repair electrical wiring and electrical products that are within the scope of the contractor's license issued under this section. A person covered by this subsection does not have to obtain a license under ORS 479.910.

(3) The license issued under this section shall limit the scope of activities that the licensee and licensee's employees may engage in and in no instance may the scope of the license exceed that of a Class B limited energy technician.

(4) A person applying for licensing under this section shall pay the applicable application fee required under ORS 479.840 and provide proof satisfactory to the board that the person has experience of the type of work covered by the license indorsement.

(5) A restricted energy contractor licensee under this section shall:

(a) Maintain with the board a current list of all individuals employed by the licensee to engage in work permitted by this section;

(b) Issue an identification card to each employee working under the provisions of this section and identify the contractor, date of issue, contractor's identification number with the board and the Construction Contractors Board; and

(c) Maintain with the board a current form of identification card used by the contractor.

(6) A person holding a limited maintenance specialty contractor's license under ORS 479.630 (12) who also registers under this section shall comply with the identification card requirements of subsection (5) of this section, but need not file a separate list of employees unless the work under the contractor's license is done by different employees. [1991 c.529 §8; 1995 c.715 §5; 2001 c.728 §8; 2003 c.14 §334; 2005 c.758 §33; 2007 c.271 §7]

## **RAIL FIXED GUIDEWAY SYSTEMS**

**479.950 Minimum safety standards; rules; criteria.** (1) Notwithstanding ORS 479.510 to 479.945, 479.995 and 824.045, the Director of the Department of Consumer and Business Services shall adopt rules establishing, amending or repealing minimum safety standards for workmanship and materials for, and the design and construction of electrical products used in, traction electrification and electrical communications and electrical signaling installations for rail fixed guideway systems operated by a mass transit district established under ORS 267.010 to 267.390. The rules adopted by the director under this subsection shall be the exclusive rules adopted for this state that establish minimum safety standards for workmanship and materials

for, and the design and construction of electrical products used in, traction electrification and electrical communications and electrical signaling installations for rail fixed guideway systems operated by a mass transit district.

(2) Before adopting rules under subsection (1) of this section, the Director of the Department of Consumer and Business Services shall consider:

(a) Technological advances in the rail fixed guideway industry.

(b) The practicability of following the standards under consideration, if adopted.

(c) The probability, extent and gravity of the injury to the public or to property that will result from failure to follow the standards under consideration.

(d) Safety standards followed, proposed or approved by responsible members of the rail fixed guideway industry.

(3) Notwithstanding ORS 479.510 to 479.945, 479.995 and 824.045, the Department of Consumer and Business Services is designated as the state agency to administer and enforce the standards established by the Director of the Department of Consumer and Business Services under this section. The department shall adopt rules establishing procedures for the administration and enforcement of such standards. [1997 c.275 §42]

**Note:** 479.950 was enacted into law by the Legislative Assembly but was not added to or made a part of ORS chapter 479 or any series therein by legislative action. See Preface to Oregon Revised Statutes for further explanation.

## PENALTIES

**479.990 Penalties.** (1) Any owner or occupant of any building or premises who fails to comply with any order provided for in ORS 479.170 and not appealed from, or with any such order of the State Fire Marshal upon appeal to the State Fire Marshal, shall be punished by a civil penalty of not more than \$500 for each violation. All penalties, fees or forfeitures collected under the provisions of this subsection shall be paid into the State Treasury.

(2) Violation of ORS 479.255, 479.260, 479.270, 479.280, 479.297 or 479.300, or rules adopted under ORS 479.255, 479.260, 479.270, 479.280, 479.297 or 479.300, is punishable by a civil penalty imposed by the State Fire Marshal in an amount not to exceed \$250.

(3) Civil penalties under this section shall be imposed as provided in ORS 183.745. [Amended by 1959 c.406 §30; subsection (5) enacted as 1959 c.406 §29; 1977 c.619 §1; subsection (6) enacted as 1979 c.642 §12; 1991 c.863 §58; 1997 c.647 §§6,7; 1999 c.307 §§14,15; 2001 c.411 §§27,28; 2011 c.97 §6]

**479.995 Civil penalty for violation of ORS 479.510 to 479.945.** The Electrical and Elevator Board may impose a civil penalty for a violation of ORS 479.510 to 479.945 or rules adopted for the administration or enforcement of ORS 479.510 to 479.945 and this section. The board shall impose a civil penalty authorized by this section as provided in ORS 455.895. [2001 c.411 §8; 2003 c.14 §335]