

SAFETY

Company Name

Meeting Date

Employees Present:

SUBJECT OF THE MONTH: OR-OSHA Rules on Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter protection.

If you have power tools and/or extension cords on your job sites, you must take steps to ensure that these tools are properly grounded to prevent injury. This month's safety topic covers the two options available to you to comply with this requirement.

CHECKLIST ITEMS

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|---|-----------------------------------|
| _____ Have & Maintain OSHA 300 Accident Log | _____ First Aid Trained Personnel |
| _____ Emergency Medical Plan | _____ Tool Guards |
| _____ Fire Protection/Prevention | _____ First Aid Kit |
| _____ Hazard Communication Program | _____ Fall Protection |
| _____ Electrical Cords Checked and Marked for the Quarter | |
| _____ Required Jobsite Postings (Emergency Phone Number and "Safety & Health Protection On the Job" Poster) | |

JOBSITE REVIEW: Inspection Notes/Concerns/Action Plan

Company Safety Officer: _____

NOTICE OF RESPONSIBILITY

The Oregon Home Builders Association Safety Committee's purpose is to provide safety guidelines, information and resources to help our members work more safely and reduce jobsite accidents. Full and active monthly participation in safety meetings using the OHBA Safety Committee's agendas, topics and checklists will only meet safety committee requirements. It remains your responsibility to comply with all aspects of safety rules and regulations.



Safety Committee

OR-OSHA Rules

OR-OSHA has written these rules dealing with Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter protection. This rule will provide increased safety for construction workers using electrical equipment and tools, and provides uniformity in what is required by Oregon Building Codes. The following is the OAR 437-003-0404 in Division 3/K.

437-003-0404

Branch circuits.

- (1) General. Use ground fault circuit interrupters specified in (2) below or an assured equipment grounding conductor program as in (3) below. These requirements are in addition to any other requirements for equipment grounding conductors.
- (2) All 125-volt, single-phase, 15-, 20-, and 30-ampere receptacles on construction sites, that are for temporary power and are available for use by employees, must have approved ground-fault circuit interrupters. GFI protection must be at the outlet end of the circuit. Extension cords or other devices with listed ground-fault circuit interrupter protection for personnel identified for portable are acceptable.
- (3) Assured equipment grounding conductor program: Receptacles more than 125-volt, single-phase, 30-amperes must have protection that complies with (2) above, or an assured equipment grounding conductor program that complies with the following:
 - (a) A written description of the program, including the employer's specific procedures. The program must be at the job site for inspection and copying by the Administrator and any affected employee.
 - (b) The employer must designate one or more competent persons (defined in §1926.32(f)) to implement the program.
 - (c) Before each day's use, visually inspect each extension cord, or other device, and any equipment connected by cord and plug, for external defects, such as deformed or missing pins or insulation damage, and for signs of possible internal damage. Extension cords, devices and receptacles not exposed to damage are exempt from this inspection. Do not use damaged or defective equipment.
 - (d) Do these tests on all extension cords, other devices and receptacles that are not part of the permanent wiring of the building or structure, and cord- and plug-connected equipment required to be grounded:
 - (A) Test all equipment grounding conductors for continuity.
 - (B) Test each receptacle or plug to assure the equipment grounding conductor is connected to its proper terminal.
 - (e) Do all required tests:
 - (A) Before first use;
 - (B) Before first use after repair;
 - (C) Before use after any incident that reasonably could cause damage (for example, when a cord set is run over); and
 - (D) At intervals not longer than 3 months. Inspect fixed extension cords, other devices and receptacles not exposed to damage at least every 6 months.
 - (f) Record all tests required in this paragraph. This test record must identify each receptacle, cord set, and cord- and plug-connected equipment that passed the test and indicate the last date of testing or the test interval. Keep this record by means of logs, color coding, or other effective means. Keep the record until replaced by a newer record. The record must be available on the job site for inspection by the Administrator and any affected employee.

Employers will have to provide GFCI equipment for the employees, unless the generals supply GFCI equipped temporary power for the job that will meet these requirements. It would be a good idea for subs to test the electrical supply to ensure it is GFCI equipped. This type of tester is readily available for only a few dollars. If, however, the general does not supply GFCI equipped temporary power then you must supply it for your employees. If you have any questions or need help with this rule call OR-OSHA technical resources at 503-378-3272.

