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June 15, 2007

Oregon OSHA - Adopted Changes Working Near Overhead High Voltage Lines and Equipment in Construction

Oregon OSHA adopted amendments to OAR 437-003-0047, Working Near Overhead High Voltage Lines and Equipment, Division 3/K, Construction/Electrical. The final language reflects changes to the proposal as a result of comments received at public hearing and during the comment period. Stakeholders asked that minimum requirements for notification be better defined, and that a minimum time period be added.

Instead of adding a separate rule for definitions as proposed, three definitions (Insulating Barrier or Guard; Restricted Space; and Proper Notification) are now included as paragraph (1) of 437-003-0047.

Three notes have also been added to clarify: overhead line covers are for visual reference only; employer responsibility for their employees' safe and healthy working conditions; and owner of the lines discretionary action to allow entrance into restricted space.

The requirements of 437-003-0047 are the same as before with two additions:

- Allows the use of insulated lines and equipment for entry into restricted space.
- Ten foot clearance signs must be clear and understandable to the operator.

The language and format have been revised to make the standard easier to understand and designed for the construction worker rather than the lineman. The intent of the standard to prevent unqualified, inexperienced, and/or inadequately equipped employees from being injured or killed by contact with energized overhead high voltage lines, has not changed.

The standard's title has been changed from *Proximity to Overhead High Voltage Lines and Equipment* to ***Working Near Overhead High Voltage Lines and Equipment***. The standard prohibits exposure within 10 feet of overhead lines. The new language requires the same clearances, but refers to them as restricted space. The standard still allows working within the restricted space when overhead lines are de-energized and grounded, or when insulating barriers are erected to prevent possible contact with power lines or equipment. It also prohibits insulating barriers from being attached to the overhead lines.

This is OR-OSHA Administrative Order 2-2007, **adopted June 8, 2007 and effective June 15, 2007.**

Please visit OR-OSHA's web site: www.orosha.org for proposed, adopted, and final rules, as well as current publications, training opportunities, and much more.

OR-OSHA contact: Mike Mitchell, Central Office @ 503-947-7450

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Secretary of State
Certificate and Order for Filing
PERMANENT ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

I certify that the attached copies* are true, full and correct copies of the PERMANENT Rule(s) adopted on June 8, 2007 by the
Date prior to or same as filing date

Department of Consumer & Business Services/Oregon Occupational Safety & Health Division 437
Agency and Division Administrative Rules Chapter Number

Sue Joye 350 Winter Street NE, Salem OR 97301-3882 503-947-7449
Rules Coordinator Address Telephone

to become effective June 15, 2007 as OR-OSHA Administrative Order 2-2007.
Date upon filing or later

Rulemaking Notice was published in the April 2007 *Oregon Bulletin*.**
Month and Year

RULE CAPTION

Adoption of changes to Working Near Overhead High Voltage Lines and Equipment in Construction.
Not more than 15 words that reasonably identifies the subject matter of the agency's intended action.

RULEMAKING ACTION

AMEND: OAR 437-003-0047

ORS 654.025(2), 656.726(4)
Stat. Auth.

ORS 654.001 through 654.295
Stats. Implemented

RULE SUMMARY

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Please visit OR-OSHA's web site at www.orosha.org

<u>/s/Michael D. Wood</u>	<u>Michael D. Wood</u>	<u>/s/6/6/07</u>
Authorized Signer	Printed name	Date

*With this original, file one photocopy of certificate, one paper copy of rules listed in Rulemaking Actions, and electronic copy of rules.
**The *Oregon Bulletin* is published on the 1st of each month and updates the rule text found in the Oregon Administrative Rules Compilation. Notice forms must be submitted to the Administrative Rules Unit, Oregon State Archives, 800 Summer Street NE, Salem, Oregon 97310 by 5:00 pm on the 15th day of the preceding month unless this deadline falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday when Notice forms are accepted until 5:00 pm on the preceding workday. ARC 930-2005