

September 15, 1998

John B. Curtin, HMSC/OPEU Steward
Hatfield Marine Science Center
Newport, Oregon 97365

Dear Mr. Curtin:

This letter is in response to your August 24th letter to Ron Haverkost in which you ask if there are any OR-OSHA standards prohibiting the assignment of electrical work to unlicensed workers. The answer is "No". While the Building Codes Division of Department of Consumer & Business Services does require certain tasks to be performed by licensed electricians, OR-OSHA's focus is on making sure that workers are adequately trained and qualified to safely perform the work assigned to them.

All employers are required by OAR437-001-0760(1)(a) to properly instruct and supervise their workers in the safe operation of any machinery, tools, equipment, processes or practices which they are authorized to use or apply. Since supervisors are employer representatives, the requirements are the same for them. If a standard is violated, then any citation that is issued by OR-OSHA will be issued to the company. Employees (including supervisors) may not be cited under the Oregon Safe Employment Act. Division 2, Subdivision S, 1910.333 requires that workers performing electrical work be adequately trained and qualified for the tasks assigned to them. To be qualified, according to 1910.399, a person must be familiar with the construction and operation of the equipment and the hazards involved. While in some cases training may be similar to, or even identical to that required for licensing, OR-OSHA's focus is on the safe performance of work rather than certification or licensing.

For further information contact Mike Mitchell at 378-3272. You are also invited to see the OR-OSHA pages on the Internet at the above address.

Sincerely,

Marilyn K. Schuster, Manager
Standards & Technical Resources Section
Oregon Occupational Safety & Health Division