Oregon OSHA – Adopted Changes to Electric Power Generation, Transmission, and Distribution Standards In General Industry and Construction

In November 2014, Oregon OSHA proposed to adopt Federal OSHA final rules for Electric Power Generation, Transmission, and Distribution, that were published in the April 11, 2014 Federal Register. The proposal included Oregon-initiated changes to the federal rule. Three public hearings were held during November and December of 2014 resulting in several written comments and oral testimony before the comment period closed on December 12, 2014. Most of the comments received concerned the two worker rule exceptions. As a result of the comments received, Oregon OSHA decided not to adopt the rule as proposed in 2014, but to consider an alternative approach.

Two stakeholder meetings were conducted in the first half of 2015 to discuss comments along with potential changes to the 2014 proposal. Oregon OSHA received input and support from stakeholders to combine the Electric Power Generation, Transmission, and Distribution standards in Divisions 2/R and 3/V into one rule. Oregon OSHA merged 1910.269, in Division 2/R General Industry, and Division 3/V in Construction, standards into the new Division 2/RR. Unifying language and Oregon-unique rules for Power Generation, Transmission and Distribution for General Industry and Construction were incorporated into one standard.

In July, 2015 Oregon OSHA reposed rules for Electric Power Generation, Transmission, and Distribution. Three public hearings were held during August and September 2015. Most of the oral and written comments received concerned: the duties of a Safety Watch, the exception to the two-worker rule, and helicopters. Changes to the final rule include:

**Safety Watch:** Safety Watch text was added to the final rule 437-002-2311(13).

**Operating switches:** 437-002-2311(2)(b)(B) was changed to clarify that 437-002-2311(2)(b)(E) must be followed for routine switching of load break elbows.

**Helicopters:** Paragraphs were removed which were already addressed by, or were in conflict with, other regulatory agencies; or were unnecessarily restrictive based upon accepted industry practices.
On October 5, 2015 Federal OSHA published in the Federal Register, minor language clarifications in rules related to Line Clearance Tree Trimming as well as correcting errors in Table R-6 (Alternative Minimum Approach Distances.) The note for enclosed spaces was removed from Appendix A-3 and placed in Appendix A-5. These corrections have been incorporated in Oregon OSHA's final rules.

This is Oregon OSHA Administrative Order 3-2015, adopted October 9, 2015, and effective January 1, 2016.

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Please visit our web site www.orosha.org Click 'Rules' in the left vertical column to view/print our proposed, adopted, and final rules.

Note: In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), this publication is available in alternative formats by calling 503-378-3272.
I certify that the attached copies are true, full and correct copies of the PERMANENT Rule(s) adopted on Upon filing, by the Department of Consumer and Business Services, Oregon Occupational Safety and Health

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To become effective 01/01/2016. Rulemaking Notice was published in the August 2015 Oregon Bulletin.

RULE CAPTION
Adopt Electric Power Generation, Transmission, Distribution standard for general industry and construction, and related changes.

Not more than 15 words that reasonably identifies the subject matter of the agency's intended action.

RULEMAKING ACTION
Secure approval of new rule numbers with the Administrative Rules Unit prior to filing.

ADOPT:

AMEND:

REPEAL:

RENUMBER:

AMEND AND RENUMBER:

Statutory Authority:
ORS 654.025(2) and 656.726(4)

Other Authority:

Statutes Implemented:
ORS 654.001 - 654.295

RULE SUMMARY
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PERMANENT ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

Department of Consumer and Business Services, Oregon  
Occupational Safety and Health Division  

Agency and Division  
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Upon filing.  

Adopted on  
01/01/2016  
Effective date  

RULE CAPTION

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Not more than 15 words

RULEMAKING ACTION

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AMEND:

REPEAL:
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Authorized Signer: ____________________________  Printed Name: Michael A. Wood  Date: 10/5/2015

Authorization Page replaces the ink signature on paper filings. Have
your authorized signer sign and date, then scan and attach it to your
filing. You must complete this step before submitting your Permanent
and Temporary filings.