

HVAC System Disconnect Requirements

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Code reference: 2023 Oregon Electrical Specialty Code (OESC)
Sections 422.31, 440.3(B)&(C), and 430.109(B)

Date(s): Issued Aug. 14, 2009
Last updated Oct. 1, 2023

Subject: Local disconnect at the indoor components of a zonal ductless mini-split HVAC system

Question(s):

Is a separate disconnecting means required at the indoor unit or component of a mini-split system?

Answer(s):

Indoor components with a unit switch that complies with Section 424.19(C) or 422.34 are adequate to meet the intent of the OESC for personnel protection. If there is no switch on the indoor unit, Section 422.31 applies, and a lockable disconnect at the outdoor unit shall be permitted to serve as the disconnecting means.

Analysis:

Zonal ductless mini-split HVAC systems are being manufactured by companies that build heating and air conditioning equipment, and mechanical/electrical contractors are installing them throughout the northwest.

There is a significant difference between the traditional split system and the zonal ductless system. A single branch circuit feeds the outdoor component, and the indoor unit is fed from the outdoor component. Section 424.19 requires a lockable disconnecting means within sight of both the outdoor unit and the indoor unit. Because the indoor unit fits the definition of an appliance in the OESC, it is determined that Article 422 shall govern their installation.

Because the circuit feeding the indoor unit is derived from within the outdoor unit, a lockable disconnecting means at the outdoor unit can serve as the disconnecting means permitted in Section 422.31(A).

Contact:

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