



Coos County Community Development
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DATE: October 6, 2023 **RESCINDED 02-01-2024**

TO: Interested Parties

FROM: Jason Olson – Building Official Coos County

RE: Interpretation of Not Requiring a Permit for Mini-Splits or Heat Pumps.

Mechanical Permits will no longer be required for the installation of some mini-splits and heat pumps within the jurisdiction of Coos County. Under the code sections of ORSC R105.2 Mechanical #7 and OMSC 106.2 #7, self-contained refrigerant systems with 10 pounds or less or with a motor of 1 horse power or less are exempt from needing a permit. If your project does not meet the requirements of these code sections then a mechanical permit will be required.

From the ORSC (Oregon Residential Specialty Code):

R105.2 Work exempt from permit. Exemption from *permit* requirements of this code shall not be deemed to grant authorization for any work to be done in any manner in violation of the provisions of this code or any other laws. Nothing in this code limits a local *municipality's* ability to require application of its ordinances, or to enforce its own ordinances. See Section R101 for the application and scope of this code. *Permits* shall not be required for the following:

Mechanical:

7. Self-contained refrigeration systems containing 10 pounds (4.54 kg) or less of refrigerant or that are actuated by motors of 1 horsepower (746 W) or less.

From the OMSC (Oregon Mechanical Specialty Code):

106.2 Work exempt from permit. Permits shall not be required for the following:

7. Self-contained refrigeration systems that contain 10 pounds (4.5 kg) or less of refrigerant, or that are actuated by motors of 1 horsepower (0.75 kW) or less.

Most mini-splits or heat pumps will meet one or the other of the above exception requirements, so therefore a permit will not be required. Installations will still need to follow all Federal, State, and Local laws and ordinance and will still need to be installed per the manufacturer's installation instructions. Permits may still be required in flood zones, please contact the department for questions.

This only affects mechanical permits in Coos County. Electrical permits will still be required to connect the units to electricity and inspections of the installation as set forth in the Electrical Code. (NFPA 70 and Oregon amendments Table 1-E).

This interpretation does not nullify getting a permit in any other jurisdiction. Please contact that jurisdiction for their interpretation and ordinances required.

This interpretation is NOT retroactive and is valid from the date posted going forward.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact our office at building@co.coos.or.us or call (541) 266-1098 and one of our staff will assist you.