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Oregon enhances e-permitting services

New software makes buying permits online even easier for contractors

(Salem) — Contractors who use the state's e-permitting program will find several new features this summer that will make it even faster and easier to buy and track building permits online.

The Department of Consumer and Business Services Building Codes Division has converted its "Quick Permits" Web site, www.BuildingPermits.Oregon.gov, to a new system that enhances the current services available and will be the foundation for a larger, statewide program where contractors can conduct a full range of building department activities online, beyond simple permitting. The system was developed by [Accela Inc.](#), which signed a 10-year contract with the division last year to provide software for the e-permitting project.

"Moving our Quick Permits services to the new system is an important step as we continue to develop the nation's first comprehensive e-permitting program," said Patrick Allen, acting administrator of the Building Codes Division. "We now have the infrastructure we need to expand into other, more complex building department services."

On BuildingPermits.Oregon.gov, contractors can buy over-the-counter electrical, mechanical, and plumbing permits from 33 building departments at any time of the day or night, on workdays, weekends, and holidays. The new system offers several enhancements – for example, contractors now can access their purchase history, with detailed information about every permit they have purchased. The new system also features a Local Building Department Directory, where users can enter a city name or ZIP code and receive information about the building department serving that area, including staff phone numbers, Web sites, and a list of the types of permits the department issues.

"I like that the new system saves me time by allowing me to purchase both plumbing and mechanical permits for the same address in one transaction," said Adam Blake from South Salem Plumbing. "Also, I have noticed that I am getting my permits faster than before."

E-permitting began as a pilot project in the Portland area in 2005, and since then, contractors have bought more than 53,000 permits through the system, totaling more than \$5.3 million, from building departments around the state.

"The e-permitting system has simplified the process of obtaining permits," said Deanne Barger, of Midgleys Stove & Fireplace Center in Eugene. "This has been a definite time saver for me."

When fully implemented, the e-permitting program will provide contractors with access to other types of building department services through the Web site, including buying permits that require plan review, tracking the plan review process, and scheduling inspections.

“By making building department services available online, the e-permitting initiative is speeding the construction process and making it more consistent and predictable across jurisdictions,” Allen said. “This helps make Oregon an even better place to do business.”

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The Building Codes Division, part of the Department of Consumer and Business Services, provides building code development, administration, inspection, plan review, licensing, and permit services to the construction industry to help ensure the safe and effective construction of structures in Oregon. For more information, visit www.bcd.oregon.gov.

The Department of Consumer and Business Services is Oregon’s largest business regulatory and consumer protection agency. For more information, visit www.dcbs.oregon.gov.