

**CITY OF VANCOUVER DEVELOPMENT REVIEW SERVICES  
PROCEDURES MANUAL**

<b>Telecommunications Systems Permits and Inspections</b>		
<b>Established: January 18, 2001</b>	<b>POL-XXX</b>	<b>Last Review:</b>
<b>Cancels:</b>		<b>Next Review: January 18, 2002</b>
<b>Evaluation Period:</b>		
<b>Background: The State of Washington has recently enacted new regulations requiring the permitting and inspection of all telecommunications systems. The City to maintain compliance with state regulations will be enforcing these requirements and continuing to enforce WAC 296 – 46A and the 1999 National Electrical Code.</b>		
<b>Needed Forms: Electrical Permit, Inspection Record Card</b>		

**RCW 19.28 and WAC 296-46A-** requires all Cities having an Electrical Inspection Programs to enforce the requirements of the State Electrical Code.

Effective immediately, to comply with the State Electrical Codes, electrical permits are required to be obtained for the installation of Telecommunications systems as per RCW 19.28.400(+) and WAC 296-46A 900(12). (Telephone, data cabling, computer networks, audio and video) The single permit and permit of record are not applicable to the permitting of these systems. Only licensed electrical/telecommunications contractor building owners, or the building owners regular employee’s may obtain these permits and perform installations.

All installation of telecommunication systems on the customer side of the network demarcation point for projects greater than ten (10) telecommunications outlets. All backbone installations, regardless of size and all telecommunications cable or equipment installations involving penetrations of fire barriers (rated fire resistive assemblies) or passing through hazardous locations require permits and inspections. For the purposes of determining the inspection threshold for telecommunications projects greater than ten outlets, the following will apply:

- (a) An outlet is the combination of jacks and mounting hardware for those jacks along with the associated cable and telecommunications closet terminations, that serves one workstation. In counting outlets to determine the inspection threshold, one outlet must not be associated with more than six standard four-pair cables or more than twenty-five –pair cable. Therefore, installations of greater than sixty four-pair cables or ten twenty-five-pair cables require permits and inspections.
- (b) The installation of greater than ten outlets and the associated cables along any horizontal pathway from a telecommunications closet to work areas during any ninety-day period requires permit and inspections.

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**Approved by: Cindy Peterson**

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- (c) Telecommunications installations within single family and duplexes are exempt.
- (d) In residential multifamily buildings, permits and inspections are required for all “backbone installations”, penetration of fire-resistive assemblies and installations greater than ten outlets in common areas. Installations within individual dwelling units, after the fire-resistive assembly are exempt from permits and inspections.
- (e) Permits and inspections are not required for cord and plug telecommunications equipment or for patch cord and jumper cross-connected equipment.

Permit fees will be calculated based on valuation of the installed system per VMC Table 3 B.

Bi-Annual permits for the inspection of telecommunications systems may be issued. The permit holder must make available to the electrical inspector records of all the telecommunications work performed and the valid electrical or telecommunications contractor license number for all contractors working under the permit. The permit holder is responsible for correcting all installation deficiencies. Fees are based on the estimated valuation of the work to be performed during the permit period.

Inspections are to be conducted of the installation prior to concealment. Work must be in conformance with the provisions of RCW19.28.410 and other applicable codes.

For further information reference the following: (attached to distributed paper copies)  
RCW19.28.321 Enforcement  
RCW19.28.400 Telecommunication Definitions  
RCW19.28.410 Telecommunication Installations  
RCW19.28.420 Telecommunications contractor license