

SDOT

SDOT Director's Rule 1-2010

Applicant: CITY OF SEATTLE Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT)	Page: 1 of 4	Supersedes: new
	Publication: December 22, 2009	Effective: January 12, 2010
Subject: Private Electrical Devices Located in the Right-Of-Way	Code and Section Reference: SMC Chapters 15.04 and 15.32	
	Type of Rule: Code Interpretation	
	Ordinance Authority: SMC 3.12.020	
Index: Street Use and Right-of-Way Management	Approved (signature on file)	Date 1-11-2010
	Grace Crunican, Director, Seattle Transportation	

Installing Privately-Owned Electrical Devices in the Right-of-Way

This rule addresses private outlets, light fixtures, and other similar electrical devices, including all ancillary equipment proposed to be placed and maintained by a non-public utility agency in a public place or right-of-way (ROW). This rule does not include service connections from a public utility to private property. Any device not complying with all applicable provisions of this rule shall not be located in the ROW. The Permittee shall be responsible for all maintenance of the devices. In addition to meeting all applicable requirements of this rule, the proposed devices shall meet the requirements of

the current edition of the National Electrical Code and Seattle Electrical Code Supplement.

Required City Permits

Any person or entity proposing to install a device subject to this rule must first obtain all applicable permits from the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) and Department of Planning and Development (DPD) including, but not limited to:

- A SDOT Street Use Utility Permit. SDOT may, as allowed by Chapter 15.04 Seattle Municipal Code (SMC), add additional conditions to the Street Use Permit to protect the public;
- A SDOT Street Use Annual Permit if the device was previously issued a Street Use Permit for the initial installation; and
- A Department of Planning and Development (DPD) Electrical Permit for the electrical portion of the installation. For additional information regarding installation requirements and permitting, contact DPD's Electrical Technical Information line at (206) 684-5383.

Placing Outlets, Light Fixtures, or other Devices

Outlets, light fixtures, or any other device subject to this rule shall not:

- Create a public safety hazard;
- Interfere with vehicular or pedestrian movement;
- Be placed where they are susceptible to damage by vehicles including vehicle doors;

Low Voltage (24-volt) Requirements

The City encourages the devices addressed by this rule to be low voltage, with a maximum of 24 volts. Because of the greater safety of low-voltage devices, these devices are subject to fewer standards under this rule.

Line Voltage (120-volt) Requirements

Prior to installing any 120-volt conductors in the ROW, the applicant shall comply with Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 19.122.030, which requires the applicant to call the one-number locator service and have all utilities located prior to excavating. It also requires the owner of the conductor to subscribe to the one-number locator service.

Conduits must be placed a minimum of 36-inches below grade. When a conduit intersects existing utilities, the conduit's clearance shall comply with City Standard Specifications Section 1-07.17 and Seattle City Light Standard Detail Electrical Conduit and Facilities in the Right-Of-Way U2-10/NDK-50.

Conductors must be contained in a schedule-80 Polyvinyl Chloride Conduit (PVC) or a metallic conduit, such as Intermediate Metal Conduit (IMC) or Rigid Metal Conduit (RMC).

Detectable warning tape and a zone of warning aggregate that is 24-inches deep by 12-inches wide must be placed above the conduit.

Brass tacks or plates must be placed in concrete to mark and identify the power and type of conduit location at the entry point and at any turn in the conduit.

120-volt Outlet Box and Cover Requirements

Outlets shall be placed in an outlet box hood and remain locked when not in use.

The outlet box shall be rigidly fastened to a structural surface or a brace. If a brace is used it must be made of treated wood, polymeric material or corrosion resistant metal of adequate strength.

The outlet box shall be UL listed for wet locations if located in an outdoor or wet location.

The outlet box shall be constructed from either cast metal or polymeric materials.

The outlet box shall be of heavy-duty construction capable of resisting physical damage.

If a conduit is used to support the outlet box, IMC or RMC conduit may be used. If the outlet box and conduit can be rigidly secured to a permanent structural surface, rigid schedule 80-PVC may be used.

An outdoor receptacle cover that protects attached cords when plugged into the outlet shall be used. The cover should be constructed of durable material that resists physical damage.

Light Fixture Requirements

The purpose of all lighting fixtures proposed to be installed in a planter strip must be identified in all SDOT permit applications.

Fixtures that could be oriented in an upward direction shall be fully enclosed. Low-voltage lighting installed according to the manufacturer's requirements is not subject to this requirement.

Fixtures may not be swivel mounted.

Fixture shall be listed and labeled for the environment in which they are installed.
Fixtures installed in a hard-scaped area shall be H20-load rated and slip-resistant.

Fixtures proposed to be installed under this rule shall not be substituted for ambient or other lighting required for a private development under any other City code or standard.

Light fixtures shall be UL listed as suitable for use in a wet location.

Branch Circuit Requirements

Branch circuits in the Right-of-way shall be protected with a GFCI breaker located in a code-compliant circuit-breaker box.

A separate branch circuit shall serve the devices for which a permit is sought and be sized for the estimated connected load.