

A-BLD Permits

PURPOSE

This policy is intended to provide guidance when a permit may be issued as an A-BLD permit. A-BLD permits are issued without plans and without formal plan review, although in some cases supporting documents (such as a floor plan, or manufactures listing documents) may be required. It is not intended that an A-BLD permit be issued for any change of occupancy. Any work done in conjunction with a change of occupancy shall require a B-BLD permit.

TYPES OF A-BLD PERMITS FOR RESIDENTIAL STRUCTURES

The following types of permits can be issued as A-BLD permits for residential structures and/or associated accessory structures:

1. Water heater replacement or installation including associated water piping, gas piping, and vents.
2. Plumbing work other than the above.
3. Electrical service upgrade maximum 400 amps including associated wiring.
4. Electrical work other than the above.
5. Heating and/or cooling equipment repair or replacement, including associated water piping, gas piping, and vents.
6. Mechanical work other than the above.
7. Re-roof including sheathing with limited framing replacement (See item 10 below).
8. Installation or replacement of siding.
9. Dry rot repair and/or replacement in kind to not more than 40 lineal feet of wall, provided the work meets the requirements for conventional construction in the building code. "Wall" includes bottom plate to top plate and may include rim joist, rafter tails and fascia (foundation repair/replace and re-framing of room rafters requires plans).
10. Repairs to decking or guardrails of decks.
11. Repair or replacement of interior or exterior stairs, including handrails and guardrails.

Because there are no plans, it is important that the permit description include enough information so that the building inspector can determine the extent of the work.

All work authorized by an A-BLD permit must conform to present codes. For instance, guardrails which are replaced must meet current spacing and height requirements. Stairs must comply with current rise and run requirements.

TYPES OF A-BLD PERMITS FOR NON-RESIDENTIAL STRUCTURES

The types of A-BLD permits which can be issued for non-residential structures are severely limited because, with some exceptions, when alterations or structural repairs are made to existing non-residential buildings, accessibility requirements must be made as well.

The following types of permits can be issued as A-BLD permits for non-residential structures:

1. Replacement heating, water heating, ventilation, and air conditioning equipment with the same type of unit in the same location. New roof mounted equipment or equipment in a new location requires plans.
2. Re-roofing (reframing the roof requires plans).
3. Service upgrade maximum 400 amps including associated wiring.
4. Electrical work not involving the placement or replacement of switches or receptacles.
5. Plumbing work not involving the placement or replacement of plumbing fixtures.

All work to a non-residential structure other than that shown above requires plans.

PERMITS FOR ABATING VIOLATIONS

Refer to Permit and Resource Management Department (PRMD) Policy & Procedure 7-0-8, *Abatement Demolition Permits*, if an applicant elects to legalize a violation by removing unpermitted construction. This policy requires:

- Such permits be issued as AB-DEM permits.
- A site plan and floor plans be provided, and the floor plan must show the current and final floor plan.
- Form CDE-005 *Demolition Permit Checklist* filled out by Code Enforcement staff.

All other applications to legalize construction without permit shall be treated as new construction subject to inspection per PRMD Policy & Procedure 1-4-2, *Concealed Construction Verification Guidelines*.

FEES

Fees for residential A-BLD permits should be charged as follows:

- For Electrical Service Panel Upgrades, see current fee schedule.
- If there is electrical work included, select the minimum electrical fee.
- If there is plumbing work included, select the minimum plumbing fee.
- For water heaters select the minimum plumbing fee only.
- If there is mechanical work included, select the minimum mechanical fee.
- For furnace, select the minimum mechanical fee only.
- If there is work which is part of a minor remodel on the walls, ceilings, roofs or floors, the fee is calculated using four value ranges. This results in the fee ranging from the minimum building fee up to 2.5 hours inspection time.
- For re-roofs the fee is calculated using four value ranges. This results in the fee ranging from the minimum building fee up to 2.5 hours inspection time.

Fees for commercial A-BLD permits should be charged using our existing fee schedule.

INSPECTIONS

When an A-BLD permit is issued, the permit holder should be informed that if the building inspector finds during the course of inspection that the work authorized by an A-BLD permit with no plans exceeds the scope of work described above, or if the work does not meet the requirements of conventional construction in the building code, plans will be required and a B-BLD permit issued after the appropriate reviews and approvals.

The following procedures should be followed:

- The building inspector shall issue a correction notice stating that plans and a B-BLD permit are required, and giving the reasons for this requirement. If the limits of an A-BLD permit have been exceeded, the correction notice should explain the details; such as, *more than 40 l.f. of wall reframed or lateral bracing of structure compromised, engineering required.*
 - The correction notice shall specify what, if any, work can continue (such as weatherproofing the structure).
 - A stop work notice shall be issued when necessary.
- When the customer comes to PRMD with plans for the work, customer service staff shall review the plans and initiate a B-BLD permit for all the work on the project, including any work previously described on the A-BLD permit, in accordance with our current procedures.
 - A site review is required if required by our current procedures.
 - Fees paid for the B-BLD permit should be adjusted to exclude fees previously paid for work on the A-BLD permit.
 - Review is required by other sections of the department in accordance with our current procedures.
 - As a general rule the B-BLD does not receive priority processing. The Building Official may authorize priority processing when necessary to protect health and safety.
- Customer service staff shall change the status of the A-BLD permit to CANCELLED.
- Customer service staff shall add the following notice to the A-BLD permit: “WORK INCLUDED IN B##-####.”

Approved by:

/s/ Pete Parkinson

Pete Parkinson, Director

Lead Author: John deCourcy

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