

## i FACT SHEET

# Ground-fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCI)

OAR 437 - Division 3/K



## Division 3, Construction, General Requirements

### Ground-Fault Circuit Interrupters

OAR 437-003-0404, Branch Circuits, requires ground-fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) on all 125-volt, single-phase, 15-, 20-, and 30-ampere receptacles that are not part of the permanent wiring of a building or structure.

If a permanently wired receptacle (not equipped with GFCI protection) is used for temporary electric power in a construction project, GFCI protection must be provided at the user end. Portable plug-in and cord-type GFCIs are probably the most practical devices for construction workers who use cord sets for temporary power when there is no protection at the source.

(Protection is a function or state, not a piece of equipment. If there is effective protection for the worker, the location of the equipment that provides the protection is not important.)

### GFCI Protection

GFCIs are life-saving devices that protect people from electrocution. Under normal conditions, electrical current moving through a circuit flows at the same rate (amperage) all along the circuit; amperage flowing away from the electrical source should be the same amperage returning to the source.

GFCIs sense imbalances or differences along the electrical circuit and shut it down when needed. For this reason, GFCI can be critical to workers in wet environments. The rule for GFCI does not exempt work with intrinsically safe or double insulated tools.

### What Employers Must Do

You must protect employees from electrocution using ground-fault circuit interrupters using one of the following methods: built into the overall circuit, as part of the outlet receptacle, or using protected cord sets or GFCI devices.

### GFCI Fact

GFCI protection may be anywhere on the circuit as long as it works effectively to protect the worker. Protection may be for the entire circuit, the outlet receptacle, or the extension cord.



## Assured Equipment Grounding

For receptacles with more than 125 volts, single-phase, or more than 30-amp capacity, use GFCI protection or have a program that assures equipment is grounded, OAR 437-003-0404(3).

Employers must have a written description of their assured equipment-grounding program — including specific procedures — at each job site. Designate one or more competent persons to run the program. A competent person is someone who is capable of identifying hazards and has authority to promptly correct them (see 1926.32(f)).

Each day, inspect all extension cords and equipment (plug connected) for external defects before using them. Conduct periodic tests of all grounding conductors for continuity and test each receptacle or plug to ensure that the grounding conductor is connected to the right terminal.

Required testing:

- Before first use.
- Before first use after repair.
- Before use after any event that could cause damage.
- At least every three months (six months for fixed cords sets and receptacles not exposed to damage)

Record all tests by identifying each cord, receptacle, or piece of equipment and its test date or test interval. Use whatever method you choose for this identification. Keep the test record until a new record replaces it, using logs, color coding, or other means. These records must be available on the job site.

Color-coding is only one option for compliance and there is no approved color list. Employers are free to design their own system for identifying cords and equipment. The system must be understandable to the users.

## Resources

- 🔗 [OAR 437, Division K, Electrical](#)
- 🔗 [GFCI Resource Page](#)
- 🔗 [Oregon Electrical Specialty Code \(OESC\)](#)  
(from Oregon Building Codes Division)



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*The Technical Section of Oregon OSHA produced this fact sheet to highlight health and safety programs and rules. The information is intended to explain the rules and provide best practices to employers.*