



Investigation Fees

Bulletin # 4

Department of Planning and Land Services, June 2007
Division of Building Safety and Inspection for 2006 I Codes

The construction codes adopted by Pierce County contain a requirement to charge an investigation fee. It is charged when work requiring a permit is started before the permit is issued. This is true even if an application has been made but not yet issued.

Pierce County has amended the codes to make the requirement the same for all of the construction codes. It was further amended to set a minimum investigation fee of \$250. **Pierce County Code, Section 17C.10.080 Investigation Fee**

Investigation. Whenever any work for which a permit is required by any code listed in Section 17C.10.010 has started without first obtaining the required permit, a special investigation shall be made before a permit may be issued for such work.

Fee. An investigation fee, in addition to the permit fee, shall be collected whether or not a permit is then or subsequently issued. The investigation fee shall be equal to the amount of the permit fee required by code. The minimum investigation fee shall be the same as the minimum fee for that work but no less than two hundred fifty (\$250) dollars nor more than five thousand (\$5,000) dollars.

The payment of such investigation fee shall not exempt any person from compliance with all other provisions of this code nor from any penalty prescribed by law.

Stop Work Notice and **Notice of Violation** will indicate that an investigation fee is required.

Exception: If a new owner bought a site with a violation on it, they may appeal to the Building Official. Normally the investigation fee is waived if they can document the condition existed before they were the owner.

When an applicant at counter making an application indicates the work has already started but there is no record of a **Stop Work Notice** or **Notice of Violation**, the Building Safety counter support person should be called to the counter. The application will be evaluated to see if an investigation fee is required. **In many cases a site visit will be made prior to issuing the permit and an investigation fee will be assessed.**

Applicants may apply without paying the investigation fee if filing an administrative appeal with the building official. Permits will not be issued until the appeal is decided and fee if any has been paid.