



# Investigation Fees

Bulletin 4

*Division of Building, Safety, and Inspection for 2015 International Codes*

If you begin work before obtaining the necessary permits, a fee will be charged. This is true even if an application has been accepted, but hasn't been issued yet. This fee is called an Investigation Fee. See **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.

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

When an applicant indicates the work has already started but there is no record of a **Stop Work Notice** or **Notice of Violation**, the Building Safety support person should be notified. 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.

**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.

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.