

State of Oregon  
Building Codes Division

Contact: Richard S. Rogers, Structural Program Chief  
(503) 378-4472  
[richard.rogers@state.or.us](mailto:richard.rogers@state.or.us)

Alternate Method Ruling No. 05-02

(Issued May 6, 2005)  
(Revised May 3, 2006)  
(Updated July 1, 2010)

**DIALYSIS FACILITIES**

**REQUESTED BY:** Roger Severson, Oregon Department of Human Services

**Background:**

The Oregon Department of Human Services proposed an alternate method that would allow dialysis facilities to be housed in "B" occupancies with certain additional fire, life-safety features in lieu of an "I-2" classification. The Department of Human Services believes the alternate method is warranted given the unique nature of their procedures and to assist in the demographic placement of these facilities.

Upon due deliberation, the BCSB approved the following;

**APPLICABLE CODES**

OREGON STRUCTURAL SPECIALTY CODE

**History:**

Board approved the scientific and technical merits of this alternate method ruling on May 4, 2005. The Director of Department of Consumer & Business Services issued the ruling on May 6, 2005. The director clarifies (f) in this revised ruling.

**ALTERNATE METHOD RULING**

New Dialysis Facility Requirements:

All new dialysis facilities shall be in buildings classified as I-2, or B occupancy. When dialysis facilities are in buildings classified as I-2 occupancies, they shall be in accordance with the requirements of the Oregon Structural Specialty Code (OSSC). When dialysis facilities are in buildings classified as B occupancies, they shall be in accordance with the OSSC and the following:

- a) Dialysis facilities shall not be located more than one level from the exit discharge. Structural requirements shall be in accordance with the OSSC for B occupancies.

Note: Facilities requesting certification for federal funding shall also meet the requirements of Chapter 20 of NFPA 101 Life Safety Code, 2000 edition, as required by the Office of State Fire Marshal.

- b) Dialysis facilities shall be separated from adjoining B occupancies by at least one-hour fire barriers. Separation from all other occupancies shall be of at least two-hour fire barrier separation and as required by table 508.4 of the Oregon Structural Specialty Code.
- c) Buildings that house dialysis facilities shall be provided with an NFPA 13 fire sprinkler system in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1 of the OSSC.
- d) Dialysis facilities greater than 2000 square feet in size shall be separated into two smoke compartments having smoke barriers constructed in accordance with the OSSC.
- e) For the purposes of fire alarm installation, dialysis facilities shall be provided with smoke detection in patient care areas and throughout the exit path. Fire alarm systems shall conform to NFPA 72 standards and shall be in accordance with Section 907.2.6 of the OSSC.
- f) Emergency power supply for **task illumination at** dialysis stations and exit illumination shall be provided in accordance with Section 407.10 of the OSSC.
- g) Minimum rated 2A:10B:C fire extinguishers shall be installed in locations readily accessible to the staff in accordance with the Oregon Fire Code and NFPA 10.