

*Working with Oregonians
to ensure safe building
construction while
supporting a positive
business climate.*

No: 2007 OSSC Section 1019.2

Code Section: Oregon Structural Specialty Code (OSSC) Section 1019.2

Code Edition: 2007 OSSC

Date: *September 18, 2007*

Subject: Stories with One Exit

Question: Is the intent of OSSC section 1019.2 to regulate *buildings* with one exit or *stories* with one exit?

Answer: The intent of this section is to regulate *stories* with one exit.

Discussion: The charging language for section 1019 is found in section 1019.1 and states in part that; "*All rooms and spaces within each story shall be provided with and have access to the minimum number of approved independent exits required by Table 1019.1 based on the occupant load of the story, except as modified in Section 1015.1 or 1019.2. The required number of exits from any story, basement or individual space shall be maintained until arrival at grade or the public way.*" (emphasis added)

When section 1019.2 is applied without the scoping guidance of 1019.1, it may be concluded that multiple exits are required from a second story based solely on the occupant load of the first story. However, recent code changes to the 2009 International Building Code have helped clarify the intent. The first changes the title of section 1019.2 from "*Buildings with one exit*" to "*Stories with one exit*". The second code modification makes the same change to Table 1019.2. The ICC Means of Egress Committee provided the following reason in support of the code change;

"The proposal clarifies the intent of the code. The charging statement in 1019.1 states that every story has two exits. The proposal carries on with that and references stories again versus the entire building. The proposal will allow for small 2nd floors or basements that meet the travel distance over a much larger 1st floor to have single exits." (et al)

It should also be noted that section 1015.1, as referenced above, is only applicable to "*spaces*" and not to entire "*buildings*" or "*stories*."

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