

**Oregon  
Interpretive Ruling No. 93-69  
FINGER GRIPS IN HANDRAILS**

**Requested By:** PPPI MANUAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

**QUESTION**

What are the requirements for finger grips in handrails, and what configurations of handrails meet the requirements?

**APPLICABLE CODE SECTIONS**

1993 Oregon Structural Specialty Code (OSSC), Section 3306(i), and 1993 One and Two Family Dwelling Specialty Code (Dwelling Code), Section R-214.1.

**BACKGROUND**

Following changes in Section 3306 of the OSSC, ICBO has published information on recommended handrail finger grip sections based on material developed by the American National Standards Institute. These handrail sections were interpreted in 1980 and 1983 by SCAB as meeting the intent of the OSSC.

With the adoption of the Dwelling Code, more liberal provisions are now applicable to one and two family dwellings.

The illustrated handrails in Figure 1 meet the requirements of the OSSC, as well as the Dwelling Code. The illustrations in Figure 2 meet the requirements of the Dwelling Code and are interpreted as providing "an equivalent gripping surface."

The drawings in Figure 3 were added to the list of approved shapes by the Structural Code Advisory Board in 1987.

**FINDINGS**

This interpretation is authorized by ORS 455.060, Rulings on Acceptability of Materials, Designs or Methods of construction and Attorney General's Opinion OP-5208 issued October 1, 1981, which advised the statute permits authoritative interpretations of existing code requirements.

**DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION**

The answer to the question, as outlined above, and Figures 1, 2 and 3 are still current and applicable to code enforcement. However, only 1,2,3 and 4 in the attached Figure 1 meet Chapter 31 OSSC accessibility requirements.

Interpretive Ruling 93-69 replaces PPPI-4070.

(signed November 17, 1993)

John Talbott  
Structural Code Advisory Board

The recommendations and findings of the Structural Code Advisory Board are accepted and the conclusions are adopted.

(signed November 29, 1993)

Gary J. Wicks, Administrator  
Building Codes Division  
Date