

Oregon
Alternate Method Ruling No. 94-16
OSHA REGULATED GUARDRAILS

Requested By: PPPI MANUAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

QUESTION

Can OSHA's regulations for guardrails be used as an alternative to the Oregon Structural Specialty Code requirements, as stated in Section 1712, for industrial occupancies?

APPLICABLE CODE SECTIONS

1993 Oregon Structural Specialty Code (OSSC), Section 1712(a)

BACKGROUND

OSHA and OSSC regulations for guardrails are each written for the same purpose, to provide protection from falling from elevated walking or working surfaces. A statewide policy approval was approved by the Structural Code Advisory Board June 28, 1977.

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 Building Codes Structures Board, under OSSC Chapter 1, Section 105, rules that 42-inch high guardrails with a single intermediate rail and 4-inch nominal kick board, as approved by OSHA, is approved as an alternate to the requirements specified in OSSC, Section 1712 for existing buildings.

(signed August 3, 1994)

John Talbott, Chairman,
Building Codes Structures Board

The recommendations and findings of the Building Codes Structures Board are accepted and the conclusions are adopted.

(signed August 24, 1994)

Michele J. Patterson for
Gary J. Wicks, Administrator
Building Codes Division