



A BCD field office, the Tri-County Service Center administers the minor label program and coordinates forms, processes, and application of code for building programs in Clackamas, Multnomah, & Washington counties.

**Tri-County Service Center**

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# News *Line*

A quarterly newsletter for commercial builders

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## Yorke & Curtis to sponsor June 8 forum

A free forum on commercial structural code issues, sponsored by Yorke & Curtis, takes place Wednesday, June 8, 4-7 p.m., at the Multnomah Building, Board Room 100, 501 SE Hawthorne, in Portland.

Forum attendees discuss regional code applications and agree on acceptable standards for the tri-county region. The code panel provides code clarifications and determines common areas of code application. All questions relating to code interpretation are forwarded to statewide committees through the Building Codes Division. Tri-county area building departments have committed to following the guidance of the code panels to advance consistent application of code in the region.

Architects and contractors working outside the tri-county region should consult with their local building departments.

Qualified participants may earn three hours of HSW credit, three hours of code-related or master-builder continuing-education credit from BCD, or three hours of home-inspector continuing-education credit from CCB.

Contractors and building department personnel may submit questions to the code forum by sending e-mail to Joanie.M.Stevens-Schwenger@state.or.us or faxing questions to the center, (503) 872-6735.

### Agenda

- Recent interpretations
- Understanding the code: accessibility, fair housing and ADA standards
- Certification requirements for the new code
- Fire code update
- Open forum ♦

## March 9 forum highlights and Q & A

### Oregon's code interpretation process and recent interpretations

State structural code chief, Richard Rogers, discussed the interpretation process. BCD not only adopts but also interprets codes; the interpretations are binding statewide, which means that local jurisdictions, contractors, and design professionals must use them as standards in the same way they use the code. Interpretations clarify areas of the code; they are not meant to address site-specific disputes. To request an interpretation, contact Rogers at Richard.Rogers@state.or.us. All interpretation requests must be submitted in writing. Interpretations are posted on bcd.oregon.gov.

### Dispute resolution services available

BCD's Tri-County Service Center offers a dispute-resolution service to builders and architects to resolve site-specific or plan-review disputes with any tri-county-area building department. If you dispute an inspection or plan review and have discussed this with the jurisdiction's building official, call Joanie Stevens-Schwenger at the Tri-County Service Center, (503) 872-6731. The

office will set up a conference call with members of the code panel, you, and the building official to discuss the installation or plan.

### National code change process: how to be involved

Kraig Stevenson, of the International Code Council, discussed ICC membership, its benefits, and taking part in the national code development process.

ICC offers public hearings on code development and its Code Development Committee considers all comments presented.

Stevenson referred builders to www.iccsafe.org for more information about the ICC and a link to forms for public proposal and comment.

### Forum Q & A

**Q Please clarify 1621 and ASCE 9.6.2.6.2.2 as they relate to suspended ceiling tiles and sprinkler head design.**

**A** The panel referred this question to BCD for interpretation. It appears to be extremely difficult for builders to locate sprinklers or seismic joints that are the correct size.

Continued ...



Clackamas  
Multnomah  
Washington  
COUNTIES

**News Line**

Mark your calendars for the next commercial structural code forum.

**December 7**

- Recent interpretations
- Legislative update
- BCD appeals process

**Q Please clarify the definition of atrium per 404.1.1 as it relates to an opening in a two-story building.**

**A** The definition in the 2004 OSSC for “atrium” is nearly identical to that in Section 202 of the 1998 OSSC; however, provisions for “shafts” and “vertical exit enclosures” have changed considerably.

For example, Section 711.3 of the 1998 OSSC stated: *“In other than Group I Occupancies, openings that penetrate only one floor and are not connected with openings communicating with other stories or basements and that are not concealed within building construction assemblies need not be enclosed.”* As such, most required stairways were permitted to atmospherically connect two floors.

In contrast, Section 707.2, exception 7.2 of the 2004 OSSC will not allow the *“required means of egress system”* to be unenclosed between floors except as permitted in Section 1019.1, which says that the required stairways in the means of egress must be enclosed except:

- (a) In other than Group H and I occupancies, a stairway serving an occupant load of less than 10 not more than one story above the level of exit discharge.
- (b) In other than occupancy Groups H and I, a maximum of 50 percent of egress stairways serving one adjacent floor are not required to be enclosed, provided at least two means of egress are provided from both floors served by the unenclosed stairways. Any two such interconnected floors shall not be open to other floors.

- (c) In other than occupancy Groups H and I, interior egress stairways serving only the first and second stories of a building equipped throughout with an automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1 are not required to be enclosed, provided at least two means of egress are provided from both floors served by the unenclosed stairways. Such interconnected stories shall not be open to other stories.

In short, where a sprinkler system is installed, stairways serving the first and second stories may be unenclosed. In unsprinklered buildings, 50 percent of the egress stairways and stairways serving 10 or fewer persons above the level of exit discharge may be unenclosed.

Sections 404, 707.2 and 1019.1 contain additional exceptions that warrant further examination and application.

**Q One of our colleagues recently found the following: Under Section 105.2 Exceptions 13 (Agricultural Structures) and 14 (Equine Facilities), the new code refers to ORS 455.310. ORS 455.310 covers exempt residential construction, not agricultural structures. ORS 455.315 covers exempt agricultural structures. See ORS index at <http://www.leg.state.or.us/ors/455.html>. You may want to point this out so that it is addressed in future editions of the code.**

**A** The wrong statute was cited in the code and will be corrected. ♦

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