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**Amendment proposal process for energy  
efficiency in commercial buildings**

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**Beginning December 30, 2008, the division will begin accepting state building code amendment proposals relating to increasing energy efficiency in commercial buildings through construction practices or methods, for possible adoption on April 1, 2010.**

**Timetable:**

All code change proposals related to energy efficiency of commercial buildings must be submitted by February 13, 2009.

**Proposal Process:**

Every three years, the Building Codes Division reviews changes to model building codes that occur at the national level. Generally, the review takes place 12-18 months before a new building code is adopted. The Building Codes division anticipates adopting the latest version of the International Building Code and the International Mechanical Code (2009 IBC and the 2009 IMC) by April 1, 2010. This review cycle will be broken into three parts:

1. Areas that pertain to building energy efficiency;
2. All other areas covered in the 2009 IBC; and
3. All other areas covered in the 2009 IMC.

As part of this review, the division will be proposing “robust” changes to the current state building code to increase energy efficiency of commercial buildings by up to 30% over today’s requirements. In order to achieve the division’s goals, changes to the Oregon Structural Specialty Code and the Oregon Mechanical Specialty Code will be considered, along with interim amendments to other specialty codes, such as electrical, plumbing, boiler, etc.

The division is seeking public proposals for possible code changes that will increase energy efficiency of commercial structures. The division will utilize the public proposals submitted by the February deadline and discussions from a work group to develop an energy efficiency package to present to the appropriate advisory board or boards. The division anticipates that the public process for energy efficiency for commercial buildings code amendments will start in late January or early February. This will enable the division to discuss ideas and concepts with a work group through July to develop the state’s recommendation relating to commercial energy efficiency standards.

The other construction standards contained in the review process outlined above, will be discussed and considered through a separate process beginning in March or April of 2009, after the model codes become available. Shortly after the model codebooks become readily available to the public, the division will initiate a separate 45-day public proposal period for general amendments to the Oregon Structural Specialty and Mechanical Specialty Codes that are not related to energy efficiency.



**Contact:**

If you have any questions about the process, please feel free to contact Andrea Simmons, Green Building Services Manager at (503) 373-7235 or [andrea.f.simmons@state.or.us](mailto:andrea.f.simmons@state.or.us) or Gabrielle Schiffer, Green Building Services Coordinator at (503) 373-7418 or [gabrielle.m.schiffer@state.or.us](mailto:gabrielle.m.schiffer@state.or.us).

**Code Change Proposals:**

All proposals must be submitted to the division in writing. The division has provided a form that includes the code amendment proposal criteria; the form is available at:

<http://www.bcd.oregon.gov/pdf/2652.pdf>

Completed code change proposals may be sent via email to [Dana.C.Fischer@state.or.us](mailto:Dana.C.Fischer@state.or.us) or sent to:

Building Codes Division

Attn: Dana Fischer

P.O. Box 14470

Salem, OR 97309-0404