

**STATE OF OREGON
BUILDING CODES DIVISION**

STATEWIDE INTERPRETATION

No. 304.9

OREGON MECHANICAL SPECIALTY CODE

SUBJECT: Guards for Retrofit Roof Top Units

CODE SECTION: Oregon Mechanical Specialty Code, Section 304.9

CODE EDITION: 2002 Edition of the Oregon Mechanical Specialty Code.

DATE: October 1, 2002

QUESTION: Is it appropriate to require a permanently installed guards on retrofit installations when the new equipment is of like type and weight? Section 304.9 requires “Guards shall be provided where appliances, equipment, fans or other components that require service are located within 10 feet of a roof edge or open side of a walking surface and such edge or open side is located more than 30 inches above the floor, roof or grade below.”

ANSWER: No. The installation of a guard would not be required for equipment change-outs if the original equipment was installed to code at the time of the original installation. The repairs and/or replacement of equipment must not cause an existing system (*or situation*) to become unsafe, hazardous or overloaded or any less in compliance with the code than it was before the changes-out.