

**STATE OF OREGON
BUILDING CODES DIVISION**

STATEWIDE INTERPRETATION

No. 306.5

OREGON MECHANICAL SPECIALTY CODE

SUBJECT: Permanent Roof Top Access on Retrofit Installations

CODE SECTION: Oregon Mechanical Specialty Code, Section 306.5

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

DATE: October 1, 2002

QUESTION: Is it appropriate to require a permanently installed ladder or another permanent means of access on retrofit installations when the new equipment is of like type and weight? Section 306.5 requires "...permanent approved means of access, where equipment and appliances requiring access, are installed on roofs or elevated structures at a height exceeding 16 feet,".

ANSWER: No. A permanent ladder or access 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.