

Oregon Interpretive Ruling No. 93-81
INSULATION CLEARANCE TO LISTED VENTS

Initiated By: GLEN EDGAR
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RE: ENERGY CONSERVATION
CHAPTER 53, ENERGY CONSERVATION, SECTION 5303(a)2C3
CONSTRUCTION MEANS AND METHODS

QUESTION CONSIDERED

A "Type B" gas vent is tested and listed for a 1-inch clearance to combustibles. Can the insulation clearance to this listed product be 1 inch?

APPLICABLE CODE SECTIONS

Oregon Structural and One and Two Family Dwelling Specialty Codes Section 5303(a)2C3.

BACKGROUND

Chapter 53, Section 5303(a)2C3 states: "Thermal insulation shall not be installed within 3 inches of any metal chimney or gas vent" Historically, general weatherization specifications have always required a 3-inch clearance from all insulation to: recessed lighting fixtures, masonry chimneys, heat producing fixtures, metal chimneys and gas vents, etc.

DISCUSSION

It is reasonable to allow a clearance of less than 3 inches to insulation if a gas vent is tested and listed for distances closer than 3 inches to combustibles. Insulation is no greater hazard (fire) than combustibles.

Some products may have a listing that requires a distance greater than 3 inches. Other sections of the code may require a distance greater than 3 inches to combustibles.

RULING

1. A listed chimney or vent may have a minimum clearance to insulation as specified by its listing for clearances to combustibles.
The manufacturer's installation instructions shall be attached and accompany the applicant's blueprints and drawings to verify acceptable clearances to combustibles.
2. Unlisted metal chimneys or gas vents shall not have insulation installed within 3 inches or as required by other sections of the code, whichever is more restrictive.

The Building Codes Structures Board makes this recommendation as an interpretation to the requirements in Chapter 53, Energy Conservation.

~~-Rescinded-~~
(Effective October 1, 2006)