

**Oregon**  
**Interpretive Ruling No. 92-8**  
**ACCEPTABLE U-0.54 DOORS FOR PRESCRIPTIVE COMPLIANCE PATHS**

**Initiated By:** ALAN SEYMOUR  
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BUILDING CODES AGENCY

**QUESTION CONSIDERED**

1. Can any door that is 24 square feet and less in area and having a "tested U-value" of 0.54 or less, be used to meet the main entry door requirements of Prescriptive Compliance Paths 1,2, 7 and the door requirements for Path 9?

**APPLICABLE CODE SECTION** (Effective January I, 1992)

Table No. 53-P of the Oregon Structural Specialty Code and One and Two Family Dwelling Specialty Code and Section 5303(c) 1:

1. Exterior doors. Doors shall be tested in accordance with the requirements of Section 5303(c)2. When calculating the energy performance of the exterior envelope, the area doors shall be the actual unit size.

**EXCEPTION:**

1. Unglazed doors which are not tested according to the requirements of Section 5303(c)2 shall be assigned a U-value of 0.54.
2. Sliding glass doors and swinging glass doors shall meet the specifications for glazing and shall be treated as such.
3. Doors which incorporate glazed areas more than 2.5 square feet in area shall be considered windows.

**BACKGROUND**

The Temporary Administrative Rule OAR 916-60-01 0 effective January I, 1992, requires any door which has more than 2.5 square feet of glazing, to meet window requirements. This was adopted to allow more products to comply. This amendment does not deal with a door that is 24 square feet or less in area containing more than 2.5 square feet of glazing in area. This door does not meet the window standards and cannot be used to meet the main entry door requirements although tested to U-0.54 as stated in the code for prescriptive compliance paths 1, 2, 7 and all door requirements for path 9.

**FINDINGS**

**1. Flexibility to allow a traditional main entry door**

- The original intent was to allow a U -0.54 door for the prescriptive compliance paths that specify a *V-0.54* door. A door that meets the area limitations and is tested to U-0.54 or less will meet the intent of the requirement regardless of whether it contains glazing.
- The code change to redefine the requirements for which a door must meet were not intended to reduce the U-0.54 door requirements.
- See Interpretive Ruling No. 92-10 for the application of single glazing for decorative or unique features.

This interpretation is authorized by ORS 455.060, Rulings on Acceptability of Materials, Designs or Methods of Construction and Attorney General's Opinion OP-5208 issued October 1, 1981, which advised that the statute is designed to permit authoritative interpretations of existing code requirements.

**CONCLUSION**

**Acceptable doors for Table 53-P, Prescriptive Compliance Paths 1,2,7 and 9**

- A door that is 24 square feet and less in area that contains more than 2.5 square feet in glazing and has a "tested" U-value of 0.54 or less shall be an acceptable main entry door for Paths 1,2 and 7,
- A door that has a "tested" U-value of 0.54 or less shall be an acceptable door for Path 9.

The Energy Conservation Board and Structural Code Advisory Board make this recommendation as an interpretation to the requirements in Chapter 53, Energy Conservation.

(signed March 26, 1992)  
Rodger Bekooy, Chairman  
Energy Conservation Board

Date

(signed April 15, 1992)  
John Talbott, Chairman  
Structural Code Advisory Board

Date

The recommendations and findings of the Energy Conservation Board and Structural Code Advisory Board are accepted and the interpretations are adopted as stated above.

(signed April 15, 1992)  
Gary J. Wicks, Administrator  
Building Codes Agency

Date

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