

**Oregon  
Interpretive Ruling No. 92-9  
ACCEPTABLE DEFAULT U-VALUES**

**Initiated By:** ALAN SEYMOUR  
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**QUESTION CONSIDERED**

1. Can default U-values be adopted for consistent statewide application?

**APPLICABLE CODE SECTION** (Effective January 1, 1992)

Table No. 53-0 and 53-P of the Oregon Structural Specialty Code and One and Two Family Dwelling Specialty Code

**BACKGROUND**

The U-values used for compliance with the Energy Code can vary, depending on the assumptions used. The U-value derived can be very different from those specified in the Code if the criteria is changed. In an effort to maintain statewide consistency in the application of the Energy Code statewide, acceptable default V-values must be assigned.

**FINDINGS**

**1. Default V-values**

- The V-values used in the "code" reflect assumptions that were agreed upon by the Technical Working Group. The U-values on the attached Table were derived using the same Ecotope spreadsheet and assumptions used by the Technical Working Group.
- A Table of default V-values for Group R, three stories and less in height is attached.

**2. Application to Table 53-P**

- These V-values are also acceptable alternatives to meeting R-value requirements for prescriptive compliance paths.
- Example: Path 1 requires R-21 wall insulation, which has a V-value of 0.060. Any wall assembly listed on the Default Table that is U-0.060 or less shall be an acceptable assembly.

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 default V-values**

- The attached Table of default V-values shall be acceptable values for those not listed in Table 53-0.
- These default V-values shall also be acceptable for meeting R-value requirements listed in Table 53-P.

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

(signed April 8, 1992)  
Rodger Bekooy, Chairman  
Energy Conservation Board

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



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R-21	0	Advanced	0.055	R-10	Slab Edge F=0.54**
R-II	35	Standard	0.069	R-15	Slab Edge F=0.52**
R-II	5	Standard	0.063	*Intermediate framing consists of studs placed at 16- o.c. with insulated comers, intersections of interior partition walls and headers.	
R-II	7	Standard	0.055	**F = The heat loss coefficient, Btu/hr/F per foot of	
R-II	3.5	Advanced	0.067	of	
R-II	5	Advanced	0.061	perimeter.	
R-II	7	Advanced	0.054		

RESERVED