

Oregon
Interpretive Ruling No. 93-70
INSULATION OF ELECTRIC WATER HEATERS

Requested By: PPPI MANUAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

QUESTION

In retrofit installations where clearances on existing water heaters restrict the use of additional wrap of R-II, may wrap be compressed when clearances restrict the full thickness?

APPLICABLE CODE SECTIONS

1993 Oregon Structural Specialty Code (OSSC), Chapter 53 and Oregon One and Two Family Dwelling Specialty Code (Dwelling Code), Chapter 53.

BACKGROUND

Questions were asked by the Bonneville Power Administration concerning the installation of insulation on water heaters.

FINDINGS

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 the statute permits authoritative interpretations of existing code requirements.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

The Structural Code Advisory Board ruled that in those areas where conditions exist restricting the full thickness, it would be better to compress the R-II than to go to an R-5 or thinner insulation.

Interpretive Ruling 93-70 replaces PPPI-4096.

(signed November 17, 1993)

John Talbott, Chairman,
Structural Code Advisory Board

The recommendations and findings of the Structural Code Advisory Board are accepted and the conclusions are adopted.

(signed November 19, 1993)

Gary J. Wicks, Administrator,
Building Codes Division