
**No: 1019.1, Exception 8
2004 Oregon Structural Specialty Code**

Code Section: 1019.1, exception 8

Code Edition: 2004 Oregon Structural Specialty Code

Date: March 2, 2007

Subject: Continuity of Vertical Exit Enclosures

Question: Is it the intent of OSSC 1019.1 exception 8, to allow one or more stories of unenclosed stairways to disrupt the exit continuity of a vertical exit enclosure in a building of three or more stories?

Answer: No.

Analysis: *This exception is only applicable to 50% of egress stairs where at least two means of egress are provided from both floors served by the unenclosed stairways. The following analysis is specific to the same.*

The application of OSSC 1019.1 Exception 8 is limited to “*egress stairways serving one adjacent floor.*” In short, it can only be applied to either a two story building or at the uppermost two floors of a vertical exit enclosure in a multistory building.

Furthermore, OSSC 1017.1 stipulates that once a given level of exit protection is achieved in a required means of egress (*as provided in an exit enclosure*), such level of protection cannot be reduced until arrival at the exit discharge.

In addition, OSSC 1018.3 states; “*Exits shall be continuous from the point of entry into the exit to the exit discharge.*” In that “*exit enclosures*” are considered “*exits*” per the definition in OSSC 1002, it is inappropriate to allow the enclosure to terminate in a location other than those specified in code.

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