
Building Codes Division**Statewide Code Interpretation**

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March 6, 2007**No: 2004 OSSC 503
2004 Oregon Structural Specialty Code**

Code Section: 503**Code Edition:** 2004 Oregon Structural Specialty Code (OSSC)**Date:** Original: 11/19/2005 Updated: 3/06/2007**Subject:** Establishing Allowable Area**Question:** For the purposes of determining allowable area in Section 503, may the “footprint” of the building be established by using the inside face of the exterior walls?**Answer:** Yes.**Analysis:** As noted on page 5-2 of the 2003 International Building Code Commentary;

“A building area is the “footprint” of the building; that is, the area measured within the perimeter formed by the inside surface of the exterior walls, which excludes spaces that are inside the perimeter and open to the outside atmosphere at the top, such as open shafts and courts”.

Accordingly, this provision is “permissive” in that designers may choose either the interior or exterior surface of the exterior walls in making this determination.

Editorial note: This interpretation is specific to determinations made in conjunction with section 503 of the Oregon Structural Specialty Code. It is not intended to address the means for establishing the building area for purposes beyond the purview of the OSSC.

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