

**No: 2004 OSSC Table 1604.5 and ORS 455.447
2004 Oregon Structural Specialty Code**

Code Section: Table 1604.5 and ORS 455.447

Code Edition: 2004 Oregon Structural Specialty Code

Date: 03/23/06

Subject: Seismic Importance Factor For Health-Care Facilities

Question: OSSC Table 1604.5 states that health care facilities that have either surgery or emergency treatment facilities are required to be designed for a seismic importance factor value of 1.50. Whereas in the 1997 Uniform Building Code, only such facilities that had both the surgery and emergency treatment areas were required to be designed to higher seismic importance factor. Can you please provide the Building Codes Division's position on this issue?

Answer: Only such health-care facilities that have both surgery and emergency care areas are considered to be essential facilities and thereby only such facilities would be required to be designed to a higher seismic importance factor of 1.50.

Analysis: ORS 455.447 regulates certain structures vulnerable to earthquakes. Included in the definition of "essential facilities" are hospitals and other medical facilities having surgery "and" emergency treatment areas.

In that statutory definitions take precedence over those adopted by administrative rule (such as OSSC Table 1604.5), this interpretation acquiesces to the ORS 455.447 meaning in its rendering.

Contact: Ravindra K Mahajan, P.E.
Facilities Engineer III
ravindra.k.mahajan@state.or.us
(503) 373-1354

