

**STATE OF OREGON  
BUILDING CODES DIVISION**

**STATEWIDE INTERPRETATION**

**No.303.2.2.2**

**OREGON STRUCTURAL SPECIALTY CODE**

**SUBJECT:** A-3s Located in Basements or Above the First Floor

**CODE SECTION:** Oregon Structural Specialty Code (OSSC) Section 303.2.2.2

**CODE EDITION:** 1998 Edition with October 1,2001 amendments

**DATE:** October 8, 2002

**QUESTION:** May the sprinkler system substitution allowed in OSSC 508 satisfy either of the I-hour construction requirements of OSSC 303.2.2.2?

**ANSWER:**

No. Section 303.2.2.2 contains "special provisions" for Group A occupancies. Specifically, when a Group A, Division 3 Occupancy is located in a basement or above the first story, the Group A "Occupancy" is required to be "not less than" one-hour fire-resistive construction. This section also requires a one-hour fire-resistive separation when located above "usable space".

The use of the provisions in Section 508 apply only to the general onehour construction throughout requirement and do not apply to specific fire-resistive requirements intended to counter specific hazards. The ten items listed in OSSC 508 as well as other specific requirements unique to individual occupancies (such as the one under consideration), take precedence in accordance with OSSC section 101.3, and the required fire-resistance may not be reduced.