
Building Codes Division



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Statewide Code Interpretation

November 17, 2004

No: 2004 OSSC 1702.1 2004 Oregon Structural Specialty Code

Code Section: OSSC 1702.1

Code Edition: 2004 Oregon Structural Specialty Code (OSSC)

Date: Original: 11/17/2004

Subject: Periodic Special Inspections

Question: 1) In Chapter 17 of the 2003 IBC, is it the intent of the “special inspection, periodic” requirements to allow a reasonable sampling of those components requiring periodic special inspection to be inspected?

2) If the answer to question #1 is no, is it the intent of “special inspection, periodic” to require that all elements of those components of work requiring this level of special inspection be inspected?

3) If the answer to #2 is no, is it the intent of “special inspection, periodic” to require that all elements of a sampling of components be inspected?

Answer: 1) Yes.
2) Depends upon the scope of the Periodic Special Inspections as outlined by the design professional. For more discussion, please see the interpretation provided below.
3) Same as in (2) above.

Analysis: 1997 Uniform Building Code provided a clearer and better description of *Periodic Special Inspections* compared to that provided in the 2003 International Building Code. Descriptions from both of these codes are re-produced below:

1997 UBC (Section 1701.6.2): *Some inspections may be made on a periodic basis and satisfy the requirements of continuous inspection, provided this periodic scheduled inspection is performed as outlined in the project plans and specifications and approved by the building official.*

2003 IBC (Section 1702.1): *The part-time or intermittent observation of work requiring special inspection by an approved special inspector who is present in the area where the work has been or is being performed and at the completion of the work.*

The UBC description is self contained in that it provides all different criteria pertaining to *periodic special inspections* in one place. The IBC description is similar but not very clear and the inspection schedule requirements are provided elsewhere (Sections 1704 and 1705) in the code which were amended in Oregon to limit their applicability to certain *building categories (III and IV)*.

Based on the above, the following interpretation is made:

Periodic Special Inspections are:

- made on a periodic basis, the periodicity being defined by the design professional through several possible means such as the project specific Quality Assurance Plan, Written communications, Verbal communications etc.
- considered equivalent to continuous inspections in terms of scope of inspections, without requiring the inspector to be present at all times
- to be performed according to the inspection schedule, which may include frequency of inspections or the sampling of components for inspections or any other instructions. The inspection schedule including periodicity is to be provided by the design professional based upon the nature of materials or components that needs to be inspected.

For projects that are not required by the state statute or laws to be designed by design professionals, the periodicity and sampling of periodic special inspection may be established by the building department having jurisdiction, consistent with the requirements within the state adopted building code.

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