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State of Oregon
Building Codes Division

No: 2010 OSSC 104.10

Code Reference: 104.10, Oregon Structural Specialty Code (OSSC)

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Subject: Yurts Used as Recreational Structures

Question: What provisions of the code need to be met when constructing Yurts to be used as permanent recreational structures?

Answer: Yurts shall meet all applicable code provisions except as specifically required by this interpretation:

- 1) Yurts shall be classified as R1 when:
 - 1.1) located in an Oregon State Park; and
 - 1.2) Used primarily for transient, recreational purposes
- 2) R1 Yurts are not required to comply with OSSC Section 1204.1
- 3) R1 yurts shall comply with Chapter 13 except when:
 - 3.1) There is no conditioned space in the yurt, as defined in Section 1302; or
 - 3.2) The only heat source is a solid-fuel burning heater or stove, or portable temporary heater
- 4) When R1 yurts are provided in an Oregon State Park or recreation park, at least 20% but not less than 1, shall be accessible and on an accessible route as provided in OSSC Section 1110. In parks with multiple accessible yurts, the accessible yurts shall be disbursed among various park features, wherever practical.
- 5) R1 yurts constructed in a flood plain shall comply with OSSC Appendix G, when adopted by the local municipality.
- 6) R1 yurts shall comply with Chapter 10 except that:
 - 6.1) The required exit doorway shall be of a size as to permit the installation of a door not less than 6 feet 2 inches in height ; and
 - 6.2) If the yurt is required to be accessible, and the door height does not comply with Chapter 10, an approved sign or indicator shall be installed in an approved location near the yurt along an accessible route to alert persons with vision impairments of the lower door height.
- 7) R1 yurts shall comply with the plumbing fixture requirements of OSSC Chapter 29. Adjacent facilities shall be allowed when in compliance the provisions of Chapter 29 and Chapter 11.

Analysis: Interpretation 92-28 addresses the use of a Yurt as a permanent dwelling. The Board determined: "While a yurt meets many of the criteria for a single family dwelling, the Board finds that it does not satisfy the 'energy conservation', 'security', and 'durability' provisions of the ORSC. Such units are suitable for recreational purposes, but are not



a substitute for a single family dwelling under the ORSC”. The ruling implies that because the yurt does not meet the requirements of the ORSC, that a yurt may not be properly classified as a permanent dwelling with a R-3 Occupancy. Interpretation 92-28 does not suggest an appropriate occupancy classification for yurts.

Occupancy classification. The scope of this interpretation applies only to yurts used as recreational structures. There is difficulty in ensuring that occupants do not permanently reside in such recreational structures, in order to comply with Interpretation 92-28. Therefore an additional limitation applies. The scope of this ruling is only for yurts located in an Oregon state park currently licensed by the State of Oregon.

Additionally, a recreation use implies transient, rather than permanent use by occupants. Therefore this interpretation is limited to yurts used primarily by transient occupants. The proper occupancy classification assigned to structures such as dwellings or lodging houses, when the occupants are essentially transient is R-1

Proposals to use yurts on a permanent basis pursuant to applicable provisions of state building codes is still allowed on a project specific basis. Such a proposal may be approved by the Building Official. Also, proposals to use yurts on a temporary basis may still be allowed by the Building Official.

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