

**OREGON**  
**Interpretive Ruling No. 93-20**  
**CDX GRADE PLYWOOD AS A WEATHER-PROTECTIVE BARRIER**  
(revised 7-20-99, editorial only)

**REQUESTED BY:** PPPI Manual Review Committee

**QUESTION:**

1. Is CDX grade plywood, used as exterior wall sheathing, acceptable without the use of building paper when exterior covering is not of approved weather-proof panels?
2. Would an exterior wall covering need an ICBO evaluation report number to be exempt from using building paper over CDX grade plywood?

**APPLICABLE CODE SECTIONS:** 1998 Oregon Structural Specialty Code (OSSC), Sections 104.2.8, 1402.1 and 2310.2 and One and Two Family Dwelling Specialty Code (Dwelling Code), Section 108 and 703.2.

**BACKGROUND:** Question No.1, OSSC Section 1402.1 and Dwelling Code, Section 703.2, require weather-resistive barriers on all weather-exposed surfaces, but provide for several exceptions. One of these states, "Over water-repellent panel sheathing." Over the years, the question has arisen many times whether CDX grade plywood meets the criteria for water-repellent sheathing.

On 8/15/72 ICBO Technical Director D.R.Watson gave this written interpretation: "It is our opinion that plywood sheathing bonded with exterior glue would be considered as water-repellent panel sheathing provided the sheathing is covered with approved weather boarding as described in Chapter 23, Section 2310.2 of the Uniform Building Code or as approved by the Research Committee."

Question No.2, OSSC Section 104.2.8 and Dwelling Code, Section 108, states the building official may approve materials other than those approved by ICBO, if they are at least the equivalent to those prescribed by the code.

**FINDINGS:**

Code requirements are similar to those in effect at the time of the original ruling. It is appropriate to update the ruling to include provisions of the Oregon One and Two Family Dwelling Specialty Code.

This interpretation is authorized by ORS 455.060, Rulings on Acceptability of Materials, Designs or Methods of Construction and Attorney General's Opinion OP-5208 issued October 1, 1981, advising the statute permits authoritative interpretations of existing code requirements.

**DISCUSSION & CONCLUSION:** The Structural Code Advisory Board ruled by interpretation:

1. CDX grade plywood is water-repellent panel sheathing and waterproof building paper is not required, if the sheathing is covered as described In Chapter 23 of the code.
2. No. An evaluation report or other listing is not required.

(signed July 21, 1993)

John Talbott, Chairman  
Structural Code Advisory Board

The recommendations and findings of the Structural Code Advisory Board are accepted and the conclusions are adopted.

(signed July 30, 1993)

Michelle I. Patterson for  
Gary J. Wicks, Administrator  
Building Codes Agency

RESCINDED