

OREGON

INTERPRETIVE RULING NO. 97-10

USE OF PLASTIC PIPING IN FIRE-RATED BUILDINGS OR ASSEMBLIES

QUESTION: Is it the intent of the 1996 Oregon Plumbing Specialty Code, Section 701.1.2, to prohibit or limit the use of plastic piping in fire rated buildings or assemblies?

Asked by: Terry Swisher, BCD Chief Plumbing Inspector

BACKGROUND: The 1994 Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC) contains language in Section 701.1.2 that limits ABS and PVC DWV piping where combustible construction is allowed. Oregon amended the section in 1996 with a note that references the Oregon Structural Specialty Code (OSSC) for regulations of fire assemblies and the type of plumbing materials that may be permitted.

Many plumbing code users have been confused by the model code limitation for ABS and PVC DWV and the reference to the structural code which contains no such limitation.

FINDINGS: The 1996 Oregon Plumbing Specialty Code does not regulate fire assemblies or buildings that are fire rated or, therefore, the use of plastic piping in those buildings or assemblies. The Oregon code amendment referencing the OSSC under Section 701.1.2 is intended to clarify that the OSSC is the regulating code for determining the type of plumbing materials that may penetrate fire-rated assemblies or be used in fire rated buildings.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS:

Authority. ORS 455.060 authorizes the Division to issue binding interpretive rulings on the building codes and on acceptability of materials, design or method of construction. Advice received from the Attorney General in OP #5208, October 1, 1981.

Analysis. The reference to ABS and PVC DWV in Section 701.1.2 is model code language and does not reference other approved plastic DWV piping materials. Combustible construction is not defined in the 1996 Oregon Plumbing Specialty Code and, therefore, the model code language is undefined. The OSSC is authorized by statute to specify the acceptability of materials for building construction with regards to combustibility and fire safety. The Oregon Plumbing Specialty Code regulates the use of plumbing products with regards to performance, quality, strength, effectiveness, durability and plumbing safety.


Conclusion. The 1996 Oregon Plumbing Specialty Code does not limit or prohibit the use of plastic piping in fire rated assemblies or buildings and references the OSSC for regulation and determination of the type of plumbing materials that may penetrate fire-rated assemblies or be used in fire rated buildings.

The Board recommends adoption of the following:

INTERPRETATION: The 1996 Oregon Plumbing Specialty Code does not limit or prohibit the use of plastic piping in fire-rated assemblies or buildings. The Oregon Structural Specialty Code regulates the determination of the type of plumbing materials that may penetrate fire-rated assemblies or be used in fire-rated buildings.



Arthur G. Atchison, Chairman
State Plumbing Board



Date

The recommendations and findings of the Board are accepted and the interpretation is adopted effective immediately.



Joseph A. Brewer III, Administrator
Building Codes Division



Date