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### **Oregon adopts new statewide building codes**

(Salem) On October 1, the Oregon Department of Consumer & Business Services adopts two new statewide building codes, the Oregon Structural Specialty Code and the Oregon Mechanical Specialty Code. The 2004 OSSC is based on the 2003 International Building Code, and includes amendments that are Oregon-specific. The 2004 OMSC is based on the 2003 International Mechanical Code, and 2003 International Fuel Gas Code, and also includes Oregon amendments.

The 2004 OSSC covers commercial construction, certain apartments, transient lodging such as hotels and motels, and certain residential structures that are subject to licensure by the Oregon Department of Human Services. Until October 1, all building departments will accept plans based on the 1998 OSSC.

To give the construction industry, contractors, architects, engineers, building officials and inspectors an opportunity to become familiar with the new 2004 OSSC, the DCBS Building Codes Division is requiring that all building departments in the state allow a phase-in period of 90 days, from October 1 to January 1. During this phase-in period, building departments will accept plans designed either to the 1998 OSSC (based on the Uniform Building Code) or to the 2004 OSSC (based on the International Building Code), but will not accept plans that use a combination of the two codes. The 90-day phase-in period does not apply the OMSC.

The 2004 OMSC, which is simply an update to the current 2002 Oregon Mechanical Specialty Code, covers commercial and certain residential mechanical installations. Contractors designing a mechanical system who intend to submit plans around the October 1 implementation date should check with the local building department to determine which code may be applicable to their projects. As a general rule, projects with permits issued prior to October 1 will remain under the 2002 edition of the OMSC, and those with permits issued after October 1 will be under the 2004 edition.

For more information, check the Building Codes Division's Web site: [www.oregonbcd.org](http://www.oregonbcd.org).

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