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State adopts new building codes April 1

Codes provide consistency for contractors, safety for consumers

(Salem) — The state is adopting building codes that will affect builders, architects, and contractors on issues ranging from a structure's framing, accessibility, and fire protection systems to its heating and cooling.

The new Oregon Structural Specialty Code covers structural elements such as framing, roof assemblies, and building entry and exit in commercial and public buildings. The Oregon Mechanical Specialty Code regulates the construction of mechanical installations, such as heating and cooling systems, and venting and ductwork in both residential and commercial buildings. The codes are effective April 1 for all building plans and construction.

"The construction industry is responsible for a considerable portion of the state's economic health," said Mark Long, Building Codes Division administrator. "Our goal is to adopt codes that provide statewide consistency and ensure Oregon is providing its citizens with safe structures."

Codes set minimum construction standards for building safety. A uniform statewide building code provides the state's construction industry with a consistent and predictable building environment and helps ensure that buildings meet national life-safety standards.

The state's Building Codes Division typically adopts codes every three years. Oregon's codes are based on national model codes, and align the state with national standards.

Contact Richard Rogers at richard.rogers@state.or.us or 503-378-4472 with questions or requests for further information.

Specific code references follow. More information is available on the division's Web site at www.bcd.oregon.gov.

- 2007 Oregon Structural Specialty Code consists of the 2006 edition of the International Building Code with Oregon amendments.
- The 2007 Oregon Mechanical Specialty Code consists of the 2006 edition of the International Mechanical Code, Oregon amendments, and the 2006 International Fuel Gas Code as an appendix.

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The Building Codes Division, part of the Department of Consumer and Business Services, provides building code development, administration, inspection, plan review, licensing, and permit services to the construction industry to help ensure the safe and effective construction of structures in Oregon.

For more information, visit www.bcd.oregon.gov.

The Department of Consumer and Business Services is Oregon's largest business regulatory and consumer protection agency. For more information, visit www.dcbs.oregon.gov.