

# Oregon Structural Specialty Code

## 2025 edition

## Appendix Q – Single Exit Provisions for Buildings Containing Group R-2 Dwelling Units

*Appendix Q is not adopted as part of this code and is only enforceable where approved by the local fire service and adopted by the local municipality.*

**User note:** Appendix Q provides provisions that allow a single exit stairway to serve certain Group R-2 occupancies that are multifamily residential structures not greater than four stories above grade plane. The purpose of this appendix is to allow a single exit stairway in residential buildings containing Group R-2 dwelling units exceeding three stories above grade plane under the stated parameters. This appendix provides an alternative single exit stairway design option to those listed in Section 1006.3.3.

The capabilities of and resources available to the responding fire and emergency service agencies shall be considered locally prior to adoption of this appendix. Not all agencies have the appropriate aerial apparatus, personnel, operational response capabilities, or water supply necessary to adequately respond to a structure designed using this appendix.

Municipal reference or use of NFPA 1300: Standard on Community Risk Assessment and Community Risk Reduction Plan Development, or the community risk assessment and standard of cover methodologies of the Center for Public Safety Excellence Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CPSE CFAI) may be determined to be an appropriate means or methodology to measure the local fire and emergency service agency's ability to adequately respond to these types of structures and their occupants during emergent conditions.

### SECTION Q101—GENERAL

**Q101.1 Applicability.** Where approved by the local fire service and adopted by the local *municipality*, the provisions of this appendix shall be permitted.

**Q101.2 General.** In addition to the *means of egress* requirements of Chapter 10, buildings containing Group R-2 *dwelling units* shall be permitted to be served by a single exit stairway under the following conditions:

1. The building shall not exceed four stories above grade plane in *building height*. The application of Section 510 is not permitted.
2. The *net floor area* of each story shall not exceed 4,000 square feet (419 m<sup>2</sup>).
3. Not more than four *dwelling units* shall be located on any *story*.
4. Exit access travel distance shall not exceed 125 feet (38 m) feet.
5. Openings to *interior exit stairway* enclosures shall be limited to those required for exit access into the enclosure from normally occupied spaces, those required for egress from the enclosure, and openings to the exterior. Elevators shall not open into the *interior exit stairway* enclosure.
6. *Emergency escape and rescue openings* shall be provided in accordance with Section 1031.
7. A *manual fire alarm system* and *automatic smoke detection system* that activates the occupant notification system in accordance with Section 907.5 shall be provided. Smoke detectors shall be located in common spaces outside of *dwelling units*, including but not limited to gathering areas, laundry rooms, mechanical equipment rooms, storage rooms, interior corridors, *interior exit stairways*, and *exit passageways*.
8. Regardless of the building or stairway type of construction, *automatic sprinkler* locations in *interior exit stairways* shall comply with the requirements of NFPA 13 for combustible stairways.
9. Electrical receptacles shall not be permitted in *interior exit stairways*.
10. Mezzanines and sleeping lofts are not permitted.