

Group R-2 Single Exit Stair Buildings

Oregon Structural Specialty Code (OSSC)

House Bill 3395 (2023) required the division and the Building Codes Structures Board to consider the inclusion of provisions in the Oregon Structural Specialty Code (OSSC) to allow residential occupancies to be served by a single exit stair. Following review of emerging national codes and consultation with the fire service and local governments, the board and division approved OSSC Appendix Q, *Single Exit Provisions for Buildings Containing Group R-2 Dwelling Units*, for local adoption effective Oct. 1, 2025.

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

This appendix is a prospective local amendment – meaning that municipalities may adopt it locally, in its entirety, without requesting division approval and undergoing the local amendment process from Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 455.040. Local modification of any of the published construction standards within the appendix is not permitted. Any such proposed local modification would require submission and division approval of a formal local amendment request detailing the desired changes in accordance with ORS 455.040 and Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR) 918-020-0370.

It requires local fire service approval (based on their operational response capabilities and needs) and requires local municipality adoption via local ordinance – or similar local legally sufficient adoption method as determined by local legal counsel.

This appendix also does the following:

- Aligns with the current national approach on the matter, based on the national symposium discussion led by ICC and NFPA.
- Allows certain residential Group R-2 buildings up to and including 4 stories above grade to be served by a single exit stair.
- Limits the configuration of Group R-2 dwelling units as specified in the appendix.

The Oregon Fire Marshals Association and Oregon Fire Chiefs Association plans to publish a technical advisory in the near future to assist in local fire service approval decisions.

[View the 2025 OSSC - Appendix Q.](#)

Contact:

Visit the division website to [contact a building code specialist](#).