

Equine Facilities Exemption

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Statutory reference: Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) 455.315(1) and (2)

Date: Issued—July 9, 2008
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Subject: Application of the equine facilities exemption to the Oregon Structural Specialty Code (OSSC)

Question:

Is the equine facilities exemption from the Oregon Structural Specialty Code, in ORS 455.315(2)(c), a separate exemption from that provided for agricultural buildings?

Answer:

Yes. Equine facility is defined separately in ORS 455.315(2)(c) and is a separate exemption from that granted to agricultural buildings.

Analysis:

The placement of the “equine facilities” exemption in ORS 455.315, which also addresses the exemption for “agricultural buildings,” can cause the misinterpretation that these equine facility exemptions are tied to that of agricultural buildings. The intent of the legislature is that they are not.

The major difference between the two exemptions, is that exempt agricultural buildings must be located on a farm or forest operation and be used as part of the “business” of the farm.

Equine facilities need only be used for stabling, training, riding lessons, or training clinics. It can be a business or it may just be for the owner’s pleasure.

If local zoning laws regarding farms allow for the equine facilities, as defined in ORS 455.315, they are exempt from the Oregon Structural Specialty Code.

Other interpretations related to ORS 455.315:

- AG/Forestry/Additional uses: [Oregon.gov/bcd/codes-stand/Documents/interp-ag-forestry-exemption.pdf](https://www.oregon.gov/bcd/codes-stand/Documents/interp-ag-forestry-exemption.pdf)
- Dog training facilities: [Oregon.gov/bcd/codes-stand/Documents/interp-dogtraining-exemption.pdf](https://www.oregon.gov/bcd/codes-stand/Documents/interp-dogtraining-exemption.pdf)
- Wineries: [Oregon.gov/bcd/codes-stand/Documents/interp-wineries-exemption.pdf](https://www.oregon.gov/bcd/codes-stand/Documents/interp-wineries-exemption.pdf)

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