

**OREGON**  
**Interpretive Ruling No. 93-72**  
**USE OF WOOD BURNING APPLIANCES FOR COMFORT HEATING**  
**(REVISED 05/02/00, editorial only)**

**REQUESTED BY:** PPPI Manual Review Committee

**QUESTION:** Is a wood burning stove or fireplace accepted as the only heat producing appliance for comfort heating.

**APPLICABLE CODE SECTIONS:** 1998 Oregon Structural Specialty Code (OSSC), Section 310.11; 1996 One and Two Family Dwelling Specialty Code (Dwelling Code), Sections 108 and 303.6; and 1999 Oregon Mechanical Specialty Code (OMSC).

**BACKGROUND:** On July 26, 1977, the Structural Code Advisory Board ruled that a wood burning stove (closed combustion solid fuel burning appliance) may be accepted as the only heat producing appliance for comfort heating.

OSSC;

**310.11 Heating.** Dwelling units, guest rooms and congregate residences shall be provided with heating facilities capable of maintaining a room temperature of 70°F (21°C) at a point 3 feet (914mm) above the floor in all habitable rooms.

and Dwelling Code;

**303.6 Required heating.** Every dwelling unit shall be provided with heating facilities capable of maintaining a room temperature of 68°F. (20°C.) at a point 3 feet (914 mm) above the floor at the design temperature in all habitable rooms.

and;

**108.1 Alternate materials, methods and equipment.** The provisions of this code are not intended to limit the appropriate use of materials, appliances, equipment or methods of design or construction not specifically prescribed by this code, provided the building official determines that the proposed alternate materials, appliances, equipment or methods of design or construction are at least equivalent of that prescribed in this code in suitability, quality, strength, effectiveness, fire resistance, durability, dimensional stability, safety and sanitation. Compliance with specific performance based provisions of the current editions of the Oregon specialty codes, in lieu of a prescriptive requirement of this code shall also be permitted as an alternate. See ORS 455.060.

**108.2 Evidence submitted.** The building official may require that evidence or proof be submitted to substantiate any claims that may be made regarding the proposed alternate.

**FINDINGS:** This interpretation is authorized by ORS 455.060, Rulings on Acceptability of Materials, Designs or Methods of Construction and Attorney General's Opinion OP-5208 issued October 1, 1981, which advised the statute permits authoritative interpretations of existing code requirements.

**DISCUSSION & CONCLUSION:** The building official shall determine whether or not a wood burning appliance will meet the intent of the codes as described in OSSC, Sections 310.11 and Dwelling Code, 303.6. The wood burning heating appliance shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's listing, and code requirements of the OMSC and Dwelling Code, and shall conform to the provisions of the DEQ/EPA requirements. The appliance shall be large enough to heat all habitable rooms without requiring over firing. Combustion air shall be provided as required.

(signed November 17, 1993)  
John Talbott  
Structural Code Advisory Board

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Date

The recommendations and findings of the Structural Code Advisory Board are accepted and the conclusions are adopted.

(signed November 18, 1993)  
Gary J. Wicks, Administrator  
Building Codes Division

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Date

**~~-Rescinded-~~**  
(Effective October 1, 2006)