

---

**Building Codes Division****Statewide Code Interpretation**

*Working with Oregonians  
to ensure safe building  
construction while  
supporting a positive  
business climate.*

**March 7, 2007****No: 2004 OSSC 1307****2004 Oregon Structural Specialty Code**

---

**Code Section:** OSSC 1307, 719

**Code Edition:** 2004 Oregon Structural Specialty Code

**Date:** Original: 7/14/94 Updated: 3/07/06

**Subject:** Acceptable fiberglass wall insulation in rim joists.

**Question:** What type of vapor barrier on fiberglass insulation is acceptable in the rim joist area between above-grade walls (e.g. between first and second story)?

**Answer:** Fiberglass batt with a vapor barrier meeting the flame-spread index and smoke-developed index requirements of Section 719.

**Analysis:** Section 1307 specifies insulation and vapor barrier requirements for exterior walls. OSSC Section 719 and ORSC Section 316.1 specify the flame spread and smoke density maximums for insulations and vapor barriers.

The vapor barrier prevents diffusion of moisture. The predominant vehicle for moisture transport is air leakage, not diffusion. The rim joist area is secluded from the walls by the floor above and ceiling below.

R-19 fiberglass batt shall be an acceptable alternative to R-value requirements for wall insulation installed in the rim joist area separating two above-grade walls.

**Contact:** Richard S. Rogers  
Structural Program Chief  
(503) 378-4472  
richard.rogers@state.or.us