
Building Codes Division**Statewide Code Interpretation**

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March 7, 2007**No: 2004 OSSC 1106.1.1****2004 Oregon Structural Specialty Code**

Code Section: 1106.1.1, 1108.4.4**Code Edition:** 2004 Oregon Structural Specialty Code**Date:** Original: 3/31/95 Updated: 03/07/07**Subject:** Disabled access to church baptisteries**Question:**

- 1) Are church baptisteries included as one of the spaces or facilities listed as exceptions in Section 1106.1.1?
- 2) If baptisteries are not included as one of the spaces or facilities as exceptions, what are the specific requirements for baptistery accessibility?

Answer:

- 1) Church baptisteries are not included as one of the spaces or facilities listed as exempt from access in Section 1106.1.1
- 2) Baptisteries are regulated by Section 1108.4.4 as a “spa or similar facility” and require access to the edge of this facility. Such access to the edge of the baptistery would be by ramp, elevator or platform lift.

Analysis: Churches meeting the threshold established in ORS 447.220 (1) are affected buildings and must comply with the accessibility requirements of Chapter 11.

Section 1108.4.4 states “...spas and similar facilities are provided they shall be accessible by transfer tier, transfer device, ramp or other means. Hot tubs and spas need to be accessible only to the edge of the facility.”

Church baptisteries are considered a “similar facility” and require access to the edge of the facility.

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