

TRI-COUNTY SERVICE CENTER



Clackamas Multnomah Washington COUNTIES

A BCD field office, the Tri-County Service Center administers the minor label program and coordinates forms, processes, and application of code for building programs in Clackamas, Multnomah, & Washington counties.

Tri-County Service Center

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Building Codes Division

Web site www.oregonbcd.org



News *Line*

A quarterly newsletter for commercial builders



February-April 2003

Intel to sponsor February 20 code forum

A free forum on commercial structural code issues sponsored by Intel takes place Thursday, February 20, 4-7 p.m., at the Tri-County Service Center, first-floor conference room, 123 NE Third Avenue in Portland.

AIA members may earn three hours HSW credit for attending, and qualified participants may earn three hours of code-related continuing-education credit from BCD.

The purpose of the forum is to discuss regional code applications and to reach consensus on acceptable standards for the tri-county region. The code panel provides code clarifications and determines common areas of code application. All questions requiring code interpretation are forwarded to the appropriate statewide committees through the Building Codes Division.

Building departments in the tri-county region have committed to following the guidance of the code panels to advance the consistent application of code in the region.

Architects and contractors working outside the tri-county region should consult with the local building department.

February 20 Agenda

- Recent interpretations
Richard Rogers, acting state structural code chief
- Question-and-answer session
Sample question: Is the extinguishing system under a Type 1 hood required to be interconnected to the building alarm system in a fully sprinklered building or in a building provided with an approved alarm system? ♦

Free training offered for builders, officials

The service center offers free training to contractors and building-department personnel. Each class provides two hours of code-related credit that may be approved by the building official. Pre-registration is required.

For more information and an application, call Bob Brown, (503) 872-6731.

Upcoming training sessions

- **Proper Insulation/Installation Interpretive Ruling**, Troutdale, February 11
- **Smoke Detectors**, Oregon City, March 8
- **T-BAR Ceilings**, Troutdale, April 8

December 5 building code forum Q and A

Tri-county building officials have agreed to use the code panel's determinations for inspection standards. Contractors and building department personnel may submit questions to the code forum by sending e-mail to Joanie.M.stevens-schwenger@state.or.us or faxing questions to the center, (503) 872-6735. An answer-request form is available on the BCD Web site, www.oregonbcd.org. Click on "Tri-County" and then "Code Forum Program."

Q Our department would classify a 14,000-square-foot building that houses a city or county library A-3; however, some architects say that such buildings in the tri-county area have been classified B with some accessory A uses. What is the correct classification?

The following answer is a reconsideration of a previously answered code-forum question.

A Typically, libraries are "B" occupancies. But many contemporary libraries are designed for multiple uses beyond the traditional book lending and study areas to community meeting rooms and even city council chambers. In such cases, other occupancies may apply. The code panel strongly recommends that design professionals contact the building-department jurisdiction during the conceptual phase.

Q Under what conditions does a corridor as defined in UBC 1004.3.1 become an exit enclosure as defined in UBC 1005.3.3?

A Corridors and exit enclosures are independent systems. A corridor becomes an exit enclosure when the corridor leads into or ends at a stair tower required to be an exit enclosure. UBC 1005.3.3

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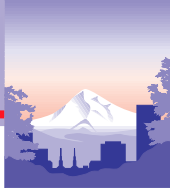
News *Line*

**2003 Building
Code Forums**

- February 20
- May 22
- September 18
- December 4

The February code forum will take place at the Tri-County Service Center.

All other forums are will take place at the Multnomah Building Board Room, 501 SE Hawthorne Blvd. in Portland.



Q A corridor is part of an exit system, and is fully enclosed by walls, floor, ceiling, and protected openings according to UBC 1004.3.4.3. What is the difference between UBC 1004.3.4.3, Corridors, and 1005.3.3, Exit Enclosures?

A A corridor is a portion of the exit access that leads occupants of a building to an exit. Though the term “corridor” is not defined in the code, it may be helpful to think of a corridor as being similar to a hallway: it provides access to various portions of a building and also provides access to the exterior. In multi-story buildings, corridors typically lead occupants to a stairway that leads to the ground floor. When this stairway serves three or more floors, Section 1005.3.3 requires the stairway to be located in a fire-rated enclosure called an “exit enclosure.” The fire rating for the enclosure varies, depending on the type of construction and other factors. All openings leading into the exit enclosure must be fire-rated as well.

Q Can a corridor include stairs that are otherwise not required to be enclosed?

A Yes.

Q If the intent of the code is to provide the most direct egress for occupants, when is an enclosed vertical exit beneficial?

A When such access serves three or more floors.

Q If an exit meets the requirements of a corridor as defined in UBC 1004.3.4, does it also need to meet the requirements of an exit enclosure as defined in UBC 1005.3.3.5?

A No, the two satisfy different requirements.

Q Are the UBC 1005.3.3.5 requirements for temperature-rise-limited doors applicable to an

exterior door that exits into a corridor open to the exterior at both ends? For example, a door on an exterior wall but within a breezeway.

A No, not when the door exits into a corridor; however, the requirements apply when the door exits into a stair enclosure.

Q The application in question is a three-story R-I occupancy with stairways that provide egress from individual dwelling units to the public way or yard. The stairway is approximately 8 feet wide and 60 feet long with both ends fully open to the yard. The stairway is classified as interior because it does not meet UBC 1006.3.3.1 requirements for an exterior stairway.

UBC 1005.3.3, Exit Enclosures, requires interior stairways to be enclosed according to UBC 1005.3.3.3. The exterior openings may be unprotected where permitted by Table 5-A. UBC 1005.3.3.5, Openings and Penetrations, requires that the doors meet temperature-rise limitations. Are these requirements applicable to an exterior door opening into a breezeway as described above?

A The temperature-rise limitation is required only for doors in an exit enclosure - not doors in a corridor. ♦

See newsletters on the Web

Current and previous issues of *News Connect* (mechanical), *News Flash* (electrical), *News Site* (homebuilding), *News Splash* (plumbing), and *News Line* (commercial building) quarterly newsletters are available on the BCD Web site. Go to www.oregonbcd.org, click on “Tri-County,” then on “Newsletters.” ♦

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