

Substantial Changes for the 2010 *Oregon Mechanical Specialty Code*

Listed below are some of the key changes in the 2010 *Oregon Mechanical Specialty Code*. Most of the changes listed below are based on changes to the model code. Many are of a minor nature, others more significant. Depending on a particular person's business, these changes may or may not be noteworthy.

1. Substantial revisions have been made to Chapter 4 dealing with occupancy ventilation. These changes will not only alter the airflow, but will also change the way ventilation is calculated. The new procedures will result in slightly lower outdoor air rates for most occupancies when compared with the previous code, which should reduce initial construction costs as well as operating energy costs.
2. The requirements for domestic clothes dryer ducts have been extensively revised. One of the most obvious changes is the format, but there are a number of technical changes also. The maximum prescribed length for a dryer exhaust duct has increased from 25 feet to 35 feet. A new table showing the equivalent lengths for long sweep fittings has been added, and nailing plate protection is now required to protect the duct in concealed locations. (Section 504.6)
3. The new code provides a prescriptive path for the exhausting of multiple clothes dryers installed in a multi-story scenario. The previous code was silent on this subject and required engineering. (Section 504.8)
4. The new code aligns the domestic kitchen hood requirements with the current provisions of the *Oregon Residential Specialty Code*. These new provisions mandate that all domestic cooking appliances be provided with a hood, exhausted to the exterior of the building. The previous code allowed the use of a re-circulating hood. (Section 505.1)
5. Chapter 7 has taken a dramatic change in direction from providing prescriptive combustion air requirements for oil and solid-fuel appliances to simply referencing appropriate standards. This change has deleted most of Chapter 7, and will require the user of the code to purchase the standards necessary to determine the combustion air requirements for these types of appliances.
6. Due to a safety concern Section 1101.10 now requires that refrigerant access ports that are located outdoors shall be equipped with locking-type tamper-resistant caps. A dramatic increase in pre-teen and teenager abuse of Freon as an inhalant has occurred over the past few years. The hope is that by locking the refrigerant ports with locking-type tamper-resistant caps this abuse will be lessened, if not stopped.
7. New revisions to Chapter 12 will allow a number of additional options in the design and installation of hydronic piping systems. The primary revision is the ability to use ASME B31.9 as an alternate method of compliance. Additional changes add new materials and provisions to regulate joints and fittings.
8. Section C404.4 of the fuel-gas Appendix no longer allows fuel-gas piping to penetrate through a foundation wall below grade. All penetrations of exterior perimeter foundations must now be made above grade.
9. A new section has been added to clarify the installation of LPG regulators. Section C410.3 was added to specifically address the installation of LPG second stage and 2 psi regulators. The code has historically been silent concerning these regulators.