



CITY OF MEDFORD
BUILDING SAFETY DEPARTMENT
INFORMATION HANDOUT

COMMERCIAL
Design Criteria and Current Codes

General Design Criteria:

- **Earthquake Loads** (seismic) – Section 1613.
- **Wind Loads** - Section 1609 (revised in 2019).
 - Most areas of Medford can be classified as wind exposure category B. However, some areas may meet the criteria for exposure C. The design professional is responsible for justifying the exposure selected for the specific area of construction.
- **Soils and Foundations**
 - Geotechnical investigation is required for all development within the city limits East of Foothills Road and N. Phoenix Road. For additional information, see the *Building Safety Department Policy Requiring Geotechnical Investigation* (see additional information below).
 - Geotechnical Investigations required for buildings over 4,000 sf in accordance with Section 1803 of the OSSC.
 - Soil bearing pressure - 1,500 pounds per square foot (psf), unless justified by a soils report. A lesser bearing pressure may be required in specific locations.
 - The frost depth below 2,500 feet is 12”.
- **Live Loads** – Section 1607 OSSC
- **Rainfall** - design is based on 1.3 inches per hour.

Current Codes:

2021 Oregon Energy Efficiency Specialty Code (OEESC)
2019 Oregon Fire Code (OFC) See Appendix “N” OSSC and Appendix “D” OMSC
2019 Oregon Mechanical Specialty Code (OMSC)
2021 Oregon Plumbing Specialty Code (OPSC)
2019 Oregon Structural Specialty Code (OSSC)
2021 Oregon Electrical Specialty Code (OESC)
2021 National Electrical Code (NEC)
Property Maintenance Code of Medford (PMCM)
2010 Oregon Manufactured Dwelling Installation Specialty Code (OMDISC)
2002 Oregon Manufactured Dwelling and Park Specialty Code (MD&P)
2010 Oregon Solar Installation Specialty Code (OSISC)
ICC A117.1-2009 Accessible and Usable Buildings and Facilities

Oregon codes are available to *view for Free* online! <http://www.cbs.state.or.us/bcd/>

Policy Requiring Geotechnical Investigation: go to www.cityofmedford.org; select “Building” from “City Departments”; select “Building Department Policies” on the left side of the page.